



Robert Sabuda & Matthew Reinhart

TeachingBooks Original Movie Transcript

Robert Sabuda and Matthew Reinhart were filmed in their studio in New York City in 2006.

This is a transcript of the movie available on TeachingBooks.net. It is offered here to give you a quick assessment of the program topics, as well as to enable people with auditory disabilities access to the words.

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Making a Pop-up Book

Robert: With two-dimensional artwork, you can create any world you want, but in 3-D, that is not the case. The paper will only do certain things at certain times, and that's the real challenge of getting a pop-up to work.

One of the most important parts about making a pop-up book is really the paper engineering. I start out very simple – just some basic shapes, squares, and some v-folds – until I'm really satisfied with the movement. I'm working on the T-rex right now, and I really want the mouth to open and close, the jaw to come crashing down. So I spend a lot of time just getting the initial movements to work for the pop-up.

After I've worked that out completely, I'll start to do a more finished version and put in small details like the teeth. I have to make sure I've got the teeth the right size ... and I'll cut out eyeballs, but [I'm focused on] keeping that same initial movement, the huge mouth that opens and closes. And one of the things I like about this pop-up too is it makes a little bit of a sound when it's opened and closed. And I really like to hear the paper moving.

After I've made these small versions, I'll move to the final size version. And I work in white because I just want to see how the pop-up sits on the page with the shading. I don't want to have any color at this point because I just love to see all the lights and the darks and the shadows of the paper in the three-dimensional form when it opens and, most importantly, when it closes. To be able to get it to close back up again, that's where the real challenge is.

On Making a Natural History Pop-up Book

Robert: One of the challenges with doing a book like *Dinosaurs* involving natural history is that so many things are unknown at this point; what color was a dinosaur, how were the eyes shaped, were there feathers or were there not feathers, and so forth.

Matt having a biology background, it was appropriate for him to write the manuscript, come up with all the correct terminology, while I was beginning to work on the three-dimensional aspects.

Matthew: The last pop in the book is an archaeopteryx. His feathers are based on the feathers of a bird in South America that is actually the only bird in the world that still has claws on its wings, just like archaeopteryx.

Robert: The fact that so much is not necessarily known about dinosaurs gives one certain creative license.

Matthew: We don't know what color they were, so we decided to go with the personalities of each of the dinosaurs. For the T-rex, which is a big, fiery, scary-looking monster, we decided to go with a really bright red with lots of black, so he would look much more menacing.

The art style is collage art, and it's made from acrylic painted paper that I will cut up with an Exacto knife using the die lines.

The die lines are the lines that are used to cut out the pieces of the pop-up book. And we make hundreds and hundreds of pieces for each book.

Robert: After we've created all the pop-ups and done the artwork, we have to go to a point where it's going to be assembled and put together by hand.

We're definitely known for being perfectionists in our field, but we have to be perfectionists because the pop-up not only has to pop up, but it definitely has to be able to pop shut again. So that's where we come in and tweak areas and make sure that the pops are cut correctly and that everything is moving properly.

Even though it works once correctly here in the studio, we have to make sure it's going to work correctly down the line when it's being made hundreds of thousands of times.

Books by Robert Sabuda

- ENCYCLOPEDIA MYTHOLOGICA: FAIRIES AND MAGICAL CREATURES (co-created with Matthew Reinhart), Candlewick Press, 2008
- CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: BASED ON THE BOOKS BY C.S. LEWIS (co-created with Matthew Armstrong), HarperCollins Children's Books, 2007
- ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: MEGA-BEASTS (co-created with Matthew Reinhart), Candlewick Press, 2007
- WINTER IN WHITE: A MINI POP-UP TREAT, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2007

- CHRISTMAS: A POP-UP STOCKING STUFFER (co-created with Matthew Reinhart), Orchard Books / a division of Scholastic Press, 2006
- ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: SHARKS & SEA MONSTERS (co-created with Matthew Reinhart), Candlewick Press, 2006
- ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: DINOSAURS (co-created with Matthew Reinhart), Candlewick Press, 2005
- WINTER'S TALE, Simon & Schuster, 2005
- AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL, Simon & Schuster, 2004
- ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND, Simon & Schuster, 2003
- ADVENTURES OF PROVIDENCE TRAVELER, 1503, THE: UH-OH, LEONARDO!, Atheneum Books for Young Readers / an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2003
- NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, THE (written by Clement Moore), Simon & Schuster, 2002
- YOUNG NATURALIST'S POP-UP HANDBOOKS: BEETLES (co-created with Matthew Reinhart), Hyperion Books for Children, 2001
- YOUNG NATURALIST'S POP-UP HANDBOOKS: BUTTERFLIES (co-created with Matthew Reinhart), Hyperion Books for Children, 2001
- BROOKLYN POPS UP (written by Pamela Thomas), Simon & Schuster, 2000
- WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ, THE (written by L. Frank Baum), Simon & Schuster, 2000
- BLIZZARD'S ROBE, THE, Atheneum Books for Young Readers / an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1999
- MOVABLE MOTHER GOOSE, THE, Simon & Schuster, 1999
- ABC DISNEY POP-UP, Disney Press, 1998
- COOKIE COUNT: A TASTY POP-UP, Simon & Schuster, 1997
- PAPER DRAGON, THE (written by Marguerite W. Davol), Atheneum Books for Young Readers / an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1997
- 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS, THE, Simon & Schuster, 1996
- ARTHUR AND THE SWORD, Atheneum Books for Young Readers / an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1995
- HELP THE ANIMALS OF AFRICA: A POP-UP BOOK, Reader's Digest, 1995
- HELP THE ANIMALS OF ASIA: A POP-UP BOOK, Reader's Digest, 1995
- HELP THE ANIMALS OF NORTH AMERICA: A POP-UP BOOK, Reader's Digest, 1995
- HELP THE ANIMALS OF SOUTH AMERICA: A POP-UP BOOK, Reader's Digest, 1995
- KWANZAA CELEBRATION, A: A POP-UP BOOK (written by Nancy Williams), Simon & Schuster, 1995
- CHRISTMAS ALPHABET, THE, Orchard Books, 1994
- KNIGHTS CASTLE, THE, Artist and Writer's Guild Books, 1994
- MUMMY'S TOMB, THE, Artist and Writer's Guild Books, 1994
- TREE PLACE AND OTHER POEMS, THE (written by Constance Levy), Atheneum Books for Young Readers / an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1994
- TUTANKHAMEN'S GIFT, Atheneum Books for Young Readers / an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1994
- IBIS AND THE EGRET, THE (written by Roy Owen), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1993

- LOG OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, THE, Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1992
- SAINT VALENTINE, Atheneum Books for Young Readers / an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1992
- EARTH VERSES AND WATER RHYMES (written by J. Patrick Lewis), Atheneum Books for Young Readers / an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1991
- I HEAR AMERICA SINGING (written by Walt Whitman), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1991
- WALDEN (by Henry David Thoreau), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1990
- FIDDLER'S SON, THE (written by Eugene Coco), Green Tiger Press, 1988
- WISHING WELL, THE (written by Eugene Coco), Green Tiger Press, 1988

Books by Matthew Reinhart

- ENCYCLOPEDIA MYTHOLOGICA: FAIRIES AND MAGICAL CREATURES (co-created with Robert Sabuda), Candlewick Press, 2008
- ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: MEGA-BEASTS (co-created with Matthew Reinhart), Candlewick Press, 2007
- NO BITING, LOUISE! (written by Margie Palatini), Katherine Tegen Books, 2007
- STAR WARS: A POP-UP GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (co-created with George Lucas), Orchard Books / a division of Scholastic Press, 2007
- CHRISTMAS: A POP-UP STOCKING STUFFER (co-created with Robert Sabuda), Orchard Books / a division of Scholastic Press, 2006
- ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: SHARKS & SEA MONSTERS (co-created with Robert Sabuda), Candlewick Press, 2006
- JUNGLE BOOK, THE: A POP-UP ADVENTURE, Little Simon / a division of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2006
- MOMMY? (written by Arthur Yorinks; art by Maurice Sendak), Michael Di Capua Books / an imprint of Scholastic Press, 2006
- ARK, THE: A POP-UP, Little Simon / a division of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2005
- CINDERELLA: A POP-UP FAIRY TALE, Little Simon / a division of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2005
- ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: DINOSAURS (co-created with Robert Sabuda), Candlewick Press, 2005
- YOUNG NATURALIST'S HANDBOOK: INSECT-LO-PEDIA, Hyperion Books for Children, 2003
- ANIMAL POPPOSITES: A POP-UP BOOK OF OPPOSITES, Little Simon / a division of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2002
- POP-UP BOOK OF NIGHTMARES, THE (by Gary Greenburg et al), St. Martin's Press, 2001
- YOUNG NATURALIST'S POP-UP HANDBOOKS: BEETLES (co-created with Robert Sabuda), Hyperion Books for Children, 2001
- YOUNG NATURALIST'S POP-UP HANDBOOKS: BUTTERFLIES (co-created with Robert Sabuda), Hyperion Books for Children, 2001
- POP-UP BOOK OF PHOBIAS, THE (by Gary Greenburg et al), HarperEntertainment / a division of HarperCollins Publishers, 1999

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