**The Strange Case of Origami Yoda**

**By Tom Angleberger**

**Louisiana Young Reader’s Choice Nominee 2013**

**Grades 6-8**

Submitted by Tammy DiBartolo – Youth Services Manager , Rapides Parish Library, Alexandria, LA.

**Summary**

*The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* is a novel that gives the reader a look at just what goes on in a sixth grade classroom. The story revolves around the “not so popular” Dwight, who talks to his classmates via an origami finger puppet of Yoda. If that is not strange enough, the puppet is usually right! Dwight’s classmates wonder how Yoda can be so smart when Dwight is clearly clueless. The book is a “case file” of submissions from Dwight’s classmates.

**Awards**

Winner of the E.B. White Read Aloud Award 2011

**Author’s Biography**

Tom Angleberger lives in Virginia with his wife author, CeCe Bell. In his spare time he enjoys calling square dances, juggling and watching Kung Fu movies.

**Illustrator’s Biography**

Illustrations were done by Tom Angleberger and Jason Rosenstock. (biography unavailable).

**Classroom Connections**

**Reading**

1. In the story Tommy gives a book report on *Dear Mr. Henshaw.* Read the book and give an oral book report on it.
2. Someone in the story breaks the Shakespeare bust. Who was Shakespeare? Find some of his quotes and discuss what they mean. Repeat the quotes like Yoda would say them.
3. There is a Spelling Bee in the story. Have an old fashioned Spelling Bee using words from Star Wars.
4. When Tommy tries to hide the broken bust, Dwight tells him “Vorpious de liporius octo” meaning *the cover up is worse than the crime*. Find other Latin phrases that we use in every day speech. Talk about what they mean.
5. Students can create their own children’s character like Soapy the Monkey in the Good Clean Fun presentation. Make a commercial or poster to promote it.
6. Tommy interviews Zack Martin and records it with a hidden tape recorder. Students can interview each other and record the interview. Students should then transcribe the interview on a computer or in their notebooks.
7. Early in the story Tommy asks about “The Twist” Students should pick a dance write the written instructions for that dance.

**Social Studies**

1. Create a timeline with Star Wars movies.
2. The book mentions, ESP (extra sensory perception) Does it exist? Discuss your answer.
3. The classmates discuss whether or not Origami Yoda is a hoax or not. What is a hoax? Can you think of an example of a hoax in recent history?
4. Talk about the Twist and how dances and music have changed through the years.

**Science**

1. The students have a pop quiz on the parts of a leaf. Draw and diagram the parts of a leaf.
2. Create your own planet complete with inhabitants. Name and describe them.
3. Cheetos are a popular snack in the story. What are the ingredients in Cheetos? How are they made?
4. Tommy draws a picture of his classmate Tater Tot. He says it is not drawn to scale. What does that mean? Find a specific object and draw it to scale.

**Math**

1. Quavondo buys Cheetos for everyone and ends up spending$63.48. How could he have saved money? Discuss sales, coupons, buying in bulk.
2. Origami Yoda gives the boys baseball advice and batting tips. Talk about how to figure batting averages.

**Art**

1. Make origami Star Wars characters. Find directions at [www.origamiyoda.com](http://www.origamiyoda.com)
2. Make a picture of the night sky by using blue or black construction paper and or silver and white crayons.

**The Strange Case of Origami Yoda**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why does Dwight use the Origami Yoda to talk, rather than speaking himself?
2. What did Origami Yoda tell Mike about striking out at the softball game? Did Mike cry when he struck out? Why or why not?
3. Who told Sara that she needed to learn to do the Twist? Who taught Sara to do the Twist? Was learning the dance helpful to Sara later?
4. Why did Tommy vote to dump Dwight when there weren’t enough chairs at the lunch table?
5. What did Tommy say was the biggest mystery about Dwight?
6. Who broke the Shakespeare bust? How did she fix it?
7. How did Quavando get the nickname Cheeto Hog?
8. Why did Zack and Dwight fight? Who won?