



# GRAMagic!

You can fool your friends and family with this simple trick.

## What you need:

- A pair of dice
- A book of your choice
- An envelope and piece of paper

## What to do ahead of time:

- Turn the book to page 14.
- Write down the first word on the page.
- Put the paper in the envelope and seal it.

## How to perform the trick:

1. Show your audience a sealed envelope and tell them that there is a prediction inside. Ask for two volunteers from the audience. Give the envelope to the first volunteer to hold where the audience can see it.
2. Ask the second volunteer to roll the dice and add up the numbers on the top and bottom of the dice.
3. Hand the second volunteer the book and ask them to turn to the page that has the number from the dice. Ask them to read the first word on that page.
4. Ask the first volunteer to open the envelope and read the word on the paper inside. It will be the same word from the book!

## How the trick works

The top and bottom of a pair of dice will always add up to the number 14, no matter what combination is rolled!

## About the Story

The famous philosopher, scientist, and writer Goethe wrote a poem in 1797 called *Der Zauberlehrling* (The Pupil In Magic) that became the basis for the story of the Sorcerer's Apprentice. Many cultures have a similar fable. The tale teaches that while some tasks look simple when performed by an expert, they can be hard to control when undertaken by a novice. Here is the opening stanza from the poem.

I am now,—what joy to hear it!—  
Of the old magician rid;  
And henceforth shall ev'ry spirit  
Do whate'er by me is bid;  
  
I have watch'd with rigour  
All he used to do,  
And will now with vigour  
Work my wonders too.

## About the Puppets

Today's show features hand-carved Italian puppets that reflect the tradition of *Commedia dell'Arte*. The "Comedy of Artists" began with street performers in the 1500's. The actors wore colorful costumes and masks, and performed improvisational shows. Although the stories varied, the characters were constant and stereotypical. Some characters used were: *Arlecchino*, the wisecracking acrobat; *Il Capitano*, the boastful yet cowardly soldier; and *Columbina*, the clever maidservant.

# Gram's Recipes Revealed!

## Basic Bubble Recipe

- 2 cups dishwashing liquid
- 6 cups water (use distilled if you can)
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup white corn syrup

Combine well and let stand for several hours before using for best results. Store covered in the refrigerator to extend shelf life, but bring to room temperature before using.



## Gram's Rich Creamy Soup

- 2 Tablespoons butter or olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$  onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 6 medium potatoes, chopped or grated
- 3 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 3 cups milk
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon each oregano and marjoram  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a large pot, heat butter or oil over medium high heat. Add onion and garlic and sauté until brown. Add celery and cook for 5 minutes, stirring often. Add potatoes and cook for 15–20 minutes or until everything is very soft, stirring every few minutes. Add liquid, bay leaf, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, lower heat, add remaining spices and simmer for 20–30 minutes. Taste to adjust seasonings, and add more liquid if soup is too thick. Serve with a sprinkle of cheddar cheese on top if desired.

Optional step: For very smooth soup, puree small batches in a blender.

## Recommended Reading

*Strega Nona* Tomie dePaola

*The Sorcerer's Apprentice* Nancy Willard

*Stone Soup* Marcia Brown

*Pretend Soup and Other Real Recipes* Mollie Katzen

*Mean Soup* Betsy Everitt

*Bubble Bubble* Mercer Mayer

*Pop: A Book About Bubbles* Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

## Sources

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