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Not a Box

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Portis, Antoinette. *Not a Box*. Illustrated by Antoinette Portis. HarperCollins, 2006. ISBN 0061123226. \$12.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture books; Fiction;

Subject: Boxes--Juvenile fiction; Rabbits--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

A little rabbit is repeatedly asked why he is sitting on, standing on, squirting, or wearing a box—but the person asking just does not understand: it is not a box! It's all sorts of things: from a tugboat to a burning building to a racecar to a robot. It is wonderful, it is amazing—but it is not a box.

Though Portis uses a limited color palette (brown, black, and white for the pages asking about the box and red, yellow, black and white for the pages showing what the box *really* is), her illustrations simply and beautifully convey the magic of imagination. The book's design is enough to make older readers smile: it's designed inside and out to look like a brown cardboard box, complete with directions stating "This End Up" and the weight in ounces. The charming illustrations paired with the simple and brief text make this Theodor Geisel honor book an excellent addition to family and school libraries alike.