

## Ask Yourself:

**Lines 22-26:** How can I decide if this is fact or opinion?

**Lines 48-52:** Why does the author point out this distinction?

**Lines 60-68:** What single point does the author want me to understand in these two paragraphs?

**Lines 61-62:** Which word here suggests that this is not a true fact?

# Is Hypnosis a Trick?

by R. Lindal

5 When the hypnotist entered the auditorium at Fairview Middle School, the crowd became very quiet. Some in the audience were just curious to see how people would act under hypnosis. Others wanted to volunteer to be hypnotized themselves so they could see how it really felt. The hypnotist knew that he would be more successful with people who really wanted to be hypnotized, so he called on those who seemed most eager to come up to the stage.

10 The hypnotist had the first student lie across three folding chairs. He held one finger in front of the student's eyes. He asked the student to focus her eyes only on his finger. He told the young woman that she was growing sleepy. He also told her that she was getting stronger. The lights were dimmed. A short time later, the hypnotist removed the middle chair. The girl's body remained suspended between the two remaining chairs. One chair supported her head and shoulders. The other chair supported her lower legs. The audience was amazed at the demonstration.

15 Although making a person strong and rigid may seem remarkable, it does not begin to compare with the astonishing claims of a Scottish doctor in India over 150 years ago. Dr. James Esdaile reportedly performed 73 painless surgical operations on natives of India while the patients were hypnotized. He even amputated damaged arms and legs on several occasions.

## How Does Hypnosis Work?

30 You know that people daydream. While they are daydreaming, they seem to be unaware of things happening around them. They are in a kind of trance. The hypnotist tries to lead his patients into the same kind of trance. He starts by encouraging the

