2006

Not a Box

Gillian Streeter
gstreeter@fortbend.lib.tx.us

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol27/iss4/1

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

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.