



CARDBOARD
by Doug TenNapel

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Nominee 2015
Grades 6-8

*Submitted by Jennifer Torkkola, Teen Librarian,
Main Library, East Baton Rouge Parish Library System*

Title: *Cardboard*

Author: Doug TenNapel

Publisher: Scholastic

Pages: 283

SUMMARY

In this graphic novel, Cam's dad has been out of work so the only thing he can afford to give him for his birthday is a cardboard box. Cam is very appreciative, and they make a boxer out of it, which comes to life. With the rest of the cardboard, they make a cardboard maker, so they can continue making this special cardboard. But the man who sold the original box to Cam's dad told him to return the scraps to him, and he didn't. An evil neighbor boy steals the cardboard maker and starts making all kinds of monsters. Cam and his dad have to figure out what to do to save themselves and everyone else from the monsters and the evil boy.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Doug TenNapel was raised in the town of Denair, California. In 1994, he created Earthworm Jim, a character who would go on to star in video games, toy lines, and cartoon series. An Eisner award-winning artist, Doug's most recent graphic novels, *Iron West* and *Monster Zoo*, were cited by ALA as Great Graphic Novels for Teens. Doug is also the author and illustrator of such acclaimed graphic novels as *Tommysaurus Rex*, *Ghostopolis*, and *Bad Island*. He lives in Glendale, California, with his wife and four children.

Biographical information taken from Scholastic's website at
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/doug-tennapel>
Accessed August 27, 2014.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Scholastic's author page <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/doug-tennapel>

OTHER TITLES BY THE AUTHOR

Bad Island (2013)

Creature Tech (2008)

Gear (2007)
Ghostopolis (2013)
Monster Zoo (2008)
Ratfest (2012)

RELATED TITLES (Students may also enjoy these titles)

Bone: Out of Boneville by Jeff Smith
No Passengers Beyond This Point by Jennifer Choldenko
Smile by Raina Telgemeier
Wrinkle in Time adapted by Hope Larson, based on the novel by Madeleine L'Engle

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Language Arts:

- Have the students write a narrative essay about the best or worst birthday gift they have ever received.
- Have the students write an essay about what they would do with a piece of magic cardboard.

Math:

- Give the students paper and time to draw out a plan with dimensions and instructions on how they would use the cardboard to build something of their own design. Give them some cardboard and let them create something.
- Let students design their own “monsters” for a game of Monster Math
<http://nurturestore.co.uk/monster-math-games>

Art:

Design cardboard robots, dolls, animals, or one of the creations from the book
<http://nurturestore.co.uk/how-to-make-a-junk-model-robot>
<http://www.pinterest.com/pin/398146423279642790/>
<http://mollymoocrafts.com/weekend-craft-idea/>

Science:

- Watch this video from *How It's Made* and discuss the science behind the creation of other overlooked materials in our everyday lives:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8i3riKvCYkM>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Gideon told Mike that he couldn't ask for more cardboard? Why do you think Mike has to bring Gideon the scraps?
2. Why is it important to Gideon that Cam is a “good boy” before he sells Mike the box?
3. Who do you think has a better relationship with his parents, Marcus or Cam? Why?
4. If you were Cam, would you have shown Marcus how to use the cardboard maker? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think Marcus's parents treat him the way they do, i.e. letting him do whatever he wants and believing everything he says?

RELATED WEBSITES

Real Cardboard Magic

<https://cardboard.withgoogle.com/>

Google's do-it-yourself virtual reality gear

75+ Gift Ideas under \$5

<http://lilluna.com/75-gift-ideas-5/>

Other inexpensive but great gifts