

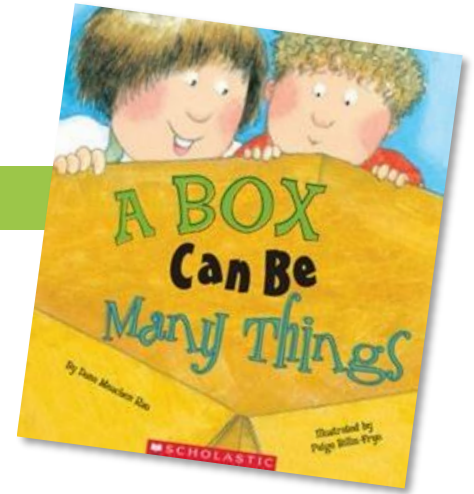
A Box Can Be Many Things

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Creative Play, Imagination

Book Brief: After her mother tosses out a large box of junk, a girl and her younger brother pull it out. They pretend it is a cave, car, house, and cage. And even when it lies in pieces on the ground, their imaginations lead them to even more inventive uses for the box.

Author:
Dana Meachen Rau
Illustrator:
Paige Billin-Frye



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title. Ask students to predict what will happen in the book.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they see, think, or wonder about the story.

Vocabulary: [Vocabulary Guide](#)

Prior Knowledge: Ask students if they have ever had to find something to do with no toys. Ask them what they decided to do to entertain themselves.

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how the two siblings make their own fun using their imagination.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What does the mom think the box is?
- How did the children use the box at first?
- What did the kids pretend the box was when they flipped it upwards?
- What did the box remind the kids of when they cut holes in it?
- What did the children do with the box after it was torn to shreds?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How do the children use their imagination throughout the story? How does the box transform from being “junk”, to a fun experience for the children?

Extending Our Thinking: What do you think you could make with a box? Talk with your table group and create your own design with a box. (Alternatively, could do the same with a sheet of construction paper).

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.