

Cardboard

AUTHOR: Doug TenNapel

PUBLISHER: Scholastic Graphix

COPYRIGHT DATE: 2012

GENRE: Graphic Novel

LEXILE: 300L

SUMMARY:

From the vivid imagination of Doug TenNapel comes the tale of a boy, his father, and one magnificent cardboard box. Mike, a down-on-his-luck carpenter, brings home a cardboard box for his son, Cam's, birthday. He and Cam make the most of this simple present by using it to create a boxer named Bill - who comes magically to life. Neighborhood bully Marcus, jealous of Cam and Bill, steals some of the magical cardboard and begins to make creatures of his own. When Marcus's creations get out of control, Cam, Mike, and Bill have to step in and save the day, but are they too late?

BOOKTALK:

What if you made a man out of cardboard and he came to life? Down and out carpenter Mike brings home the only gift he can afford for his son, Cam's, birthday - a perfectly ordinary, empty, cardboard box. But the boxer he and Cam construct from the cardboard comes magically to life, and when some of the not-so-ordinary cardboard falls into the wrong hands, it sets off a chain of events that could destroy their whole town!

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Author's Name: Doug TenNapel

Author's Website: <http://tennapel.com/>

Other books written by the author:

Tommysaurus Rex

Ghostopolis

Bad Island

Ratfist

Power Up

Monster Zoo

CHALLENGING WORDS

vessel (pg.12) n. A container used for holding something.

inexplicable (pg.41) adj. Not able to be explained or understood.

stance (pg.56) n. A way of standing; the way an athlete holds his/her body and feet.

structural weakness (pg.59) Weakness or flaws in the way something is built.

Plato (pg.82) A Greek philosopher who lived from 426-348 BCE

salvaged (pg.91) v. Rescued or saved from a wreck.

corrugated two-ply (pg.98) n. Normally constructed cardboard, made from two sheets of paper with wavy (corrugated) core in between.

slander (pg.115) v. To say something false that damages someone's reputation

ingenuity (pg.120) n. Skill or cleverness that allows someone to solve problems or invent things.

fruition (pg.123) n. A state of being real or complete.

repurpose (pg.158) v. To give a new purpose or use to something.

negotiate (pg.168) v. To discuss something formally in order to come to an agreement.

nuke (pg.181) n. A nuclear weapon

horde (pg.195) n. A large group of people

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Cam react when he realizes that his birthday gift is a cardboard box? What does this say about him as a person? How would you feel in the same situation?
2. Mr. Gideon told Mike that there were two rules he must follow: return all of the unused scraps, and no asking for more cardboard. Why do you think Mr. Gideon made those rules? What were the consequences of breaking them?
3. Cam and Marcus approach creating with the cardboard with very different attitudes. How are their attitudes reflected in the creatures they create?
4. When Cam and Mike realize they don't have enough cardboard to fix Bill's legs, Mike comes up with a creative solution. What would you have done differently?
5. Why is Marcus so mean to Cam? What makes him change?

ACTIVITIES with COMMON CORE STANDARDS :

Language Arts:

1. Write a newspaper article reporting the events of Cardboard. Remember to include information that describes who, what, when, where, why and how. Use your imagination to think of how the events from the story might appear to an outsider. Be sure to include quotations from characters in the story.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2a Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3b Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.

2. Imagine that you have some magic cardboard of your own. What would you make? What would happen next? **Create a 5-10 panel comic strip to tell the story of your own cardboard creation.**

Remember that a good comic strip tells the story in both pictures and words. Be sure to use comic conventions (such as gutters, panels of different shapes and sizes, and descriptive lettering) to show action and feelings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3a Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3b Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.5 Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, sound) and visual displays in presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.3e Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

LIFE SKILLS:

courage
empathy
creativity
loyalty

RELATED INTERNET SITES:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/>

An online resource in which one can create an original comic strip

ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY:

Name: Addie Matteson

Position/Location: Media Specialist/Noblesville, IN