

# STEAM Storytime Collection #1



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STEM-CTE HUB



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The Creative Builders & Bold Thinkers Book Collection celebrates imagination, engineering, and the power of perseverance. Young readers will meet characters who turn scrap into sculpture, boxes into rocket ships, and challenges into opportunities through creativity and grit. With stories that highlight bravery, friendship, and problem-solving, this kit encourages children to experiment, invent, and believe in their ideas, no matter how unusual they may seem.

From coding dolls to building doghouses, these books foster early STEM thinking alongside important social-emotional learning. Ideal for classrooms, libraries, and makerspaces, this collection inspires students to dream big, tinker bravely, and lift each other up along the way.

**Grade Level**

K - 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Reading Level**

Beginner



## Contents of Kit

- **Little Red Riding Hood by Lari Don, Celia Chauffrey & Imelda Staunton** - With this retelling of the classic story, kids will experience empathy and courage as they walk in the shoes of a brave Little Red. Finely detailed paintings create an enticing world of quirky characters in a dark and mysterious forest.
- **Made by Maxine by Ruth Spiro & Holly Hatam** - Maxine loves making new things from old things. She loves tinkering until she has solved a problem. She also loves her pet goldfish, Milton. So when it's time for her school's pet parade, she's determined to create something that will allow Milton to march with the other animals. Finally, after trying, trying, and trying again, she discovers just the right combination of recycled odds and ends to create a fun, functional--and absolutely fabulous--solution to her predicament.
- **Not a Box by Antoinette Portis** - A box is just a box...unless it's not a box. From mountain to rocket ship, a small rabbit shows that a box will go as far as the imagination allows. This board book edition has sturdy pages and is a good size for the youngest readers. Inspired by a memory of sitting in a box on her driveway with her sister, Antoinette Portis captures the thrill when pretend feels so real that it actually becomes real—when the imagination takes over inside a cardboard box, and through play, a child is transported to a world where anything is possible.
- **Look at That Building: A First Book of Structures by Scot Ritchie** - Learning about buildings and how they are constructed has never been so much fun. This gem of a book introduces young readers to basic construction concepts through the eyes of five friends keen on building a doghouse for their pet pooch, Max. To find out more about the task, Yulee, Martin, Nick, Sally, and Pedro head to the library, where they learn about foundations, beams, frames, and other building fundamentals. Fun facts, bright illustrations, and comic-book-style discussions among the characters add to the mix.
- **Mechanimals by Chris Tougas** - When a tornado leaves a farmer with a heap of scrap metal and no animals, his neighbors are sure it's all over for him. But the determined farmer refuses to admit defeat. His plans are big, and when his neighbors dismiss them with the words, "When pigs fly," they grow bigger still. The farmer sets to work to turn that scrap metal into some rather surprising creatures. Mechanimals will help all of us believe in our dreams, despite what the neighbors may say.
- **DOLL-E 1.0 by Shanda McCloskey** - Charlotte's world is fully charged! With her dog at her side, she's always tinkering, coding, clicking, and downloading. She's got a knack for anything technological--especially gadgets that her parents don't know how to fix! Then, she receives a new toy that is quite a puzzle: a doll! What's she supposed to do with that? Once she discovers the doll's hidden battery pack, things start to get interesting...while her faithful canine sidekick wonders if he'll be overshadowed by the new and improved Doll-E 1.0!



# Learning Extensions

## STEAM Connections: Engineering - Math - Science

### Learning Objectives:

- Students will explore engineering, tinkering, and building concepts through creative, hands-on stories.
- Students will develop a growth mindset by learning how persistence and experimentation lead to success.
- Students will practice empathy, courage, and emotional resilience through story characters who overcome challenges.
- Students will engage with open-ended play, using their imaginations to transform everyday materials into something new.

### Career Connections:

- **Engineer/Inventor/Builder** – Through Made by Maxine, Mechanimals, Look at That Building, and DOLL-E 1.0, where hands-on creation is key.
- **Computer Programmer/Technologist** – Highlighted in DOLL-E 1.0, where coding and technology are central to play and learning.
- **Architect/Designer** – Explored in Look at That Building, where students are introduced to the basics of structural design and construction.
- **Storyteller/Creative Artist** – Supported by Little Red Riding Hood and Not a Box, where imagination and narrative building are central.

### Essential Employability Skills:

- Problem Solving and Innovation
- Creativity and Design Thinking
- Collaboration and Communication
- Resilience and Adaptability
- Empathy and Social Awareness



# Resources and Accessibility

## Safety Guidelines

- **Avoid Food and Drinks Near Books** - Encourage clean, dry reading areas to prevent spills, stains, or water damage.
- **Handle Books Gently** - Model how to turn pages carefully, avoid bending spines, and store books upright or flat.
- **Use Clean Hands** - Have students wash or sanitize hands before handling shared books to keep materials in good condition.
- **Designate a Safe Storage Spot** - Store books in a sturdy, dry, and clearly labeled bin or tote to protect them from wear and tear between uses.

## Accessibility

- **Use Book Stands or Holders** - Provide angled book holders or clipboards to support independent reading for students with mobility or motor challenges.
- **Pair Audio with Print** - Use audiobooks or teacher-read recordings when available to support students with reading disabilities or visual impairments.
- **Incorporate Read-Alouds and Peer Reading** - Offer opportunities for shared or buddy reading to help students who benefit from auditory learning or support with decoding.
- **Offer Visual Aids and Discussion Prompts** - Supplement books with images, models, or key vocabulary cards to reinforce understanding and engagement.

## Library Catalog



## Library Resources



## Feedback

QR to feedback survey

