

ALA-CBC Supplemental Content Interview Questions – Chad Sell

Author name: Chad Sell

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1) What was the inspiration for this book?

The Cardboard Kingdom is all about kids who craft incredible cardboard costumes and have adventures together. I wanted to explore the many different ways that creativity can help to empower children, to imagine bold new possibilities for themselves, and to overcome the troubles they face in their everyday lives.

2) Do you have a writing or drawing prompt to share with kids?

Yes! Here's what I would ask any young reader: what would *you* like to be in the Cardboard Kingdom? Would you be a hero or a villain? Or neither? What would your costume look like? Can you draw it? Or even make it out of cardboard?

3) What about the topic of this book most excited you as you were researching/writing it?

I wrote *The Cardboard Kingdom* with a team of ten collaborators who each contributed a chapter to the book. That was a really exciting process because many of those writers based their stories on their own childhood experiences, and so I got to know them really well! I loved sharing stories with each other and then going through the whole experience of publishing a book together as a team!

4) Discuss the format of your book and why you felt that was the best way to share your story.

In *The Cardboard Kingdom*, each chapter follows a different kid and tells their story. I wanted to give readers a window into a wide variety of different topics and show that everyone's story is worth telling.

5) What is one thing you hope young readers take away from this book after reading it?

I hope that kids will feel creatively inspired to go craft their own cardboard costumes, to see if their friends and family will join them on some exciting adventures! Creativity and make believe help us share our stories with each other, to understand each other better, and that's a very magical thing.