

# 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?



© 2000 by Brian Selznick



© 2007 by Brian Selznick

Study this pocket watch from *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Try to duplicate the 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?

---

---

---

---

---

**Draw your box. What details are needed to help tell your story?**

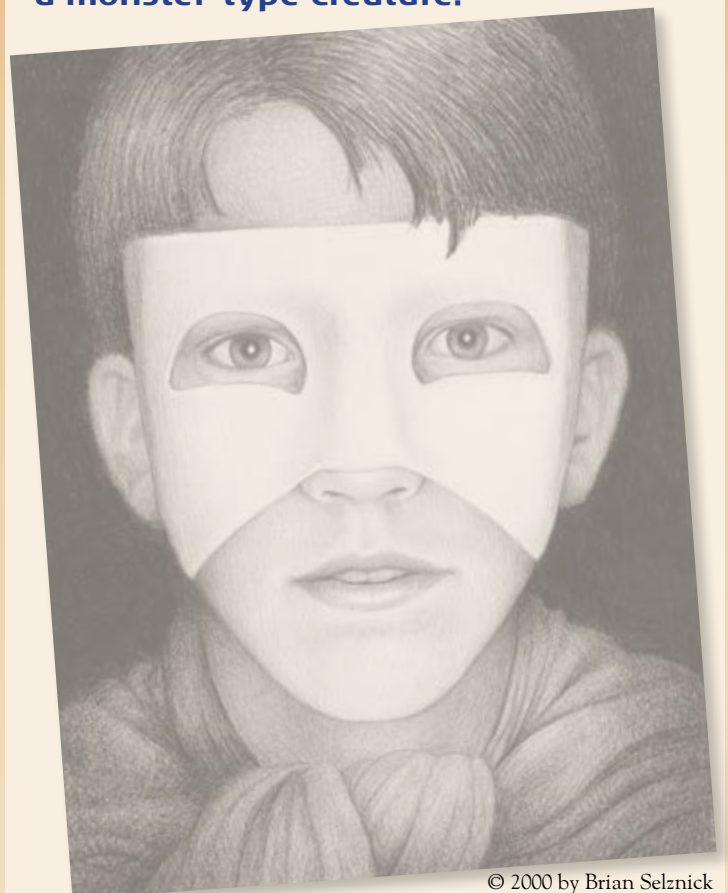


© 1991 by Brian Selznick

## 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.**



© 2000 by Brian Selznick