



2009

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda

Debbie Barr

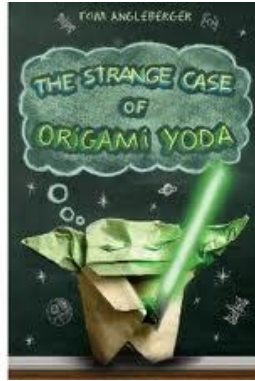
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Angleberger, Tom. *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*. Angleberger, Tom. Abrams, 2010. ISBN 9780810984257. \$12.95. 141 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction;

Subject: Origami --Juvenile fiction; Yoda (Fictitious character : Lucas) --Juvenile fiction; Eccentrics and eccentricities --Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

McQuarrie Middle School is turned upside down when Dwight, a social outcast, starts foretelling the future--via an origami version of Yoda from Star Wars. Soon students are finding themselves avoiding disaster and doing better on tests due to Yoda's guidance. For Tommy, the compiler of the "The Strange Case of Origami Yoda," discovering if Dwight/Yoda's powers really work is imperative. It's the only way he will know if his crush likes him. Through a series of incidents told by different students, Tommy studies Yoda's past. By the end he realizes that, while he may never know if Dwight can tell the future, things have gone well for the followers of Yoda, and takes his advice to ask his crush to dance. She, of course, says yes.

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda is just the sort of light-hearted "boy book" that middle graders will be looking for after finishing the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books. Much like Jeff Kinney, Angleberger adds goofy cartoons in the margins to contribute to the story. The layout is meant to imitate a journal, with crumpled pages indicating that it's been passed around, and different fonts are used for each point of view. Each story is fairly short, making it a great book for reluctant readers, because they can read it in small chunks at their own pace. For those interested, instructions are included to make your own origami Yoda. Although adults may not find the story as appealing to read, it seems to be just the kind of book to hit its target audience perfectly.

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