

Circus Mirandus

By Cassie Beasley

Annotation

- Micah's grandfather, Ephraim, has always shared stories with him about Circus Mirandus, a magical circus. As his grandfather is dying, Micah realizes the stories are true. Can the magic of the mysterious circus save his grandfather from dying? Micah is determined to find out.

Book Talk

- Come one, come all! Step right up! Get your ticket to Circus Mirandus! In tent number one, watch the Strongmen lift a girl using only his pinkie and see an elephant do long division. In tent number two, see the Amazing Bird Woman swoop and dive through the air! And in ring three, see The Man Who Bends Light, Son of the Sun, Master of Illusions, who may grant you your wish...any wish! But can Micah use his grandfather's wish to save him from dying?

Book Trailers

- <http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=book+trailers+for+circus+mirandus&view=detail&mid=77654D31E7A3D1F4BA9C77654D31E7A3D1F4BA9C&FORM=VIRE>
- <http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=book+trailers+for+circus+mirandus&&view=detail&mid=5C3FC3C2B3A9077BB3505C3FC3C2B3A9077BB350&rvsmid=77654D31E7A3D1F4BA9C77654D31E7A3D1F4BA9C&FORM=VDFSRV&fsscr=0>

Author on the Internet

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- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/beasleywrites>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cassiebeasleyauthor>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cassiebeasleyauthor/>
- #circusmirandus

Items to use in a library display

- circus posters, circus programs, old circus tickets, plastic Venn diagram rings and miniature toy animals to create a three-ring circus, balloons, popcorn boxes, confetti, stuffed parrot, ropes with knots tied in them, a top hat, a pop-up reading tent.
- Create a circus train car with a box and fake bars with a stuffed lion inside.

Food

- animal crackers, popcorn, peanut butter and crackers, blueberry juice, fizz/pop candies, mango, lemon cookies
- clown salad: peach half for face, cherry for nose, raisins for eyes, curly lettuce for hair, triangle cut of cheese for hat, whipped cream at top of triangle for pom-pom, cottage cheese around the bottom of the peach to be a frilly collar.

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- Micah wants to use his grandfather's saved wish to save him from dying. If you had one saved wish, how would you use it and why?
- Pretend you are a circus performer. Who are you, what is your circus performer name, and what do you do?
- Research: Should animals be used as performers in circuses? Why or why not?
- Choose a circus performer or animal. Tell about the day in the life of a circus performer or animal.

First Line of the Book:

- 'Four small words. That was all it took to set things in motion.'

Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)

- *Circus Science* by April George (Pearson)
- *Women of the American Circus, 1880-1940* by Katherine H. Adams & Michael L. Keene

What to Read Next

- The Magician's Elephant
- Savvy
- Big Fish
- Peter Pan
- Roald Dahl books
- To the Big Top by Jill Esbaum

Additional Resources

- Music: recorded circus music
- Poetry: *If I Ran the Circus*, by Dr. Seuss
- Art/craft activity: Create clown faces with make up; paper plate clowns- Trace hands for clown hair. Triangles and circles for eyes and nose. Large triangle for hat. (Be aware of children who may have a phobia to clowns.)
- Reader's Theater script:
<http://www.timelessteacherstuff.com/readerstheater/AnimalTrainer.html>
- Interview with the author: <http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?aid=24313>
- Interview with the author:
<https://bookpage.com/interviews/18279-cassie-beasley#.VttmcOTSnlV>
- Interview with the author:
https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/guest-author-interviews.php?page_id=cassie-beasley
- Interview with the author:
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-authors/article/66991-four-questions-for-cassie-beasley.html>
- Lesson ideas: create a group circus performance; learn to juggle; gymnastics; magic tricks; create a flip book with a gymnast's movements.