

The Reluctant Rabbit

JOE
RABBIT
HAT
DOG

Abacadabra!"
flop hands like ears and wiggle nose
tip imaginary HAT
Wooooooof!

JOE ___ was very busy. It was only a few days until the Pack Meeting and he was still trying to perfect his disappearing RABBIT ___ trick. All of the other Cub Scouts already had their tricks ready. But JOE ___ was having a little trouble. He had his black top HAT ___ and a very nice little RABBIT ___ and JOE ___ even knew exactly how to do the RABBIT ___ in the HAT ___ trick, but the RABBIT ___ would not cooperate.

Just then JOE'S ___ DOG ___ came bounding into the room. "Wooooooof!" said the DOG ___. He was a very large DOG ___ and the minute the RABBIT ___ saw him, he bolted for under the bed, toppling the HAT ___ and just about knocking JOE ___ off the bed. "DOG ___," shouted JOE ___, "get down, you keep scaring my RABBIT ___. And I was already having enough trouble with him." The DOG ___ hung his head in shame. He was really a very good DOG ___ and did not mean to scare the RABBIT ___. JOE ___ reached under the bed and pulled out the RABBIT ___. JOE ___ petted the RABBIT ___ and soon he was calm. "Now let's practice," JOE ___ said. He took the HAT ___ and after waving the magic wand a few times he put the RABBIT ___ into the HAT ___. But the RABBIT ___ would not stay in the HAT ___. JOE'S ___ DOG ___ saw quietly and watched. Nothing JOE ___ did seemed to help.

JOE ___ was getting frustrated. He put the HAT ___ on his own head and sat down on the bed. The HAT ___ fell down around JOE'S ___ eyes so he could not see. "Boy, it's dark in here," he said. THAT was when it hit him. The RABBIT ___ had claustrophobia and was afraid of the dark. Every time JOE ___ put him in the HAT ___ the RABBIT ___ got very nervous and tried to escape. JOE ___ patted his DOG ___ on the head and thought and thought. He didn't have time to train another RABBIT ___. WHAT could he do?

Then JOE ___ had a bright idea. He opened the top drawer of his bureau and began searching through all his stuff. His DOG ___ came over to help. Soon JOE ___ found wHAT he was looking for -- his penlight. He put it in the bottom of the HAT ___ and turned on the light. Then he took the RABBIT ___, waved the magic wand and stuffed the RABBIT ___ into the HAT ___. This time, with the light to keep him calm, the RABBIT ___ stayed. "Hurray!" shouted JOE ___, "now I can do my trick." And sure enough, the RABBIT ___ had disappeared, the HAT ___ was empty! Even the DOG ___ was surprised!