



Activity Sheet

A Box Can Be Many Things

Written by Dana Meachen Rau and illustrated by Paige Billin-Frye

After her mother throws away a large box, a girl and her younger brother pull it out of the garbage. 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.

Tips to prepare for reading: Show children the book's cover. Tell them the book's title and whom the author and illustrator are. Tell them that it seems that two kids are looking inside a large box and their faces, especially their eyes and their mouths, look excited. Ask why the kids might be excited.

Ideas on reading the book: Read the story expressively. Tell children that the boy and the girl in the story are using their imaginations and pretending. Show children how the illustrations on pages 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 represent the boy and girl's imaginations.

Activities and ideas to use after you read the book: Ask children to use their imaginations and ask them what they would do with a big empty box. Bring several different sized empty boxes with you to visually stimulate children's thinking.

If a computer is available, show children *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* "When You Pretend, You Can Be Anything" video. <http://pbskids.org/video/daniel-tigers-neighborhood/2365012710>

Play "Let's Make Believe". Invite children to pretend to be a bunny, dinosaur, firefighter, monkey, pirate, robot, super hero or tree.

Try this at home: Read *A Box Can Be Many Things* with your child. Give your child a shoebox or cereal box. Ask them what they imagine the box to be. Using the box, paper towel rolls, colored paper, markers, tape, glue and additional odds and ends, help your child create their idea.

More from PBS KIDS: Play *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* "Let's Make Believe" game. <http://pbskids.org/daniel/games/make-believe/>

Play *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* "Dress Up" game. <http://pbskids.org/daniel/games/dress-up/>

Watch *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*, "A Pretend Outer Space Adventure" video. <https://pbskids.org/video/daniel-tigers-neighborhood/2365012684>

Additional books to read: *Circle City*, written by Dana Meachen Rau and illustrated by Susan Miller; and *Not a Stick*, written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis.

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