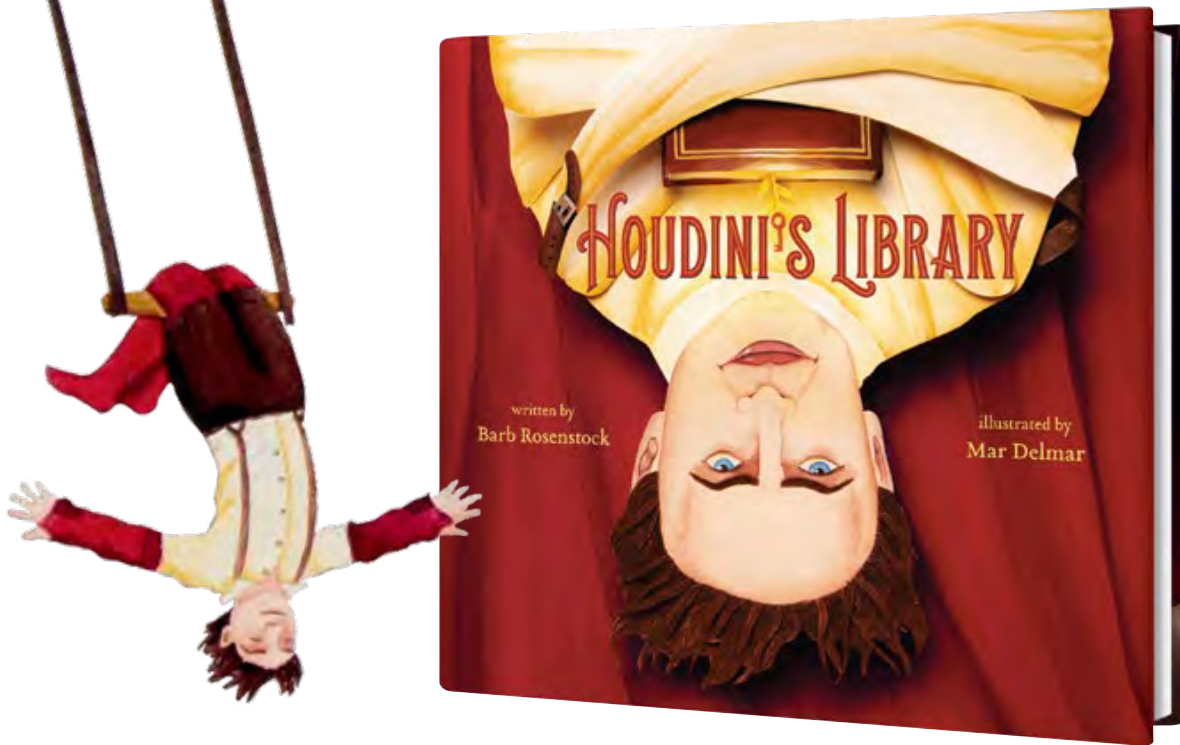


# HOUDINI'S LIBRARY



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Houdini is the world's most beloved magician, and he became famous for all the amazing feats he accomplished. Houdini knew just how to captivate his audience, whether it was leaping from a bridge or freeing himself from a straitjacket. But in true magician's fashion, he kept a secret so great that not many people knew about it, and that was his love for books!

As a young boy in Budapest, Harry learned to read at his father's knee. After the family emigrated to America, Harry grew up to be the amazing Houdini—but never lost his love of reading. He spent the rest of his life collecting all kinds of rare and unusual books, almost entirely about magic. With warm, inviting text and astounding art with miniature models constructed from paper, this extraordinary book opens a new page in the story of Harry Houdini.



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# GUIDING QUESTIONS

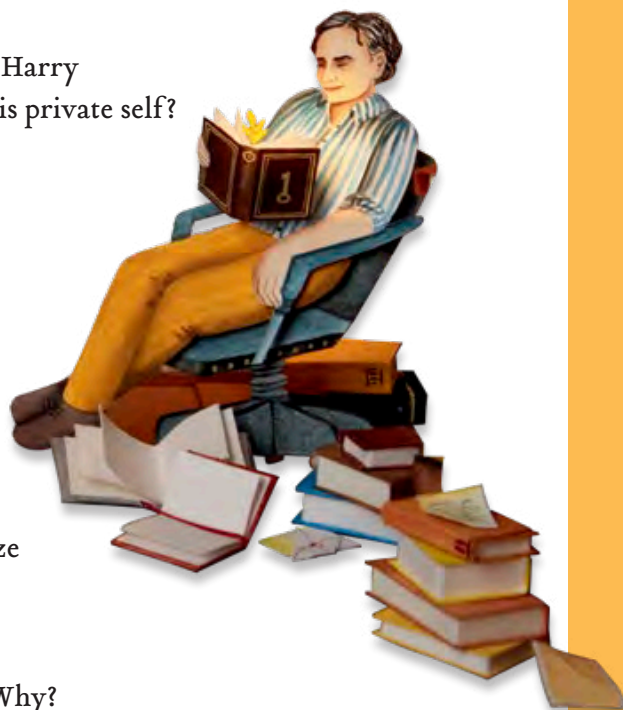
## BEFORE READING

- Have you ever heard of Harry Houdini? What do you know about him?
- Why do you think people believe in magic?
- What would it take for something to be magic?
- A *persona* is like a costume you wear when you're in different places. It shows a different side of yourself, a different part of your identity. What are some personas you have?



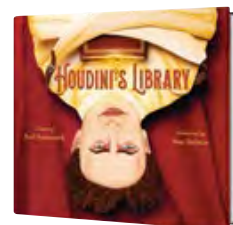
## WHILE READING

- What is the difference between Harry Houdini's public persona and his private self?
- How would you characterize Ehrie's early life?
- What effect did Jean Robert-Houdin's book have on Ehrie?



## AFTER READING

- The endpapers include a quote from Harry Houdini: "The public knows me as a magician . . . It does not realize that I am a student." What does this mean?
- If you could develop a skill or further a hobby through reading and research, skill or hobby would you choose? Why?
- What do you think the author's perspective on magic is? What is your perspective on magic?

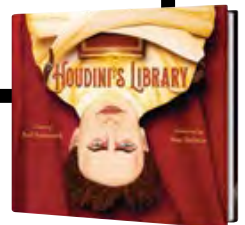
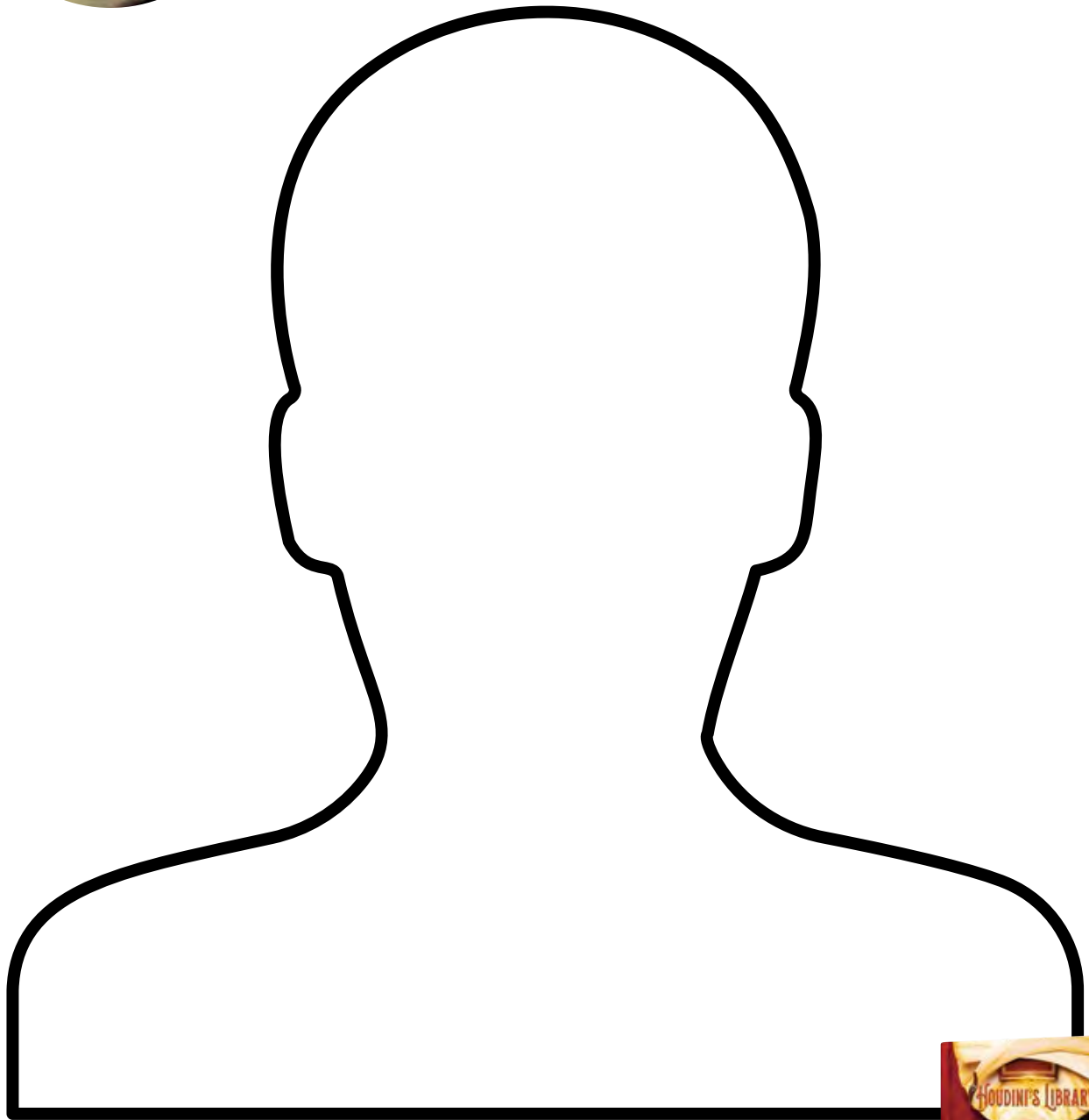


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# INSIDE SELF/OUTSIDE SELF



**DIRECTIONS:** Considering what you've learned about Houdini and the different parts of his identity, add to his figure below. Be sure to include details about his inside self and his outside self—how he presents to other people when he's performing. Feel free to include symbols or other details to show the different parts of his identity.

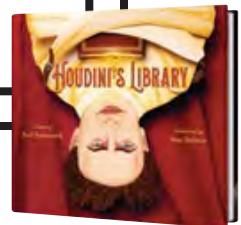


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# \_\_\_\_\_ 'S LIBRARY



DIRECTIONS: Houdini had thousands of books in his library. If you could build your own personal library, what books would you feature? What books are most important to you? Draw and label your favorite books on the shelves below. Consider organizing your books alphabetically by title, by author last name, or any other way you choose!

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