



## Discovering Logosland

By Wayne Visser

6

### Words Are Like Magic

If words are like magic, does that make me a magician? asked Jordan.

What do you think? What do magicians do?

They make things appear and disappear.

And can you do that?

I think so.

How?

By finding the right words?

Don't *ask* me, *show* me. Test your theory.

Ok. I want to make a dinosaur appear.

Nice choice.

So where is it?

Good question. Did you notice anything happening when you thought of the dinosaur?

Well, the air moved, like ripples in a lake, but then nothing appeared. It's almost like I nearly created a dinosaur, but something was missing.

And what do you think could have been missing?

The right words?

Maybe. What would you do if I gave you some crayons and asked you to draw me a dinosaur?

I'd start drawing it.

Which one?

What do you mean?

Which dinosaur?

Oh, I hadn't thought of that. Which one do you want me to draw?





A T-Rex. A blue one. With sharp teeth. And big eyes. And blood dripping from its mouth. In a steaming jungle. With bubbling swamps. And ... I get it! So the magic didn't work because I didn't give enough information?

Exactly! You didn't use the wrong words, just not *enough* words.



Creative Commons 2008

