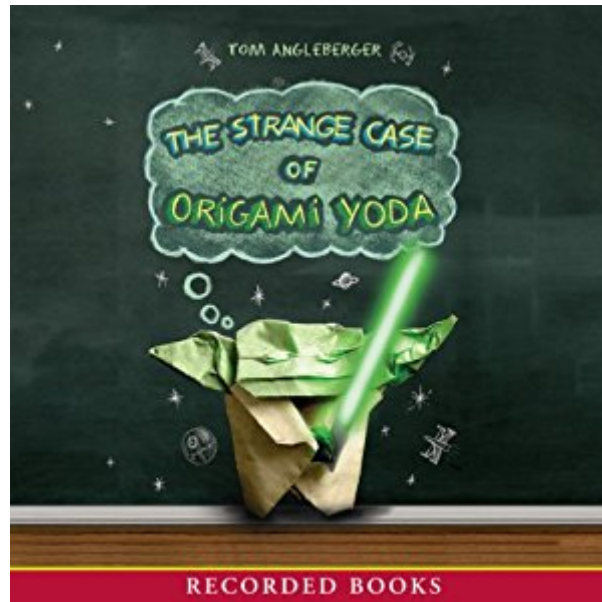




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The Strange Case Of Origami Yoda



Synopsis

A journalist and fiction author, Tom Angleberger has a knack for capturing the lives of today's youth. In *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*, socially awkward Dwight shows up to school one morning waving a green finger puppet. Strange enough, but then Dwight starts talking in a funny voice and doling out advice. Is it the puppet, or is it Dwight? And will paper Yoda be able to help Dwight convince the girl of his dreams to go to the big dance with him?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My 2nd grade son is an advanced reader but honestly doesn't like to read chapter books very often. This totally had his attention and he begged for the next one in the series! Over all it was just a fun story but there are some concepts like teasing classmates or even having first crushes and kissing. Not bad concepts at all but for my 2nd grader this was new territory, so just be aware as parents. Most kids that read this will probably be in 4-6th grade so these ideas are more common, but if you are like me with an advanced reader it is good to know they are discussed.

This book follows Dwight, a weird kid that gives advice to others through his origami Yoda finger puppet. Tommy and his friends want to find out if the finger puppet actually has special powers or not. The novel then pans out like a series of short stories where we see Yoda giving advice to different characters. Tommy and his friend Harvey then evaluate what to make of each story: does it prove that finger puppet Yoda has special powers or not? Along the way, there are amusing doodles off to the side of the page, which can be funny and help the reader picture how different

characters look. The book's more than funny, though. It shows readers how some people might try acting weird to get attention, and it shows how "weird people" can be very smart in some ways. So there is a message amongst the humor. By the way, I know very little about Star Wars, but I still found this book funny. And I'm an adult, but I still found this book funny! So even if you're not in the book's target audience, this is a fun, quick read. If you're a parent determining whether or not this book is appropriate for your child, continue reading, but be prepared for spoilers. ***** SPOILERS ***** Okay, there is no cussing in the book, which is good. The insults never go anywhere beyond "dipwad" or similar childish names. No controversial issues (such as race or religion) enter the mix. In fact, there's just one part of the book that bothers me. Origami Yoda tells a character to attack a boy who made fun of a girl. This character follows Yoda's advice and ends up getting suspended for fighting at school. However, the girl is so impressed that the character stood up for her that she decides to go out with him. I'm not sure that's a good message to be sending kids. That's all I really wanted to caution you on.

I originally ordered this book for a college Children's Literature class. It was one of the required reading materials for the course. Out of all the books we had to read (over 15), this was my favorite. It concentrates on a small group of kids in middle school, and it tells different chapters of the book in the viewpoint of different characters. My favorite was Dwight, who created the Origami Yoda in the first place. He's much smarter than any of them gave him credit for, orchestrating not only his own date, but matching Tommy up with his crush! Dwight made this finger puppet of Yoda, and fooled all of the kid's into thinking that Yoda was 'real' - even giving advice in 'Yoda' wording. At first they all think it's silly - until the 'advice' starts coming true! Dwight was super cool to me because he didn't care what anyone else thought. He was true to himself, and he managed to laugh at himself. But he knew - from Yoda, of course - that Sarah liked Tommy. And he used Yoda to convince Tommy to go to the dance. They all had fun, and even danced 'The Twist' at the party - also suggested by Yoda. I thought it was a sweet 'coming of age' kind of story. I thought that it was a very original, even though certain things within the story are universal. It's something that kid's can relate to - as well as adults who have been there! It was fun, light-hearted, and sweet. I am even tempted myself to pick up the rest of this author's works! Perfect for children in middle school! As well as people who are just young at heart!

I love this series. They just contain some of the best writing for kids and adults out there. The stories are humorous and touching, and magical. Something rare that I can't find any flaws in, and which I

don't want to because I love them. I have shared this series with my son. (My daughter prefers to closet herself away and enjoy them by herself.) We read them together and laugh. And we discuss what's going on and how we feel about how the different characters choose to act. In this book, we're introduced to Tommy and Dwight and the rest of the gang. And the best way to describe the essence of the book, without giving any spoilers, is to say that Dwight doesn't talk much unless he's got origami Yoda on his finger. And when he does that, he isn't really talking as Dwight so much, as the venerable Jedi. Or so it seems. Yoda's cryptic wisdom makes this story sheer magic. My boy and I HIGHLY recommend the series. It's one of my favorites. Pam T~mom/fur-mom

All of Harvey Jokes this are so funny! Harvey Jokes about Peanuts is really funny. This book isn't hard to read pretty much in the middle (8 year old is telling me this as I write) Lots and Lots of jokes The funny party when Origami Yoda talks. (my 8 year old reviewed this books) The pictures are pretty funny. Some of the characters names are hilarious and than Dwight digs holes and hides in them and covers them. Again funny. (Mommy turn this book is found on most AR book list.)

If this book were really about whether origami Yoda was real, I don't think I'd be all that interested. But, of course, that really is just the hook that lets the real story unfold. And the real story is about sixth grade, friends, girls, loyalty, chance, and doing the right thing. Our narrator is honest, insightful and decent. His world seems real. His concerns and problems feel true. His voice feels fresh and engaging. I just can't see how a reader in that sixth grade range wouldn't be interested in how this book plays out. So, well worth a try.

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