From Houdini to Hugo
The Art of Brian Selznick
January 25 – April 6, 2014

A Caldecott award-winning and New York Times best-selling author and illustrator of children’s picture books and graphic novels, Brian Selznick has published seventeen books, including *The Houdini Box* and *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Selznick creates illusions of time and place through intricate illustrations.

Detail It!
Details are among the most striking features of Selznick’s illustrations. Take a close look at the crowd in this drawing from *The Boy of a Thousand Faces*. Each character is dressed differently and has a different face. What do you notice about how Selznick uses details?

In *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, Hugo uses spare parts to fix things. Think about these common items and how you might use them in new and different ways.

What could you make if you combined these items? Draw your creation.
**The Mysterious Box**

In *The Houdini Box*, the fictional character Victor is forever trying to escape from locked trunks, walk through walls, and perform any number of Houdini’s astonishing magic tricks . . . all without success. Then one day at a train station, Victor meets Houdini and is invited to his home where he is given a mysterious, locked box. Does the box contain the secrets of the most famous magic tricks ever performed?

If you were given a mysterious, locked box, what secrets might it contain? Think up a story about a mysterious box (write notes or an outline below). How did you obtain the box? What does it look like? What's inside?

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**A Thousand Monster Faces**

Alonzo King is the main character in *The Boy of a Thousand Faces*. Alonzo never misses the midnight monster movie showcase hosted by Mr. Shadows. Alonzo often transforms his face with paint, makeup, and tape, and then takes a picture of himself to place in a special notebook. His goal is to create a thousand different monster faces.

Help Alonzo reach his goal by transforming the picture below into a monster-type creature.

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