

Miss Makey and the Magic Bin

Instructional Guide

Before Reading:

- Make predictions: *“Today we’re going to read a story about a very special teacher who brings a Magic Bin into her classroom. We can use the illustrations on the cover to help us predict what the story might be about. What type of magic do you think will happen in this story?”*
- Prepare a “Magic Bin.” This can be a plastic container, treasure chest, or cardboard box. Be creative! Fill the bin with various recyclables and craft materials. It will be used for activities following the read aloud.
- Prepare an “Itcher Fixer.” Secure three pipe cleaners inside a toilet paper roll. Trim and fold to look like claws. Place a tissue in the center of the toilet paper.

During Reading:

- This text lends itself to a shared read aloud. Invite students to participate in Miss Makey’s chant as she adds items to the Magic Bin:
What goes in, won’t come out.
Watch and see what it’s all about.
Fill it up. Don’t be afraid
You never know what can be made.
- They can also recite, *“Trash is treasure!”* each time it appears in the story.
- Allow the class to brainstorm a list of ideas of what Miss Makey invented in the story. Pass around the “Itcher Fixer,” and ask students to explore and discuss the purpose of the invention.

After Reading:

- Ask students, “*What did Miss Makey mean when she said the students were the true power of the Magic Bin?*” Students should identify the theme of creativity.
- Discuss the meaning of the following words as they relate to the story: *creativity, extraordinary, rummaging, and inventors.*
- Explain that the featured inventions, *Brobot, Snack Caddy, Scare Bro, & Lip Sticker*, were invented by REAL students. Visit www.missmakey.com to meet the makers that inspired the book.
- Engage students in spontaneous brainstorming using items collected in the Magic Bin. Challenge students to think of how the items could be used differently.
- Prompt divergent thinking: “*What if you were a fairy, or a giant? How would the item be used differently? What could be made if two items were combined?*”
- Invite students to participate in the “Magic Bin Challenge.” This will help to establish a classroom supply of low-tech making materials.

The Magic Bin Challenge:

- Distribute the parent letter below.
- If possible, provide students with a “goodie bag” to fill with treasure.
- Use items collected for additional spontaneous brainstorming. Refer to divergent thinking prompts.
- Allow students time to explore collected materials.
- Invite students to “make something that does something.”
- Encourage students to share their invention and its purpose.



MAGIC BIN CHALLENGE



MAKE SOMETHING THAT DOES SOMETHING!

Our class will be participating in the Magic Bin Challenge. We have designated a box in our classroom as the “magic bin,” and we need help filling it with treasure. Once the bin is full, each student will get to create their own invention and present it to the class. We are asking for donations of the following items:

- Pipe cleaners
- Pom poms
- Craft sticks
- Straws
- Cool-temp glue gun
- Q-tips & cotton balls
- Fabric scraps & felt
- Ribbon, string & yarn
- Beads & buttons
- Tape (clear, duct or washi)
- Newspaper & scrapbooking paper
- Brass fasteners
- Cardboard (food boxes)
- Egg cartons
- Toilet paper & paper towel rolls
- Recyclables such as coffee cans and plastic bottles/containers