

Amaze Curriculum Guide

GRADES 3–5 | Observation, light and sound, and the science of surprise

How To Use This Guide

Amaze runs 2 hours 15 minutes including intermission and is suitable for all ages. This guide is built for a single field-trip visit: one pre-show lesson, structured observation during the performance, and one post-show discussion or written task. Every section is optional — take what fits your unit.

Before The Show

- Ask students to define **illusion** in their own words, then compare their answers.
- Watch the Amaze trailer together and list three questions students want answered.
- Review theater etiquette: phones away, stay seated, applause is encouraged.

Key Vocabulary

- **Illusion** — something that looks different from what it really is.
- **Observation** — using your senses carefully to gather information.
- **Prediction** — a guess based on what you already know.
- **Attention** — where your mind is focused at a given moment.
- **Evidence** — what you actually saw, not what you assumed.

While You Watch

- Pick one illusion and write down exactly what you SAW, in order.
- Notice one moment where the audience looked in the wrong place.
- Find one thing on stage that made a sound before something appeared.

After The Show: Discussion

- What is the difference between something impossible and something you cannot explain yet?
- Where did your attention go during your favorite illusion? Who decided that?
- How did light and sound change what you believed you saw?
- Which of your before-the-show questions got answered? Which did not?

Activity: The Attention Test

- Working in pairs, one student performs a simple hand motion while telling a short story; the partner reports afterward how many times the hand moved.
- Repeat without the story. Compare the two counts as a class and chart the difference.
- Discuss: attention is a limited resource. Magicians and advertisers both rely on that fact.

Standards Alignment

Connects to NGSS 4-PS4 (Waves: light and sound) and ELA speaking, listening and evidence-based discussion.

Booking: school groups of 10 or more save 30%. Request dates at amazemagic.com/schools. Jamie Allan does not perform at all shows; select performances star Harry De Cruz.