The Vanishing Coin by Kate Egan

Recommended for grades 1 to 3

Summary: Fourth grader Mike is not a bad person... He just can’t sit still! But now that his parents won’t let him play soccer, he has to hang out with his new perfect next door neighbor Nora, who happens to be good at EVERYTHING. What was supposed to be a fresh start is turning out to be a boring year, until Mike and Nora discover the White Rabbit. It’s an odd shop whose owner, Mr. Zerlin, is a magician. Mr. Zerlin seems to believe that Mike could be a magician too... Has Mike finally found something he’s good at?

Discussion Questions
1. What do you think makes Mike a good magician?
2. Do you think it’s surprising that Mike and Nora become friends? Why? What are their similarities and differences?
3. Why is magic important to Mike?
4. Is it important to stand up to your bullies? Why is it important for Mike?
5. Why is the title of the book “The Vanishing Coin”?
6. Do you think you’re similar to Mike? What about his actions or personality is similar to you?

Reviews and further resources:
The Fourth Musketeer: https://dar.to/2qnbbBU
Magic tricks: https://dar.to/2O3BKgO
Vanishing Coin trick: https://dar.to/2pAFH2Z

Activities:
1. Draw Mike and Nora how you picture them in the book. Use colored pencils, markers, paint, or feathers and glitter to show their personalities.
2. Make Mr. Zerlin’s magic trick book. You can include tricks from the book and tricks you know. Or you can make up your own tricks.