The thaumatrope is a toy used to create an optical illusion. Thaumatropes were invented in the 1800s and were a popular and fun pastime, especially for children during the Civil War. This step-by-step will show you how to create your own thaumatrope!

**Materials**
- sturdy string
- a round cup/glass to trace
- a piece of cardboard
- a black marker
- a pencil
- a hole punch
- scissors

**Instructions**

1. You will use your circular cup/glass and pencil to trace a circle on your piece of cardboard.

2. With the help of an adult, carefully cut the circle out of the cardboard.
3. Now use your hole punch to make two holes on the edges of the circle across from one another.

4. Next, you will need two lengths of string cut equal to each other. Don't forget to ask an adult for help cutting the strings!

5. Tie one string through each hole and knot it tightly. Trim the excess string off of the knots.
6. Now you can draw your designs on each side of the circle using a pencil. Remember, for the illusion to work one side must be drawn regularly, while the other is drawn upside down.

7. Carefully trace and color in each design with your black marker.

8. Now you have a thaumatrope! Hold each end of your strings close to the circle and quickly twirl the string to watch the magic happen!