

Teach How
You Want To Be
Taught



MINDCHECK Motivation

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SPRING, 2011

- Devotion to
EDUCATION
- Passion for
MOTIVATION
- Love of
MAGIC

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REMEMBERING A “SCREW”

There is not much many people remember about their grade school years. Yes, many might have memories of teachers being good or bad, ones who gave out a lot of homework versus ones who did not, and unfortunately who was mean. But I remember one significant moment in my 8th Grade year.

It was 1988 and my teacher was Mr. Jack P. He was a good teacher and very dedicated to the school and his students. In 8th grade, we were at the top of the food chain (being in Parochial school, the building had 1st through 8th Grade). We finally made it, we were the “big dogs” of the school. In the beginning of the year, Mr. P. told us of a story that would be unbelievable... life changing. He called it the “Golden Screw.” The “Golden Screw?” I thought to myself. Being a 13 year old boy in 8th grade, ALL KINDS of things went through my mind, none of which were very Parochial school like. The big day came, and here is the story of the Golden Screw.



GOLDEN SCREW

Once upon a time there was a boy who was born without a bellybutton. In place of his bellybutton was a golden screw. At first this did not phase the boy, however other boys started to make fun of him when they saw him in the locker room. So it was very hard for him to fit in and make friends. Girls would make fun of him at the pool, so it was hard for him to try to get a date. The boy asked his mom and dad if there was anything they could do. They said no and took him to countless doctors. Year after year, the boy and his family searched for a solution to his problem. Finally, after years of looking, a doctor said that he could remove the screw. The boy and his family were so happy, they wanted it done immediately. The next day the doctor prepped the operating room and assembled his team. They put the boy under anesthesia and told

him that when he woke, he would no longer have his golden screw but would have a regular bellybutton instead. Time passed and the boy awoke. The operating team was there with his parents, joyful and with glee. The boy looked down and saw that he no longer had the golden screw, and that he now had a bellybutton. The boy got up, took his first step and...

his butt fell off .

The moral of the story: Be thankful for what you have and be careful what you wish for, or you might just lose your butt.

MORE MORALS

I love the story and remember Mr. P. for this wisdom. So this leads me to this question: How will **you** be remembered by your students? Most students don't remember specific lessons or classes. However, they might remember you if you do something special, tell a special story, or do something that really influences their outlook. Students remember you for who you are and your influence. With most students, lessons are the last thing they remember.



**MAGIC
in the
CLASSROOM**

**Try this trick in
your classroom,
next meeting,
or with friends.**

*“The simplest questions
are the most profound.*

-Where were you born?

-Where is your home?

-Where are you going?

-What are you doing?

*Think about these once in
awhile, and see how your
answers change.”*

From the book “Illusions”

by Richard Bach

Jastrow Illusion

The Jastrow illusion is also known as the boomerang or rainbow illusion. This “illusion” was originally conceived by Joseph Jastrow (January 30, 1863 – January 8, 1944) who was an American psychologist.

HOW TO MAKE: Use the template on the opposite page to make “boomerangs” out of cardstock or heavy cardboard of two different colors. You can also make them out of an old whiteboard so that you can use a dry erase markers on them. If you don’t have an old whiteboard handy, you can use white contact paper.

HOW TO PRESENT: Making the “boomerangs” is the hard part. Doing the trick is easy. Just hold the two boomerangs next to each other and ask the audience which is bigger. The audience will say the bottom one. Then slowly switch their positions. And again, the audience will say the bottom one. After several times, slowly bring the two boomerangs together to show that they are the same size.

WHY USE IT? This illusion is effective in comparing two components (concepts, ideas, etc.) and to ultimately show that there is no difference. This can also show that we can’t always trust what is “greater” or “better” based on what we see.

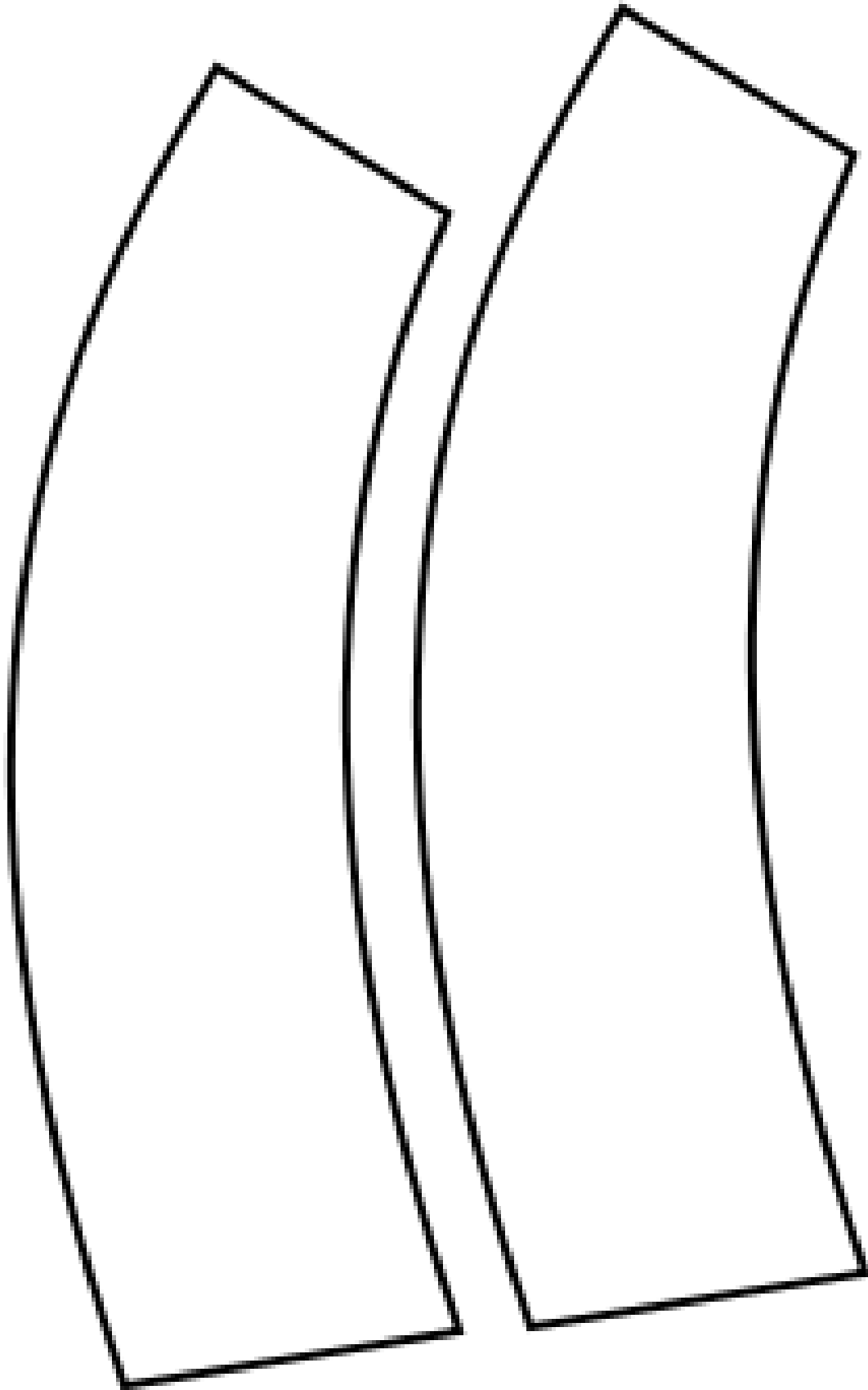
HOW IT WORKS: Since the audience focuses on where the two figures meet, the brain, most likely, is tricked by seeing one shape’s longer side being compared to the second shape’s shorter side when placed adjacent to each other.

THE SCIENCE: The Jastrow illusion helps “scientists to investigate the various mechanisms involved in the visual perception of objects, and thus increases our understanding of how our minds function in informing us about the environment.” (Kingston, 64). Essentially, our brain uses many parts and much information to tell us what’s around us.

NICE JOKE: Since the Jastrow illusion is also called the boomerang illusion, I like to say this joke when showing it:

What do you call a boomerang that does not work? *A stick.*

Reference: James Kingston. “Visual Illusions.” 2009, TAJ Books International LLP.



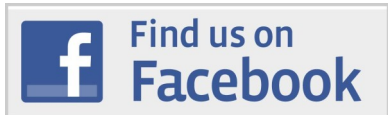
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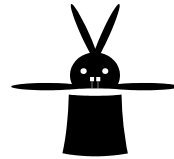
In the Press

Joe and Mindcheck Motivation were honored with two great articles that appeared in March. The first article was in the Herald-Standard, (Uniontown, PA) titled "Vilcheck Demonstrates Motivational Techniques at Cal U."

The second article appeared in the March 21 edition of the California University Journal titled "Cal U Alumnus Presents Magical Message."

Mindcheck Motivation would like to thank Wendy Mackall who wrote both articles and Steve Spangler, both of Cal U. Steve took great pictures and is an artist with the camera.

To read the articles or to check out pictures of Joe Vilcheck in action, check out Event Photos at



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15, 2011 - Team Mindcheck Motivation will be running a relay for the Pittsburgh Marathon.

June 2 & 3, 2011: Joe will be presenting M.A.G.I.C. (Motivational Attention Getters In the Classroom) for the Correctional Education Association (CEA) Region I Conference in Lancaster, PA. Joe was the keynote speaker at last years CEA-PA Conference in Altoona, PA.

June 11, 2011: Mindcheck Motivation will be competing in The Warrior Dash located in Albrightsville, PA.

Fall, 2011: College speaking season starts.

