



# The Magician's Hat

*Malcolm Mitchell , Dennis Campay (Illustrations)*

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Super Bowl champion and literacy crusader Malcolm Mitchell presents the story of a magician who reveals an awe-inspiring treasure from his bag of tricks -- books that make every kid's dream come true!

This is not your typical afternoon at the library -- a magician invites kids to reach into his hat to pull out whatever they find when they dig down deep. Soon -- *poof!* -- each child comes away with something better than they could've imagined -- a book that helps them become whatever they want to be, and makes their dreams come true through pages and words, and the adventures that follow. But each child can't help but wonder, *What's really making the magic happen?*

**"Malcolm Mitchell is changing the world through the power of reading." -- Dav Pilkey, bestselling creator of the Dog Man and Captain Underpants series**

**"*The Magician's Hat* will cast its spell on you!" -- Jeff Kinney, bestselling author of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series**

## The Magician's Hat Details

Date : Published February 27th 2018 by Scholastic Inc. (first published August 1st 2015)

ISBN : 9781338114546

Author : Malcolm Mitchell , Dennis Campay (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Magic, Writing, Books About Books

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## **From Reader Review The Magician's Hat for online ebook**

### **NoNieqa Ramos says**

Loved the text! Personal opinion alert: Loved the illustrations much less. I feel there were wasted opportunities here. The magician should have been African-American as the author, the true magician is African-American. I also felt disappointed that the African-American boy in this text wants to be a football player. The stereotype already exists that African-American boys all want to play sports, particularly football and basketball. Props to every African-American boy that is successful at sports, but right now my son needs to see images of African-American boys being scientists, TEACHERS, librarians. In fact, wouldn't it have been wonderful to see the A.A. boy dreaming of being a writer?

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### **Beth Rodgers says**

'The Magician's Hat' by Malcolm Mitchell, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff, is destined to be one of your favorite children's books. It is not only an endearing tale promoting the power of reading, but a beautiful story about finding what you love, staying true to yourself, and not letting anything stand in your way.

The wonderful and colorful illustrations only add to the beauty of the book. They shed light on the power that one book can hold, especially with one particular illustration in which all of the books look the same except for the one that holds the excitement the young magician is searching for while in the library one day. The metaphorical value here will stand out for any lover of symbolism.

Not only does the story immerse readers in the joy of books, but also in the joy of libraries. The first two pages show a library that any book lover would want to visit, full of family fun and hidden areas where children and adults can tuck themselves away to read to their heart's delight.

An adorable and awe-inducing book that readers will likely want to read again and again, 'The Magician's Hat' is a fantastic story, and hopefully only the first of many by Malcolm Mitchell.

Beth Rodgers, Author of 'Freshman Fourteen' and 'Sweet Fifteen,' Young Adult Novels

\*Review originally posted at [YABooksCentral.com](http://YABooksCentral.com)\*

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### **Amy says**

Really enjoyed this book! Loved reading about the magic of reading and libraries!

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### **American Mensa says**

Every year at Family Fun Night in the library, kids do lots of fun things with books. This year there is a magician with a magic hat. He helps kids learn what books are really about through his magic tricks. First, he

does some fun things like bending a spoon and making a banana disappear. This shows everyone that he is really a magician. Then he does the biggest trick of all. But not everyone thinks the magician's magic is real. A boy named Ryan tries to prove the magician's magic is fake, and he gets a big surprise.

I think people who read this book will like it because the story teaches you something special about books. My favorite parts are the magic tricks. They are really neat. I also like the texture and shape of the words on the cover. They are big, shiny and blue! And I like the pictures in the book. They are very detailed and have lots of colors. But at times there is too much pink and purple on the page for me. More green and red would be better. I would recommend this book to kids who are 3 to 8-years old. It shows you that reading can be magical!

review by Cyril L., age 6, Metropolitan Washington Mensa

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## **Casandria says**

Books are magical. This one felt a little weird to me, but I appreciate the sentiment...

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## **Becky says**

First sentence: Family Fun Day at the library was filled with exciting events. Book scavenger hunts. Storytelling. Reading rallies. Today, for the first time, a magician arrived with a bag of tricks and a BIG hat.

Premise/plot: Do libraries need visiting magicians to be magical places? NO! But in this picture book, a magician who loves books happens to be visiting. He tells the children that books are magic, that books can take you to places you've only dreamed about. The book does seem to be occupied chiefly with associating books with occupations. "What do you want to be when you grow up?" "I've got a book for that in my hat!" (The quotes are NOT from the book, just my summing up of the book's plot.)

My thoughts: I love books. I love reading. I love the message that books can be magical. But. I didn't quite love this one. Books aren't only for figuring out what you want to do in life. That is such a narrow, narrow focus of what books have to offer readers. There are hundreds of reasons why kids might pick up a book. There are hundreds--if not thousands--of reasons why adults might continue to read books.

Text: 3 out of 5

Illustrations: 4 out of 5

Total: 7 out of 10

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## **Cindy Mitchell \*Kiss the Book\* says**

Mitchell, Malcolm The Magician's Hat, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff. PICTURE BOOK. Orchard Books (Scholastic), 2018. \$18. 9781338114546

The Magician has come to Family Fun Day at the library, but he has more than regular magic tricks. He brings the magic within books to life for the children, showing them that so many things are possible if you dream.

Unfortunately this picture book lacks the mention of the idea that you also have to work to achieve your dreams. Also, for one of the boys dreams of being the stereotypical football star, which I find to be weak storytelling. With a couple of small tweaks, this could have been an inspirational book.

EL (K-3) – OPTIONAL. Cindy, Library Teacher  
<http://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2018/...>

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### **Beth says**

A beautiful message about the magic of books.

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### **Jenny Yergin says**

I love this book, and will probably buy it! It shows that books can be magical because they can take you so many places.

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### **Lindsey Gandhi says**

What a great children's book to showcase the magic of reading and how it can change/influence your life. And while my blood runs orange on Saturdays, I'll support a Georgia Dawg author anyway! Great job Malcolm Mitchell!!!! We in Georgia are proud of you!

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### **Brina says**

Just last week I read Drew Juber's Must Win: A Season of Survival for a Town and Its Team about the 2010 Valdosta High School football team. One of the players featured in the book is current New England Patriots' wide receiver Malcolm Mitchell. When Mitchell was in college, he realized that literacy as well as football was his key to achieving success in life. With the help of noted illustrator Dennis Cambray, Mitchell has written this short book for children and their parents encouraging them to utilize the resources in their local public library. By reading, kids can dream big and be whatever they want to be.

The story is geared toward easy readers as it is only 15 pages long; however, all proceeds go toward Mitchell's charity promoting children's literacy. Today, Mitchell goes to schools in the Boston area and speaks to children about the wonders of reading. While I loudly cheer all of the Patriots for their accomplishments on the field, I laud Mitchell for establishing a platform for literacy off of it. Reading is definitely magical, and it is great that Mitchell is offering his encouragement to kids in whatever ways big and small.

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### **Panda Incognito says**

This book shares a nice message about the value of reading, but instead of showing how reading expands horizons and encourages emotional, creative, and relational fulfillment, this book emphasizes children reading books related to their career goals. It disappoints me that this offering associates literacy with economic utility and fails to address how books nurture and influence people. When you're five, you don't need to know what you want to do when you grow up. The world can wait. Read for learning, for empathy, for entertainment, and for joy.

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### **Jim says**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPLwQ...> Malcolm's Book Club.

<http://itiswhatitis.weei.com/sports/n...>

about the author. You might want to turn down the background music on the highlight video due to inappropriate language.

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### **AMY says**

Great new story about the magic of reading. Colorful, fun illustrations throughout. Kids will enjoy this one by a new author! I loved it! Will be offered on spring Scholastic Book Fair. Highly recommended for Grades K-5.

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### **Mrs Heidrich says**

A book to celebrate libraries and books! A magician comes to family fun day and talks about how he used to come there and the library sparked his imagination as a kid and created a desire for him to become a magician when he found a book about magic. Kids reach into the magician's hat and pull out books about what they'd like to be when they get older. One boy tries to stump the magician by telling him he wants to be a dog when he gets older, but you'll have to read the book to see what kind of book he ends up finding in the hat...

Lesson plans and audio: <https://www.readwithmalcolm.com/teach...>

- discussion starters, writing tasks, extension ideas, etc.
  - includes additional resources for exploring dreams
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