

Chapter 1 : Watching the Fire-Eater by Robert Minhinnick

Watching the Fire-Eater has 37 ratings and 5 reviews. Leah said: Went into the book thinking it was going to be incredibly dull, turned out to be more wi.

Physics[edit] Fire eating relies on the quick extinction of the fire in the mouth or on the touched surfaces and on the short term cooling effects of water evaporation at the surface on the source of fire usually with a low percentage of alcohol mixed in the water or saliva in the mouth. This allows for igniting a damp handkerchief or a bill of money without it burning. Closing the mouth, or covering it with a slap of the hand cuts off the oxygen to the fire. Blowing on it can remove the very thin area of reaction from the source of fuel, and thus extinguish the fire in some cases, where the blown air is faster than the fire front and the flame is small enough to be entirely removed. Certain materials are avoided when doing the trick, such as materials which may easily ignite, melt or store the heat and release it later. These include paraffin candles, plastic, and thick multithreaded rope. It became a part of the standard sideshow acts in the late s and was often seen as one of the entry-level skills for sideshow performers, [4] although skilled fire performers, such as those who can use the difficult and dangerous vapor transfers and produce large breaths of fire are regarded as equals in the circus community for their skill and devotion to their art. Other than sound fire safety precautions and some practical advice regarding the laws of physics i. It is instead the cutting off of the oxygen from the flame which extinguishes it and the evaporation of saliva with the water in the alcoholic solution which keeps the nearby surfaces cool while it is still burning. Many other fire eaters dismiss this, claiming that a skilled fire eater should not burn themselves. The most common method of safely performing fire eating acts relies on the fact that it takes time to transfer heat, and that heat rises in air. Fire eating and fire breathing and all variants is a skill which should be passed on from a skilled master to an appropriate student [3] and almost all teachings include instructions on first aid, fire safety, chemistry and other appropriate skills. Famous fire eaters[edit] A famous fire eater from the 18th century was Robert Powell who allegedly not only swallowed fire but also red-hot coals, melted sealing wax and even brimstone. He performed, often in front of British and other European royalty and nobility, for nearly sixty years and, in , was awarded a purse of gold and a large silver medal. His methods were subsequently made public by his servant. Fire-eating tricks[edit] While trick categories vapor, transfers, extinguishes, etc. Vapor tricks use the fuel vapors held in the mouth during or before an extinguish. Cigarette light â€” light a cigarette with a Human Candle Human candle â€” slowly feed a candle sized flame with vapors you hold Vapor transfer â€” ignite one torch with the vapor from another Moonshot â€” shoot vapors straight up Fiery Kiss - Small amounts of fuel on the palm of the hand is ignited by a vapor pull, creating the effect of the performer blowing a kiss of fire. Transfers[edit] Transfers are methods of moving a flame from one area to another, by using the body, or another surface or medium. Body transfers â€” transfer the flame from one torch to the other with parts of your body, e. Finger transfer â€” transfer the flame from one torch to the other with your fingers most common form of transfer Fire floor transfer â€” transfer the flame from one torch to the other on the floor Tongue transfer â€” transfer the flame from one torch to the other with your tongue Extinguishes are methods of extinguishing torches, and are the traditional hallmark of fire eating. The Blow Out â€” Using breath control to extinguish Multiple fire eat â€” basic fire eat with several torches at once Flaming cotton ball extinguish â€” put out a cotton ball as you would a torch Hand snuff â€” put the torch out by snuffing it with your hand Jellyfish extinguish â€” pull the torch down out of the flame to extinguish it Teething â€” hold a lit torch by the wick in your teeth Immolation â€” passing any part of the body through the flame Retention â€” Holding a lit fire torch by your hand with the lit wick within your mouth for an extended period of time Straight snuff â€” Fire eating whilst keeping your head level Tongue rest â€” Letting the lit wick of a fire torch rest on the tongue Shotgun â€” lighting a trail of fuel on the body to light an unlit fire torch. Slow burn â€” Very slowly dragging a lit fire torch on the skin.

Chapter 2 : Robert Minhinnick (Author of Watching the Fire-Eater)

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Chapter 4 : Fire eating - Wikipedia

Does anyone have any resources/ context notes for Robert Minhinnick's 'Watching the Fire eater' and would be willing to share? AS exam in less than 3 weeks!

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Watching the fire-eater is a welcome reprint of his first collection of essays, originally published in , which won the Wales Book of the Year The content remains surprisingly relevant, while the simple, down-to-earth tone and style guarantees ready accessibility to a wide readership.

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Chapter 8 : What does fire-eater mean? definition, meaning and pronunciation (Free English Language Dic

A reading of Watching the fire-eater by Robert Minhinnick, a Welsh writer, for AS level English Literature.

Chapter 9 : Watching the Fire Eater

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