

Whimsical Tarot

By Dorothy Morrison
Illustrated by Mary Hanson-Roberts



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Dedication

To the Celtic Goddess, Rhiannon—the original Mother Goose—and to children the world over who ponder Her every word.

In Memory of...

A. J. Sargent—my dear friend and adopted father—who wanted this deck, pushed for this deck, and believed in my ability to create it.

Oscar, the little dog who, in his own way, brought this project into reality.

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To Stuart Kaplan, who believed in this deck enough to take a second look and make my dreams come true.

To Mary Hanson-Roberts, who was able to look into my mind's eye and bring life to its visions with a wave of her magical brush.

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Goddess bless you, every one!

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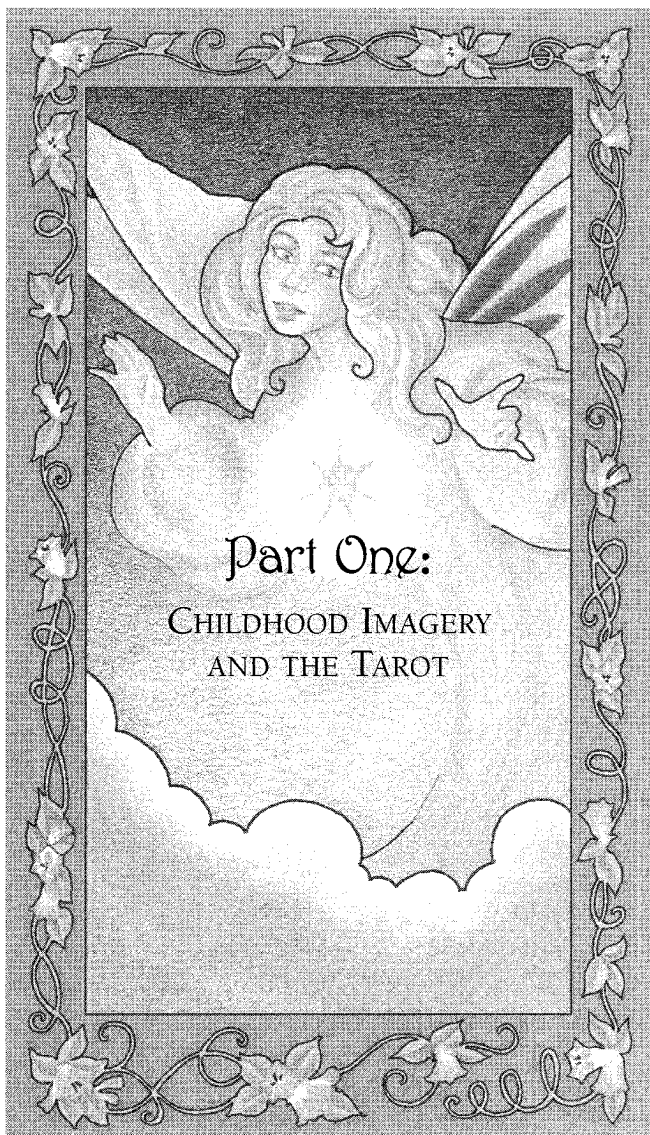
Preface

As parents, we feed and clothe our children. We nurture and love them. We do their dirty laundry, make their beds, and help with their schoolwork. We teach them to be responsible adults. Sadly enough, though, we often skip the spiritual stuff; not because it isn't important, but because we think it's something they'll learn on their own. It's not.

We owe it to our children to give them a firm grasp of the Higher Self. They need to know that it's a real part of them—the part that reveals who they are, where they're going, and what they can accomplish. They need to know it holds answers that can ease their lives and bring about spiritual growth. It's important that they understand the wonders of that Self, and learn how to access its gifts. Our children can't do that, however, unless we provide them with the necessary tools. The Whimsical Tarot is such a tool.

Based on childhood images, the Whimsical Tarot provides a fresh approach to an old system. Because most children are already familiar with the imagery, they form an immediate connection to the cards. This enables them to free the Higher Self and get to know their spiritual side. They feed, nurture, love and care for it, and in return, the spiritual gifts once beyond their reach rain down upon them freely.

This system is designed to connect the ancient art of storytelling and spirituality. It involves reading to your children, telling them stories, and getting to know them as individuals. It takes careful planning and some time set aside from your busy day—time you could spend doing other things. Most of all, though, it takes love and understanding. However, if you take the time to help your children use this deck properly, The Whimsical Tarot will not only connect them to their most valuable asset, but may prove to be the most powerful parenting tool within your grasp.



Part One:

CHILDHOOD IMAGERY
AND THE TAROT

Life is a whirlwind of images that leave an imprint upon the mind's eye. Some stay with us for a time and then fade away slowly. Others are much stronger. They make deep impressions and shine through in our personalities, affecting the way we handle everyday life. These are the images of the fairy tale and nursery rhyme. These are the images of childhood.

Why does this imagery pack such a wallop? What gives it so much impact? Let's take a quick look at the typical fairy tale outline and find out. There are good guys and bad guys. The good guys cheerfully endure some sort of aggravation, but in return, something wonderful always happens to them. They live happily ever after. The bad guys are terribly rotten. They plot and plan malicious mischief, but know matter how clever they are, they never win. Not ever.

We learn from this that crime doesn't pay, and that we get out of life exactly what we put into it. We not only learn that we must treat others well and keep our promises if we want to succeed, but that the struggles involved are always worthwhile and rewarded. These stories let us know that life is a fair exchange and regardless of the way things appear on the surface, our world is a safe place to live. Most important, though, they give us what today's world cannot. They give us hope.

In the adult world of responsibility and rat race, hope is a commodity often in short supply. It's little wonder, then, that we find the need to keep such images alive and well. We feed them. We nurture them. And when we're feeling down and out, we pull them out and play with them. Doing so allows us to go back in time, to a place that was happier, a place where the world was safe and fun, a place where cause and effect worked the way they were meant to, and where the villain always got his comeuppance.

Throughout our lives, we draw upon these childhood images for security and our personal sense of ethics. We use them as an escape from the stress of day to day living, and as

examples of what is right and wrong with our world. They crop up in our dreams and fantasies. A part of every grown woman believes that Prince Charming will eventually sweep her up on his white horse and whisk her away to his castle. A part of every grown man longs to wake Sleeping Beauty with his kiss, or hear Rapunzel sing. Everyone wishes for a fairy godmother when things seem darkest, and no one can resist the promise of a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Is this healthy? Yes. Even though our society places extreme emphasis on dealing with reality, we all need to see a ray of sunshine in our darkest moments. We need to know that good begets good, and bad begets punishment. It is a survival mechanism designed to keep us sane, teach us lessons and help us continue to put one foot in front of the other. For all practical purposes, this imagery allows the much needed temporary escape from the harshness of reality that enables us to live on a day to day basis.

How The Tarot Works

Childhood imagery provides excellent tools for working with the Tarot. Because these images already live in our subconscious, they provide a direct line from the mundane self to the spiritual self, and speed the response process.

For example, when you see Puss 'N Boots depicted as The Magician, you don't really have to read the card's definition to get a general idea of it's meaning. The image of Puss 'N Boots resurfaces clearly in the mind's eye, and you automatically remember how quick-witted, resourceful, and talented the cat was.

You remember how he took a rather grim situation and turned it around for his benefit. Looking at the card more closely, you'll see that he's a "take charge" kind of guy, and that he's in full control of the Elements and their powers. From this, the spiritual self concludes that The Magician card says you need to take charge of a situation and use what you know to solve it effectively. It says that you have the power to handle

anything life deals to you, and in doing so, you have the ability to help yourself and others.

Why was that so easy? It is because our minds process thoughts as pictures, and the Whimsical Tarot is a system based on known imagery. When we see a symbol, the conscious mind (mundane self) tells the subconscious mind (inner child) to recall associated images. When these images form in the mind's eye, both sides of the spiritual self (the personal unconscious and the collective unconscious) awaken. The personal unconscious immediately processes all the knowledge, emotion, and imagery we've accumulated in our lifetime. At the same time, the collective unconscious sorts through our basic instincts and intuitive powers. They quickly bundle any data related to the images seen by the mind's eye or mundane eye, and send it directly back to the conscious and subconscious minds. Because the imagery and story of Puss 'N Boots already lives in each of the conscious, subconscious, and unconscious minds, the processing of information takes less time, and the card meaning is more quickly apparent.

This doesn't mean that you won't gain additional insight into The Magician and his message by reading the associated definition in this book. What it does mean is that you will have an immediate response to the card—an immediate feel for the card—and a head start on understanding its advice. This, in itself, will give a great deal of assistance in helping you or your child learn to read this deck.

Children? Read The Tarot?

Can children really be taught to read the Tarot? Absolutely. Perhaps one of the most common misconceptions about children is that they are childish folks with childish attitudes, and have little grasp of what's going on in the world around them. But, in order to teach children anything effectively, we have to get past that idea. We need to look at children with a fresh eye. We need to erase old beliefs and start anew by realizing that children are merely miniature people.

Sometimes we forget that a child's mind functions just as ours. Our old beliefs tell us that children come into this world without any knowledge at all. That simply isn't true. Yes, children learn by our example, but they also arrive with instincts, personality, and trust. Babies know when they're hungry. They know when they're safe. Most learn to crawl and walk all by themselves, and even if we didn't use repetitive phrases to teach them to talk, they'd eventually pick it up anyway.

A little quality time spent with your child will go a long way toward eradicating any of your old beliefs about children. I've discovered that my own child is more in tune with the workings of the universe than some of my friends, and he is capable of carrying on a much more intelligent conversation than most of them. According to the national averages, he isn't exceptionally smart. He isn't a child prodigy. He's just a child. A miniature person.

The greatest thing about children is that they are so open to world around them, and so eager to accept the unseen world of spirituality. As adults, we often have trouble with the latter, because over many years, we've become totally immersed in the expectations of society. We're afraid to accept what we feel, hear or see. Why? Because we worry that we might hear something that no one else does, or even worse, see something that is invisible to the rest of the world.

Being new to the world, children don't share these fears. They haven't been inundated by society; therefore, they haven't

learned to stifle their creative spirituality. They listen to that which is seen and unseen, and hold it all in awe. They discount very little and miss nothing. When they come up with something that seems—by societal standards—ridiculous, everyone chalks it up to a vivid imagination. It's okay for a child's imagination to run wild. What's more, it's completely natural.

Because of their openness, unsullied perspectives, and potential creativity, children are excellent candidates for the art of card reading. And the younger they are, the better. What if they can't read words yet? No problem. What if they can't memorize? Forget it. You think they don't have a clear understanding of what's happening around them, or that they don't have the attention span for detail? Trust me, they do.

The fact is, anyone can read the Tarot. It doesn't take any special powers, clairvoyance, or psychic ability—though there certainly are people who develop those talents and use them to improve their reading skills. All it takes is a little imagination and the ability to follow a storyline. Much like the frames of a newspaper comic strip, the cards tell a story when they are put together in a layout.

This is why card reading comes so easily to children. They don't have to be able to read words—they only have to be able to speak them. Their psyches haven't been numbed like ours, and because children are still open to the magic in the world around them, the subliminal messages of the cards come through loud and clear. They pay close attention to detail, and being unafraid of judgment, they find it much easier to tap into their Higher Selves.

However, teaching children to tap into their own spirituality through card reading is just a small part of what this book is all about. It's about fertilizing their creativity, nurturing their imaginations, and keeping their magic alive and well. It's about forming that glorious bond between parent and child. The bond that is life itself. The bond that is magic incarnate.

Help Your Child, Help Yourself

The best way to create that bond and help your child grow spiritually and emotionally is to read aloud to him or her. My mother was—and still is—the best of storytellers. She set aside a special time in our household for reading; and for me, it was the best part of the day. I'd climb into her bed, prop myself up on what I thought were the most luxurious pillows in the world, and listen excitedly as Mama's voice unfolded each story.

One of the things that made that time so memorable, was that Mama had a very strong sense of the dramatic. She believed that no story was worth reading unless every character had a different voice and dialect. That practice gave each character his or her very own personality. It brought them to life and took me into their special worlds. Because of this, every story Mama read became an adventure with a life of its own. The characters lived and breathed, and Mama was the midwife.

Mama read to me until I was thirteen or so (that was about the time I became concerned about society's expectations of me and decided I was too grown up for that sort of thing). I learned a lot during those first thirteen years of life. I learned the difference between right and wrong. I discovered the fundamentals of cause and effect. What's more, I learned it in a fun and enjoyable fashion. The most important thing I learned, though, was that Mama loved me. Even when she was tired or didn't feel well, she always had time for me. And if she didn't, she *made* time. Through our daily reading time, she created a bond between us that's still stronger than any I've ever encountered. It made me feel safe and secure, and no matter what happened, I knew I could count on Mama.

That's why I think reading aloud to children is so important. There's no easier way to bond with them than to share yourself by daily reading. The sound of your voice becomes security and comfort. The story becomes the teacher, unfolding basic

examples of getting along in the world. Time becomes a treasured gift. You, as the narrator, are suddenly the greatest gift of all; for by reading to your child, you become travel agent, magician, and friend.

The most precious thing that comes from reading time, though, is the gift of imagery. These images feed the inner child, develop creative energy, and keep personal magic alive and well. They shape who we can be, who we will be, and who, at last, we are. In short, they are necessary to the spiritual development of all humankind.

We've talked a lot about how shared reading time helps children. Now let's talk about what that time does for us as parents. Reacquainting ourselves with old childhood friends and recapturing their magic works like a good mental housecleaning. Simply put, it clears mind clutter. It sweeps the dust from our imaginations, and before we know it, our personal imagery sparkles again. We become more creative, more imaginative, and more at peace with our lives. Stress and worry are short-lived because we are able to solve problems more creatively. Best of all, our inner child breathes again, and when we allow that to happen, the joy of daily living resurfaces. We lose the need to be so serious, our sense of humor returns, and we are happier people. We owe that to ourselves. More importantly, we owe that to our children. Why? Because when we are happier people, they are, too.

What To Tell Your Child About The Tarot

Don't tell your child that reading cards is a way to predict the future. It's not. Contrary to popular belief, the Tarot doesn't work that way. It gives advice based on a current situation, a current set of circumstances, and a current path or choice.

Therefore, the outcome of a reading is subject to change if the path changes. It doesn't take much to change a path. For example, suppose a card reading advises that you are likely to

get a promotion and raise. Based on this, you decide not to go to work that day. You feel so confident, you don't feel the need to notify your boss. The next day, you go in expecting that raise and promotion, but get fired instead. What happened? By missing work and not calling in, you changed your path. Thus, you changed the circumstances that were current yesterday, and that card reading does not apply to the present ones. This is why some people feel cheated when the advice of a card reading doesn't come to pass.

Instead, explain to your child that the cards are a tool, and liken them to something they can understand. A rake is a good choice because it pulls the leaves away from the grass and exposes the lawn. A good rake works like the Tarot, for it uncovers that which is hidden beneath the surface and allows us to make decisions based on the total picture.

Deck Preparation

Many experts believe that a deck must be "prepared" or consecrated before the reader can use it effectively. They suggest that the reader sleep with the deck, carry it on their person, or shuffle the deck daily for a prescribed length of time so that the deck picks up the reader's vibrations. It has also been suggested that Tarot decks be wrapped in silk and housed in a special box. The list goes on and on.

The reason for these preparations has to do with the fact that the Tarot is not a game; rather, it is a sacred tool used to connect the world of spirituality with that of the mundane. In essence, it is used to contact the higher self for advice in dealing with situations we face in everyday life. Taking special steps to prepare a deck reinforces that idea in the conscious mind, and makes that part of us ready to accept any related information presented by the subconscious and unconscious minds.

While a certain amount of preparation may be good advice for adults, it seldom applies to children. Why? Because children

possess a natural link to the spiritual world. They have very strong vibrations and “claiming” capabilities. They know when something belongs to them, and automatically infuse new items with their energies. They also instinctively know the difference between a toy and an item that is “special.” For this reason, special deck preparation is unnecessary for children.

However, the inner child in all of us is especially fond of ritual. It likes playing dress-up, likes lighting candles, and feeling special. As the inner child plays an important role in the Tarot system, you might want to perform a mini-ritual to get its attention. Keep it short and simple, though, because the inner child doesn't have much patience. A sample ritual is included below for your convenience, but don't hesitate to make changes if it's not in keeping with your child's age or preference.

Tarot Deck Blessing Ritual

Materials:

- One white votive or birthday candle
- One cup of water
- Salt shaker, or a small amount of dirt or sand

Clear a small spot somewhere in the house that can be used for an altar space—even a windowsill will do. Help your child arrange the materials on the altar, then remove the cards from the box and place them there as well. Holding your child's hand, raise arms up toward the sky, and chant together:

Lady of the Tarot, come out to play!

Bless these cards, we ask and pray!

Have your child blow on the deck three times and say something like:

I give you air to breathe!

Light the candle (if your child is very young, you may wish to handle the candle-lighting) and say:

I give you light!

Sprinkle a few drops of water on the deck and say:

I give you life!

Finally, sprinkle a few grains of salt or soil on the deck and say:

I give you roots!

Ask your child to pick up the deck. Then join hands and thrust them skyward again. Say together:

By Earth and Water, Fire and Air,

These cards are blessed with loving care!

Thank the Lady of the Tarot (a simple "thank you" will do), and blow out the candle.

The Discovery Phase

After the ritual, let your child look through the cards. The discovery phase is important because the child infuses the deck with personal vibrations at this time and claims the deck as his or her own. Don't be concerned if your child seems to be playing with the deck or treating it much the same as his/her toys. In fact, the child may drag favorite toys into the room during this process. This is normal for some children. It's their way of introducing the cards to other "family members," and it is just a gesture of acceptance. Such behavior is also a sign that your child is having fun. This is good. As long as the cards are fun for your child, he/she will not lose interest in them.

More than likely, your child will become excited about particular cards, and invite you to look, too. Children all react differently during this phase. Some will offer cards to you, while others are more territorial and will only show them to you from a distance. Generally, though, card discovery opens itself to a very animated discussion with lots of questions and answers. It's a good idea to keep a notebook handy to jot down favorite cards and any interesting comments your child might make about them. These will be a great help when you teach your child to read.

Getting To Know The Deck

Keep card reading simple, and make it fun. It's fine to make a game of it at first. The important thing is to get your child's attention. As children grow and learn, the realization of the Tarot's importance as a tool will, too.

The first step in reading the Tarot is to become familiar with the cards. Don't try to memorize the definitions in this book, and for now, don't look at the Tarot as a whole system. See it, instead, as several individual pictures that work together to make a complete set. This approach is less overwhelming.

Take one card from the deck and study it—without looking at the descriptions. Make a few notes. List your reaction to the card at first glance, then answer the following questions.

What are the occupants of the card doing? Study the expressions on their faces. Think about the related fairy tale, nursery rhyme, or song. What part did the characters play in the story? What do the colors say to you? How does the picture make you feel? Are you happy, sad, wary, or indifferent?

Close your eyes, and picture the card in your mind. When you're sure it's perfectly recreated there, open your eyes and take another look. What did you miss the first time? Symbols? Colors? Details? Write it all down. Then find the card in this book, and read about it to gain further information.

Now, give the card to your child, and ask a few simple questions. In the case of Temperance (a depiction of Jack and Jill), a the dialogue might go something like:

"What's going on in this picture?"

"The kids fell down and spilled their water."

"Why do you think that happened?"

"They were in a hurry."

You get the idea. Keep the conversation going for a while and take notes. Ask your child what else is happening in the picture. Does he or she like the card? Why or why not? Does it remind your child of someone? When the conversation

winds down, recite the related nursery rhyme. This will grab the attention again, and afterward, things will probably be seen in the picture that weren't seen before. Share your findings with him or her, but keep it light and simple.

So what happens if your child isn't interested in that card? What if he or she pulls another from the deck instead? Stay calm, and don't worry. Discuss the new card, and make a note not to talk about the other one until a later time.

Pick two other cards, and follow the same procedure. Note the responses, then put all three cards together. Ask your child to make a story from the pictures—using the first card for the beginning, the second for the middle, and the third for the ending. Presto! Your child has just done his or her first reading.

No matter what happens, don't argue with your child over meanings. He or she may see or feel something that you don't. Remember that children have an excellent grasp of symbolism and live easily in both the worlds of the mundane and the spiritual. In fact, they often have trouble separating the two until society steps in and insists they learn how! They have an innate understanding of archetypes, too, and seem to embrace them more easily than we do. If you really feel your child is mistaken about a meaning, question rather than argue. Through a series of questions and answers, the child will easily see a mistake if there is one. On the other hand, the child's answers may serve to show you an angle you hadn't thought about.

Another excellent familiarizing technique is the visitation exercise, and nothing beats it for gaining new insight into the Tarot. That's because there's no other Tarot-related exercise that allows the reader to actually talk to the characters in the cards. No other exercise gives such an in-depth look into their personalities, or brings the reader close enough to the action to become a part of it. Use the instructions below to help your child, but don't discount using this exercise for yourself. You'll be amazed at what you discover about your own inner workings, and how the cards relate to you on a personal level.

Ask your child to pick a card and then to imagine that the card is growing. It gets bigger and bigger, wider and taller, until it fills the whole room. The characters in the picture spring to life. They move around. They talk to each other. They tend to whatever business is pictured in that card.

Tell your child that he or she can talk to the characters, and encourage that action. All the youngster has to do is take a mental step into the picture. Most children rush right in because their natural curiosity takes hold. If your child seems skittish, though, reassurance is in order. Take the child's hand, and say there's nothing to be afraid of. You are right there, and won't let anything bad happen. Explain that he or she can leave the picture whenever ready; then offer your accompaniment on the journey.

Once in the card, encourage your youngster to ask questions and get to know the characters. Have your child look around for things that went unnoticed before—under tables, behind chairs, along the seashore. If your child comes up with something not depicted in the card, don't be surprised. This is common. Allow your child to stay and play as long as he'd like.

When the child returns from the visit, ask questions. Find out what was asked, what was learned, and what was found. Were the characters nice? What did they say? Did the child find new objects in the card? Would it be fun to visit that place again some time? Why or why not?

Take careful notes and write everything down. They are a record of spiritual growth, and you'll want to refer to them later as your child's perception of the cards deepens.

Procedures, Layouts, and Other Good Stuff

Traditionally, card reading begins with the search for a significator. This is a card that represents the querent or person for whom the reading is being performed. However, you won't find that card included in any of the spreads listed below. For one thing, finding a proper significator can be a time-consum-

ing process, as people change according to attitude, personality, and surrounding events. Secondly, children get bored if they have to spend time with too many preliminaries. Most importantly, though, is that the significator card really has no bearing on the reading. Its only purpose is to show the querent that he or she has a "personal card" present in the layout. This is unnecessary because the querent is not only present, but shuffles the cards and imbues them with personal energy before the reading begins.

The significator problem out of the way, let's start with the querent's question and a thorough shuffle. Concentrated focus on a question during the shuffle is important so that the advice obtained is appropriate to the inquiry at hand. Unless children are reading for someone else, they will be both the reader and the querent. Children are inquisitive by nature, so the question is seldom a problem. Card shuffling might present a dilemma, though, if your child hasn't perfected the technique. If this is the case, don't try to teach your child to shuffle right now. Doing so may cause feelings of inadequacy to surface and your child may lose interest. Instead, try one of the following methods.

Method 1:

Ask your child to spread the cards face down on a flat surface (the floor, a table, etc.) and mix them up with the fingers, just as if he or she were shuffling dominoes.

Method 2:

Have your child cut the deck into many small piles, then put them back together in any order.

Whatever technique you choose, ask your child to continue shuffling until he or she feels the deck is ready.

Choose a spread from the layout section, and position the cards according to the diagram. Have your child read the cards in the order they were placed. If some of the cards are upside down, ask the youngster to move them to an upright position.

So, what about the reversed meanings? Forget them. Like the significator card, they have no use in The Whimsical Tarot.

Why? Because neither the personal unconscious nor the collective unconscious responds well to reversals. When cards are reversed, both sides of the unconscious become confused. The flow of data to the conscious and subconscious slows down, and intuition seldom survives the process. This system is designed to eliminate those problems and still give accurate readings.

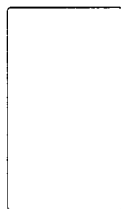
Layouts

For your convenience, the layouts are categorized according to age group. You may wish to choose a spread for younger children and let older ones decide for themselves. Don't be concerned if your child insists on using a spread designed for a younger or older age group. This may be just what the youngster needs to build self-confidence in his or her reading skills.

Ages 2 through 6

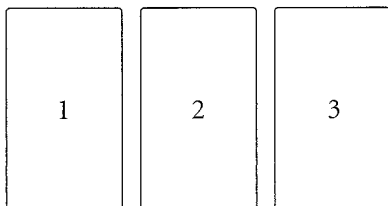
Layout 1: The One Card Spread

After shuffling the deck, choose one card. This may be any card—one turned up from the top of the deck, one turned up in a cut, or one pulled out from the middle. This spread is excellent for daily advice or for clarification of a specific problem.



Layout 2: The Three-Cut Spread

Shuffle the deck and cut it into three piles. Turn the piles face up, and read them left to right letting the pictures tell the story.

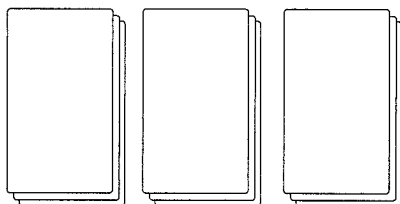


Ages 7 through 10

Layout 3: Yes/No Spread

This spread is helpful when a question can be answered with a simple yes or no. Shuffle the deck while concentrating on the question. Dealing from the top of the deck, turn the cards face up one on top of another until an ace appears or there is a maximum of thirteen cards. Repeat the process until there are three piles of cards.

Three Aces = Yes;
Two Aces = Maybe;
One Ace or None = No



Layout 4: The Nine Card Spread

This is a good general spread. Shuffle the cards and lay them out as shown in the diagram. The first horizontal row displays past events related to the question; the second displays present events; and the third, events that are likely to occur.

Past	1	2	3
Present	4	5	6
Future	7	8	9

Ages 11 and up

Layout 5: Celtic Cross Spread

Since the spread below—an Italian gypsy tradition—was passed down through my mother's family, the card placements differ slightly from the standard used today.

Card 1 represents the situation related to the question.

Card 2 represents that which crosses the situation for better or worse. This can be an obstacle of sorts, but often is something positive and necessary in order for things to progress.

Card 3 symbolizes the events that brought the situation into being.

Card 4 represents the immediate future. The time frame involved is usually a matter of days, but seldom over eight weeks.

Card 5 symbolizes past events that relate to the question.

Card 6 tells of the more distant future, and that which is likely to occur should the querent continue the present path.

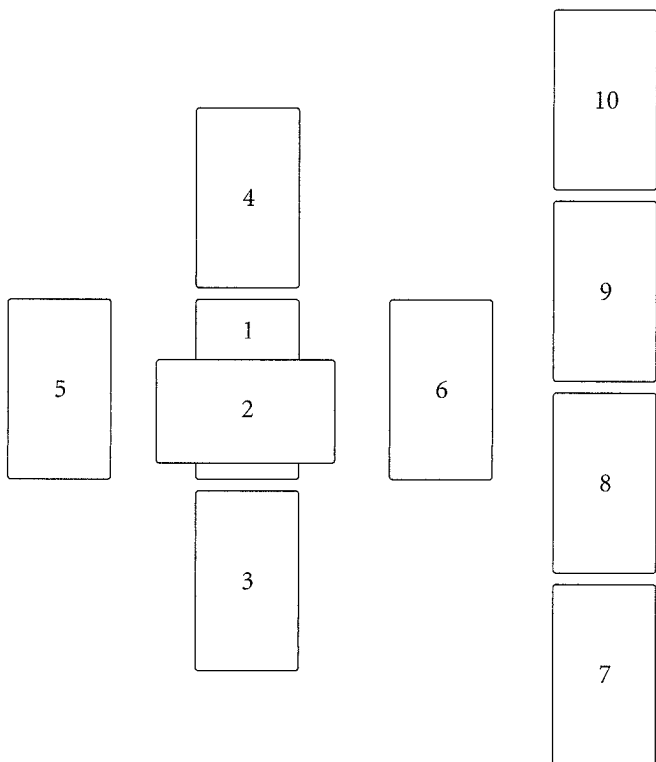
Card 7 represents the querent's current environment

Card 8 shows how current relationships affect the situation, and how people view the querent.

Card 9 reflects the hopes and fears of the querent, and brings him to a conscious understanding of how negative or positive he really feels about the situation.

Card 10 represents the final outcome based on past and present events, underlying circumstances, and the actions of the querent.

Celtic Cross Spread



Ages 11 and up *(continued)*

Layout 6: The Wheel Spread

Card 1 represents the situation related to the question.

Card 2 represents that which crosses the situation for better or worse. This can be an obstacle of sorts, but often is something positive and necessary in order for things to progress.

Card 3 symbolizes the events that brought the situation into being.

Card 4 symbolizes past events that relate to the question.

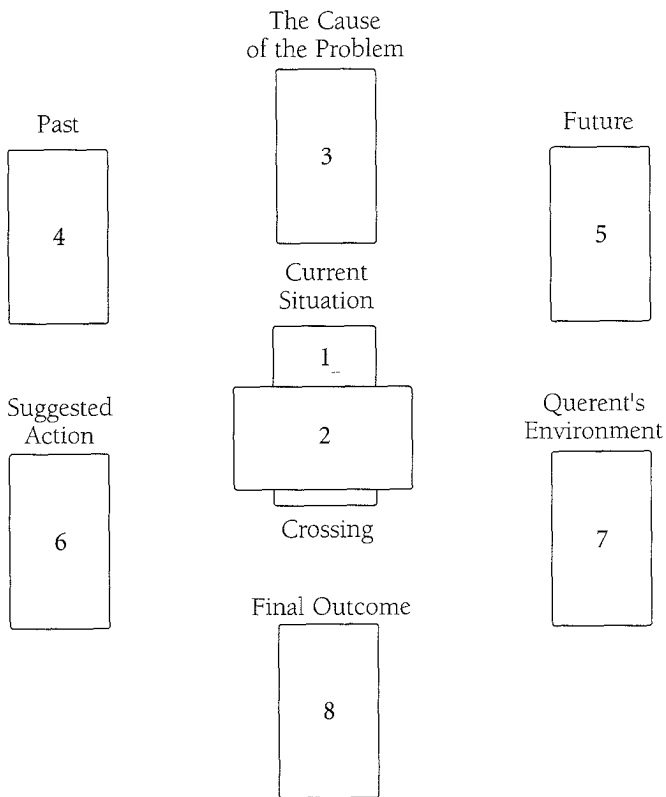
Card 5 represents that which is likely to occur should the querent continue the present path.

Card 6 represents advice given to the querent in regard to the situation at hand.

Card 7 represents the querent's current environment.

Card 8 represents the final outcome based on past and present events, underlying circumstances, and the actions of the querent.

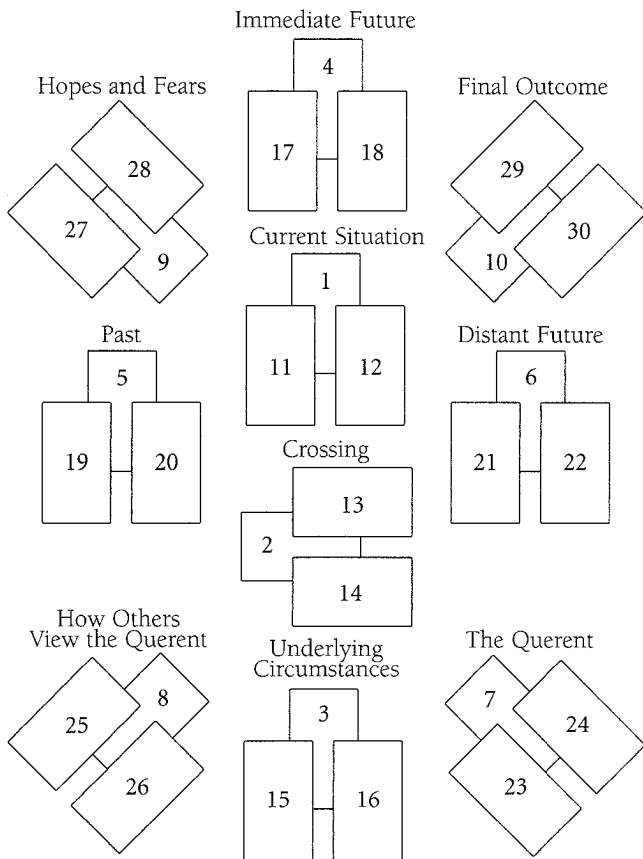
Wheel Spread



Ages 11 and up (continued)

Layout 7: Clarification Spread

Use the Clarification spread to gain more information from a reading. Since it is a modification of the Celtic Cross, the representations of Cards 1-10 as outlined in Layout 5 apply here, too. Cards 11-30 represent a more in-depth look at the information received from the first ten.

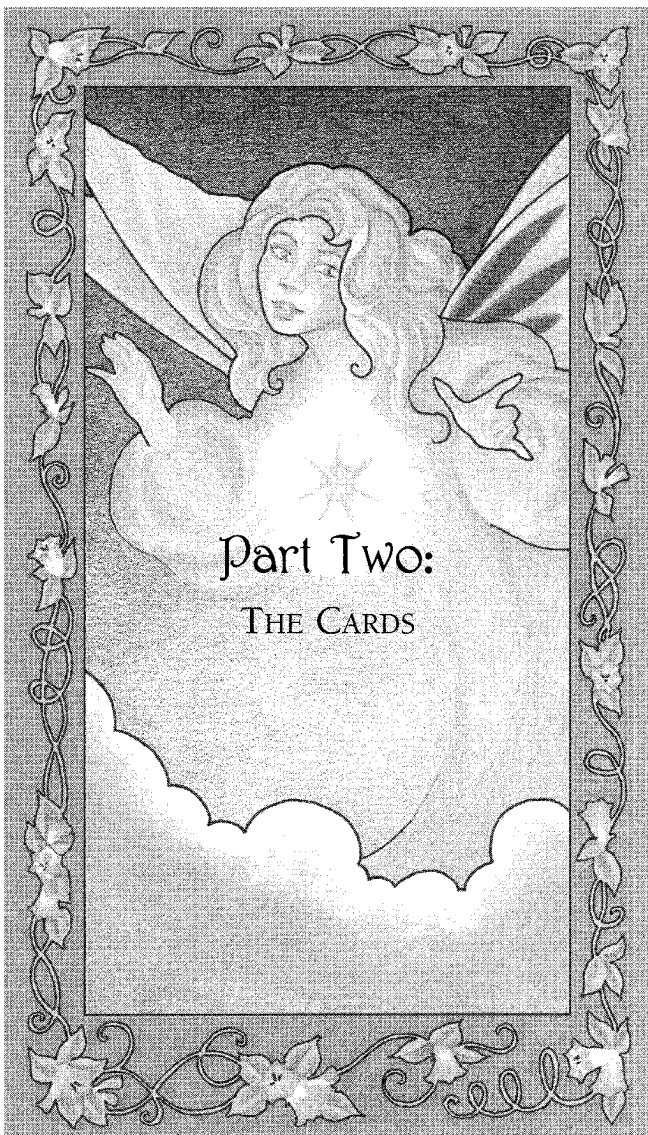


How To Use This Book

The following tips are offered to help you get the most from *The Whimsical Tarot*. While this may mean library outings or refreshing your memory on childhood literature, it's well worth the effort. You and your children will both enjoy the interaction. More important, though, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you've paved the path for your child's individual spiritual journey, and that's a gift as precious as life itself.

1. Give the card to your child, and let her tell you what he or she sees, feels, and hears.
2. Read the suggested story, poem, or nursery rhyme to your child. Some of the stories suggested are book length, however, and you may not wish to read the whole story to your child before working with the related card. In that case, tell your child about the characters depicted in the card as they relate to the suggested story.
3. Discuss the lessons of the story with your child. Answer any questions and listen to your child's comments.
4. Offer the card to your child again. Ask how the card makes him feel. Listen carefully to your child's comments, and write it all down. His or her responses will give you insight into the inner workings of your child and provide you with valuable parenting tools.
5. If necessary, go back to the section on Getting to Know the Deck, page 20, and help your child try the exercises.
6. Allow your child to pick a spread, lay out the cards (little ones may need help with this), and read them.

That's all there is to it! As your child is introduced to the magic of the Whimsical Tarot, take some time to rekindle the fairy-tale relationships you once cherished. One word of caution, though: Don't be surprised if you fall under the spell, too!



Part Two:
THE CARDS

The Major Arcana

We begin as The Fool on our personal paths
And travel our roads with joy, smiles, and laughs.
And then we progress to Magician from Fool
Learning new skills and working with tools.
We become the High Priestess and see the unseen;
Our mysteries are deep, our skills become keen.
As the Empress, we learn of abundance and love;
We create and we nurture both seedling and dove.
Rushing on as the Emperor, we grow and we change,
And we drink in his knowledge—the wisdom of age.
We progress as the Hierophant and learn of convention,
Of religion and status, and mindless tradition.
As the Lovers we learn of the matters of heart
Through the joys and the trials, we patiently sort.
Then we race as the Chariot, rushing quicker and faster.
We learn about balance and its principles, master.
Then hurled into Strength, we find not brute force,
But a subtler energy deep in its source.
When the Hermit takes over, we go deep inside
To the place where the spiritual self likes to hide.
Still traveling forward, we turn as the Wheel,
And learn to help others, as our luck we seal.
As Justice arrives, we progress as the scales;
We tip and we balance, then onward we sail
Into the Hanged One, where quickly we learn
Of spiritual balance, its importance; then turn
Into glorious Death and all that's involved
In beginnings, new growth, and old issues resolved.
As we become Temperance, we learn of control
And how much is too much. Still the energy flows
Until we're the Devil and break through our chains
And learn to go forward, accepting life's gains.

Then, as we break free, we change to the Tower,
And repair all relationships before they go sour.
Soon, we soar to the heavens. As the Star, we shine bright
And wishes come true in our joyful white light.

We fly to the Moon and we learn to watch out
For deceptions in life; then we go on about
Our business until we change into the Sun.
There we sip on life's nectar; we dance and we run
Until we find Judgment, and with it, we meld
And thoughts of unfairness are quickly dispelled
Then finally, at last, we rush toward the World
And the cycle is finished. Rewards are unfurled.
And though we are tired, we've accomplished our goal:
Achieving true balance of body and soul...



The cards of the Major Arcana represent forces that affect our lives, but which are beyond our control. To a large degree, these forces shape the way life events play out. They represent a pattern or a series of steps that must be taken to get to a certain point. However, they do not necessarily affect its final outcome. That is solely up to us. We can either follow the outlined path, or change it to better suit ourselves.

The Major Arcana cards help us in a number of ways. They shed light on situations that we don't always understand. Things like a spell of bad luck, the appearance of someone unexpected, or a sudden reign of good fortune. They help us realize that we are not alone in this life—that unseen forces often help and hinder us—and that we are not necessarily at fault for everything that happens to us.

A spread comprised of many Major Arcana cards signifies the working of forces in our lives that we cannot see.

0 · The Fool

Character: The Scarecrow

Story: The Wizard of Oz



Description:

The Scarecrow is an excellent choice for depicting the Fool. The Fool is an open-minded sort, blessed with child-like innocence. He sees only beauty and adventure among the pitfalls of life, and he embraces them with joyful exuberance. He constantly seeks out the unknown, and explores endless possibilities. Everyone loves him. He's kind, courteous, caring, and fun to be around.

The problem with The Fool is that he simply doesn't think things through. Even if mundane thought were a possibility for him, it would mean having ideals, making a stand, or even more