

Fantasy Writing: Creating a Magical Setting with Elle McNicoll

A 'glamour' is a kind of magic that hides or disguises magical people and places.

In *Like a Charm*, Ramya discovers she has a special power: she can see through the glamour that hides the magical world from human view.

- 1. What special power would you like to have?**
- 2. What would your 'glamour' be?**

Jot down some ideas below:

The Grassmarket in *Like a Charm* is a real place in Edinburgh, but Ramya discovers a door in the Grassmarket that leads to a magical world beneath the streets.

- 3. Which real-life place will you use as a setting for your fantasy story? Where will your magic door be hidden?**

Draw a picture or write some ideas below:

4. Write a list of verbs to describe what people are doing in the world behind your magical door:

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5. Complete this sentence:

My magical world must be hidden because if it was not, then _____

The best settings make the reader feel like they have been transported into the world of the story. You can have this effect on your readers by using sensory descriptions.

6. Complete the sensory description table below as you begin to think about the details that will make your magical world feel real:

Sight	
Sound	
Smell	
Taste	
Touch	

7. Extended writing challenge: Use all the ideas that you have come up with today to write a paragraph or more introducing the reader to your magical world.

For Inspiration, read Chapter 12 of Like a Charm, where Ramya discovers the Grassmarket's hidden door.