



Not a Stick

By Antoinette Portis

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A stick is just a stick... unless it's not a stick. From fishing rod to dragon-taming sword a small pig shows that a stick will go as far as the imagination allows.

Antoinette Portis captures the thrill of when pretend feels so real that it actually becomes reality. Her simple, spare text and illustrations show that seeing truly depends on the ability to believe in the possibilities.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

(Starred Review) Where Portis's *Not a Box* featured a plain brown wrapper, this winning sequel proffers a faux wood-grain cover. And where the earlier title featured a deceptively boxlike, hollow rectangle (which an inventive rabbit treated as a rocket or a race car), this follow-up introduces a little pig holding a long, forked object. An unenlightened voice offstage suggests, "Hey, be careful with that stick." The pig corrects the false impression ("It's not a stick") and demonstrates the item's many uses. Portis traces pig and plaything in a heavy black line on negative space, then superimposes jaunty blue line drawings that act as overlays to reveal the pig's imaginings. The pig stands astride the stick, and a rearing horse shape appears. The pig holds the stick at its midpoint and it becomes a paintbrush, aiming toward Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night*. Where the offstage warnings appear in white italics on a gray ground, implying a drab rejection of fantasy ("Watch where you point that stick"), the pig's statements are printed against a deep and dreamy blue. Portis repeats her previous formula down to the conclusion, where the pig calls the DIY toy "my Not-a-Stick!," once again appealing to those who think outside the box. Ages up to 6. (Jan.)

From [Booklist](#)

This is literally a follow-up to *Not a Box* (2007), in which a rabbit notes the imaginary things a box can be. Here, the animal is a pig, and the object is a stick. When the unseen narrator urges, "Be careful with that stick," the pig replies that it's not a stick. And sure enough, on succeeding pages, the object is a sword, a fishing rod, and inexplicably, a horse. Once again Portis' very simple black line drawings, set against clean backgrounds, leave plenty of room for imagination. Children will hope for others in the *Not a* series.

Preschool-Kindergarten. --Ilene Cooper

Review

Praise for *Not a Box*: "Dedicated 'to children everywhere sitting cardboard boxes', this wonderful little book perfectly captures the amazing capacity of a child's imagination to create endless possibilities out of a humble box. Brilliantly illustrated with a cute bunny (bearing a passing homage to the graphic minimalism of Duck Bruna's *Miffy*), the box becomes all manner of wonderful things, from a rocketship to a hot-air balloon - anything but a plain old cardboard box. A super book that's as close to perfection as a picture book can get!" Junior "Simple and appealing... Nicely packaged in a cardboard cover, it looks like a kids' classic in the making." *Time Out* "A stylish paean to the imagination for two- to four-year-olds." *Financial Times Magazine* "This fashionably simple book has Rabbit encouraging young children to explore imaginary worlds whilst sitting in a cardboard box - on land or water or up into space. Great fun." *Carousel* "The adorable story of Rabbit and imaginative world within a simple cardboard box." *Practical Parenting*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Mendoza:

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they are still students or that for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that query above. Every person has various personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book *Not a Stick*. All type of book can you see on many sources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Norman Duque:

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Dale Vaught:

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