

Read Aloud Lesson Plan: Not A Box

Before Reading Considerations

- Read the book until you know it.
- Practice reading with expression
- Get students focused prior to reading aloud
- Build excitement (What's your advertisement of the book?)
- Introduce the author, illustrator, and title
- Plan engagement points – making connections, predictions and asking questions
- What levels of questioning will you ask?
- In what ways will you include oral language opportunities?

Before Reading: NOT A BOX by: Antoinette Portis

- Introduce Title and Author. Point out that this book won an award.
- Advertisement: "This book is one of my all time favorite. The main character in the story, the rabbit, is very creative with all the things you could do with a box. The author also wrote the story like we are talking to the rabbit and he is responding to us. On the white pages we are asking questions to the rabbit. On the red pages the rabbit is answering back to us. This is going to be so much fun.

Sample questions asked before reading:

- What's one thing you think the rabbit might use the box for?
- Why do you think the title is "NOT A BOX"?
- How many different things do you think you could turn a box into? Show me on your fingers?"

During Reading Considerations

- Share the joy of the book
- Read slowly and enunciate clearly
- Make eye contact with all students
- Encourage students to participate in a variety of ways, but be cautious of stopping *too* much in order to not interrupt the flow of the book and overall comprehension of the story
- Consider lowering your voice to bring readers in and other opportunities for expression
- Encourage visualization
- Extend beyond the literal meaning of the book
- Stop to ask questions
- Include other engagement opportunities such as choral reading repetitive lines

During Reading: NOT A BOX by: Antoinette Portis

- Whisper, NOT A BOX on the title page.
- Share the dedication page. Think aloud: I wonder why the author dedicated this book to children everywhere sitting in cardboard boxes? Let's see if we can answer that after we read.
- Read with me, "NOT A BOX." When I point to you. (oral language & engagement)
- What does the bunny think the box is? "A car." That's right the picture clues tell us what the bunny is thinking. What does the bunny think the box is this time? (Model thinking)
- What could this box possibly be? (predict)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Show me what it looks like to squirt? (Expanding vocabulary) ● Why would he be squirting it? (predict) ● Why would the rabbit wear the box? (predict) ● What do you notice on this picture? Why might the bunny put his hand to his head? Have you ever seen this before? (connect and predict) ● What is the box this time? (using picture clues) ● I think the bunny is getting mad at us asking because this time he said, NOT NOT NOT NOT. (think aloud) ● Maybe we should change the question? (think aloud) ● Hmm...the bunny is thinking. How might the bunny answer this question? (think aloud)
<p>After Reading Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank the author for the wonderful book ● Retell the book ● Share favorite part ● What did you learn? ● How do you feel? ● Connect the story to writing, dramatic play, science, art, math ● Connect the story for family engagement opportunities 	<p>After reading: NOT A BOX by: Antoinette Portis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do you think the author is trying to teach us in this book? ● Do we have any guesses why the author dedicated this book to all children everywhere sitting in a cardboard box? ● You will notice in the dramatic play area that since boxes can become so many things through imagination, that there are several empty boxes for you to be creative with and make your own “Not a Box!” ● Create a list of all the things that you could turn a box into. (writing extension) ● Art work – draw a box on a piece of paper and let students color/draw around it their own “NOT A BOX” idea. ● Predict “NOT A STICK”

Ideas adapted from BMAB Foundation video