

ART & D.T. Reading Comprehension – Key Stage 2 – Year 3

The Great Cardboard Invention

Lena and Max were best friends and brilliant inventors. Well, they thought they were brilliant.

One rainy afternoon, their teacher announced a special challenge:

“Your task is to design and build something useful using only cardboard and tape!”

Lena gasped. Max grinned. They were ready.

They planned and sketched for ages. First, a cardboard umbrella. Too floppy. Then, a cardboard sandwich holder. Too soggy. Finally, they had it — The Super Sorter 3000 — a box with moving flaps to organise pencils, pens, and glue sticks.

They cut, folded, taped, and tested. After a few hiccups (and a lot of tape), their invention was ready.

On judging day, the classroom buzzed with excitement. Some children had built robots, others had made houses.

When Lena and Max showed the Super Sorter 3000, the teacher clapped.

“This is clever and helpful,” she said. “It’s a winner!”

Lena and Max high-fived. Maybe they were brilliant inventors after all.

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1. What materials were the children allowed to use for their invention?
2. Why didn't the cardboard umbrella work?
3. What did the Super Sorter 3000 do?
4. What words tell you that Lena and Max worked hard on their invention?
5. What other things did some of the other children make?
6. Why do you think the teacher called their invention “clever and helpful”?

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MARK SCHEME

1. Cardboard and tape
2. It was too floppy
3. It organised pencils, pens, and glue sticks
4. “They planned and sketched for ages” and “after a few hiccups (and a lot of tape)”
5. Robots and houses
6. Because it worked well and could be used in the classroom