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### Not a Stick

Kate Reynolds

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Portis, Antoinette. *Not a Stick*. Illustrated by Antoinette Portis. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN 9780061123252. \$12.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Picture books;

Subject: Imagination--Juvenile fiction; Play--Juvenile fiction; Pigs--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

A little pig has found a stick that he (or she--the gender is indiscriminate) then pretends is various other things. The easy text alternates between a grown-up's voice ("Watch where you point that stick.") and a child's insistence that what he is playing with is "not a stick."

Portis' *Not a Box* was brilliant and innovative, but *Not a Stick* is simply a variation on the same theme. While the book may be used for exercises in imagination or for learning how to predict, overall it is lackluster and derivative.

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