

## MAGYK

### Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2008 Grades 3-5

Submitted by Cecelia R. Beaubouef, Graduate Student, LSU School of Library & Information Science (Professor: Dr. Margie Thomas); and Kelly Breaux, Student, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Instructor: Dorothy Grimsley)

**Magyk** by Angie Sage. Katherine Tegen Books, 2005. 564 pages.

#### Summary

*Magyk* is magic. From the very first page the reader is hooked with action and “magic.” Wizards (both good ones and evil ones) abound, as do magical animals, creatures, and ghosts. The 7th son of the 7th son, named Septimus Heap, is stolen the night he is born by a midwife, who pronounces him dead. That same night, the baby's father, Silas Heap, comes across a bundle in the snow containing a newborn girl with violet eyes. The Heaps take this helpless newborn into their home, name her Jenna, and raise her as their own. Ten years later they are forced to flee their home in the Castle when it is revealed that the girl is the daughter of the murdered queen. The Supreme Custodian, who has taken over the city, sends an assassin to complete his destruction of the royal family. The girl flees to the Marram Marshes along with some family members, the ExtraOrdinary Wizard, and a young army guard known only as "Boy 412." Pursued by the servants of the Necromancer DomDaniel and aided by an engaging array of magical beings, they finally prevail in a satisfying and exciting conclusion.

Although the book has many pages, it is not as long as it may appear. The print is large with slightly undersized pages and plenty of white space. Plus, the story is so compelling that readers will not want to put it down.

Read an excerpt: [http://www.bookbrowse.com/excerpts/index.cfm?book\\_number=1548](http://www.bookbrowse.com/excerpts/index.cfm?book_number=1548)

#### Awards

Parent's Choice Award, 2005

Children's Choices, 2006, International Reading Association

#### Author's Biography

A native of London, Ms. Sage wrote from an early age in “blank” books her father brought home. She graduated with a degree in graphic arts and began writing and illustrating children's books.

*Magyk* is her first novel and the first in a trilogy. The second book *Flyte* was published in 2006 and the third one will be released in 2007. Sage now lives in Cornwall, England, which she calls a “Magykal” place where almost anything can happen.

[www.kidsreads.com](http://www.kidsreads.com),

[http://www.bookbrowse.com/author\\_interviews/full/index.cfm?author\\_number=1110](http://www.bookbrowse.com/author_interviews/full/index.cfm?author_number=1110)

#### Other Titles by Angie Sage

*Happy Baby* with Chris Sage, 1990

*Sleepy Baby* with Chris Sage, 1990

*The Sword in the Grotto*, 2006

*My Haunted House*, 2006

*Flyte*, 2006 and *Physik* (2007 publication), books in Septimus Heap series

*Molly at the Dentist* and *Molly and the Birthday Party*, 2001; author and illustrator

*Say Hello: To Children All Over the World* by Sue Unstead, 2004, Angie Sage, illustrator

### **Illustrator's Biography**

Mark Zug has been drawing for as long as he can remember. He spent some time making a living as a machinist in a factory after high school, but he later attended art school and began his career as a professional artist. His first big break came when he got to illustrate the screenplay *I Robot*, for which he also painted 160 pages of comics. He also illustrated Frank Herbert's *Dune* universe in the form of a collectible card game. To date, his works have appeared on the covers of *Popular Science*, *Inquest*, and *Star Wars Gamer*, as well in Tanith Lee novels and in the Septimus Heap series. Zug received the Jack Gaughan Award for Best Emerging Artist in 2001.

<http://ww2.wizards.com/Books/Wizards/Bios/default.aspx?doc=zugmark>  
[www.markzug.com](http://www.markzug.com)

### **Other Titles Illustrated by Mark Zug**

*Stopping for a Spell: Three Fantasies* by Diana Wynne Jones.

*Gold Unicorn* by Tanith Lee.

*Flyte* by Angie Sage.

### **Related Titles**

*Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling.

*Inkspell* (and other fantasies) by Cornelia Funke.

*The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis.

### **Classroom Connections**

#### **Magyk Reading Guide**

[http://www.bookbrowse.com/reading\\_guides/detail/index.cfm?book\\_number=1548](http://www.bookbrowse.com/reading_guides/detail/index.cfm?book_number=1548)

Site includes a pre-reading activity and discussion questions.

#### **Social Studies**

- Using the website [www.septimusheap.com](http://www.septimusheap.com) – Go to the Magyk link, click on "The Castle", and click on "The Heap Family Tree." Have the children use the Heap Family Tree as a model to make their own Family Tree.
- Maps: There is a map at the beginning of the book. Have the students draw their own map related to the story. They may also draw maps related to other stories or subjects.
- Castles: Study why castles were built and how they were used as defenses.  
<http://www.castlesontheinternet.com> Includes information, photographs and diagrams on castles.

#### **Language Arts**

- Have the students imagine that they are wizards for one day. Have them write an essay about what they would do with their powers and why.
- Have them write magical spells and tell what the spells are for.
- Journal writing: Have the students pretend that they are one of the main characters write journal entries as that character.
- Rewrite parts of the story as a play and have the students act it out as a skit or a puppet show.
- Read and do activities on other books related to magic/fantasy theme such as *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* and *Anno's Magic Seed*.
- Discuss characters, settings, and plots of stories, review what these are in the book, then students can write their own stories using these three elements of story writing.

<http://www.bravemonster.com/lessonplan.htm> includes “magic” lesson to introduce these 3 story elements.

### **Reading**

- Have the children make trading cards using the different characters from the book. Then have them get into groups and discuss the different characters on their cards.

### **Science**

- Have the students pretend that they are a magician’s apprentice and have to read and learn to do a magic trick.
- See [http://www.education-world.com/a\\_lesson/02/lp275-03.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/02/lp275-03.shtml)
- See <http://www.abc.net.au/science/surfingscientist/teachstuff.htm> and <http://kids.mysterynet.com/magic/> to discuss "Magician’s Rules."
- Rocks: Since Jenna was given a pet rock just before the adventure began this can lead into a whole science unit on rocks. These sites include lessons on rock collecting and experiments using rocks.
  - [http://www.exploratorium.edu/science\\_explorer/crystal.html](http://www.exploratorium.edu/science_explorer/crystal.html)
  - <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/earthspace7.html>
  - <http://atozteacherstuff.com/pages/400.shtml>
  - <http://atozteacherstuff.com/pages/401.shtml>
- Bugs were the greatest defense against enemies in the story. Lessons can range from actually studying real bugs to doing crafts centered on bugs to songs and rhymes on bugs to food made to look like bugs.
  - <http://www.angelfire.com/fl/preschoolfunzone/insects.html> Although this is a site for preschoolers, there are some of these crafts/activities older children will enjoy doing - notice the one for "rock bugs."
  - <http://www.dickblick.com/lessonplans/bugs/> Includes more crafts.

### **Web Sites**

#### **Nancy Keane’s Booktalks**

[http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/sage\\_magyk.htm](http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/sage_magyk.htm)

This site contains three book talks about Magyk.

#### **Septimus Heap Website**

[www.septimusheap.com](http://www.septimusheap.com)

This attractive site includes information and activities related to the series including The Heap Family Tree, Character Trading Cards, Spells, and About the Author.