

# Daily Herald

December 14th 1912

10 cents

## Houdini Does it Again!

A report by Chuck Washington

Young and old alike were treated to a spectacle like no other yesterday when Harry Houdini, world famous escapologist, undertook one of his most daring feats yet.

The crowd of New York onlookers buzzed with excitement as the Hungarian-born showman climbed a nearby bridge, raised his handcuffed wrists and, after carefully surveying a small hole in the ice, dived into the freezing waters of the Hudson River. This was theatre at its best!

One and all held their breath as the minutes ticked by: one... three... five... seven... The atmosphere was electric.

After eight long minutes had limped by, trained divers began to climb down a well-positioned rope in order to assist their missing magician. But there was no need. No sooner had they reached half way, up popped Houdini, greeted by wild cheers of encouragement and thunderous applause.

When asked how he'd completed such a masterful trick, he simply replied: "A true magician never reveals his secrets. But remember, I was once an apprentice to



Death defying drama in Hudson River

a locksmith". And with nothing more than a wink and a smile, he was whisked away, presumably to warm up.

Exactly how long Houdini can hold onto his secrets is not known. However, this reporter, for one, hopes that they remain securely locked away for the foreseeable future so that he can continue to dazzle his audiences, both here and abroad, for many years to come.



## Houdini Does it Again!

### Glossary

Word	Definition
Harry Houdini	a famous magician who specialised in escaping from locked chains and boxes
feat	an achievement requiring great skill

### Vocabulary Starter

Word	Definition
limped	
escapologist	
masterful	
forseeable	
death-defying	

1

Name the following:

- a) The newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) The journalist: \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The photographer: \_\_\_\_\_

2

- a) Who is this report about? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What did he do? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Where did the he do it? \_\_\_\_\_

3

As the crowd watched, did the time seem to pass quickly or slowly?  
How do you know?

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4

Find and copy **ONE WORD** from the final paragraph that means 'to amaze'?

\_\_\_\_\_

5

In which season did this event happen? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6

Complete this box with evidence from the text.

Statement	Evidence
The reporter is a fan of Houdini.	1. _____ _____ 2. _____ _____ 3. _____ _____
Houdini was a great showman.	1. _____ _____ 2. _____ _____

7

*'the atmosphere was electric'*

What does this phrase tell you about the atmosphere at the stunt?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When Houdini popped up he was '*greeted by ...thunderous applause.*'

What does this phrase tell you about the applause and how the crowd were feeling?

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Extension  
activity

The reporter hopes Houdini's secrets remain hidden because

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Trained divers were ready to help but \_\_\_\_\_

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Houdini was a 'true magician' so \_\_\_\_\_

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