



What to do With a Box by Jane Yolen

An ode to cardboard, four sides, and flaps both honors and alerts children to the pleasures it houses. Jolly rhymes sing praise, perhaps prompting readers to look near their recycling bins for a fresh box. What else can it be “a library, / palace, / or nook”? Add some dolls, and you've got a tea party. Paint a backdrop, and you're basking at the beach or sitting by a forest stream. Put simply, "A box! A box / is a wonder / indeed. / The only / such magic / that you'll / ever need." Kirkus Reviews

Let's Talk

Make sure children know what all the words are; palace, nook, landscape, egret and Paris.

Before reading, ask children if they have ever used a box for a toy? What did they use it for? Can they think of any other uses besides what is in the book?

Talk about all the different labels and stickers on the box in the illustrations. What do they mean? Why are they there?

Let's Move

GIVE the children a box! See what they do with it. Could be one for whole group to share or one for each child.

Give them crayons or paints to make pictures on their boxes.

Have each child create a nook for listening to the story as you read.

Let's Create

Print and cut out this box from The Creative Company.

http://www.thecreativecompany.us/news_pdfs/Creative_Box_Activities.pdf

After discussing the mailing labels and bar codes on the box in the illustrations, show children how to write and properly address a letter or package. Go to post office if possible.

Draw pictures of what they would do with a very large box.

Pair With

“Not A Box” by Antoinette Portis

“Float” by Daniel Miyares

