**FINDING INSPIRATION**

People find inspiration to create art, invent things, or write stories in many places, just like the characters we meet in *I Wonder*. These ideas start with people looking at objects and wondering what else those objects can be or if they can be used differently. Here are some prompts to get you started on your own invention, art piece, or story.

1. Look around the playground, your bedroom, or your classroom. Find three items that you think are interesting. Describe how these items look. How do they feel? Do they make any noise? Are they alive? Write a poem about these three items.

   **Object 1**
   - Feels like:
   - Sounds like:
   - Smells like:
   - Looks like:
   - Other observations:

   **Object 2**
   - Feels like:
   - Sounds like:
   - Smells like:
   - Looks like:
   - Other observations:

   **Object 3**
   - Feels like:
   - Sounds like:
   - Smells like:
   - Looks like:
   - Other observations:

2. In the story, the child wonders if her toys miss her when she’s gone. Write your own short story about what you think your toys do when you are not with them.

3. Study the drawing of a car and truck on page 10 of *I Wonder*. We know vehicles don’t have voices to speak, so what would their communication sound like? What sounds would the vehicles make? Would they be loud or soft? Short beeps or long blasts? Describe what that sounds like for each vehicle. Could their lights be used to communicate? In what way? What would the car and truck in that picture say to each other?

   **My Invention**

   Think of an object you use every day (for example, a toothbrush, shoes, a pillow, television), and imagine a new way to use it. Explain your invention and how it would make the original object better. Draw a picture of your new invention.

   **Original object**

   **My new invention**

   **This invention I created is called:**

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**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

**About the Book**

Kids who love the intrigue of titles such as *What Do You Do with an Idea?* will be inspired to ask their own questions about the world. In this unusual text, young listeners and readers follow a group of diverse kids trying to make sense of the world. Their questions include:

- What do clouds taste like?
- Do my toys miss me when I’m gone?
- What if the sun was really a kite?

**About the Illustrator**

Kenard Pak combined watercolor, pencil, collage, ink, and digital art to create the illustrations for this picture book. His awards and honors include a Golden Kite Award for *Goodbye Autumn*. Kenard, a former artist at DreamWorks and Disney Feature Animation, brings his lifelong appreciation of nature to his work. He lives in San Francisco with his wife and their elderly cats.

Follow him on Twitter and Instagram at @KenardPak.

*WHAT A KITE COULD BE*

The young boy in the story wonders, "What if the sun was really a kite?" Look at this picture of a kite. What else could it be? Take this picture of a kite and use your crayons or colored pencils to turn it into something completely different. Could it be a dragon or a bird? What if you turned it upside down?

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**Related Books**

- *16 Words* by Lisa Rogers
- *The Amazing Collection of Joey Cornell* by Candace Fleming
- *My Journey to the Stars* by Scott Kelly
- *Paper Son* by Julie Seung

**About the Author**

K. A. Holt, the author of a number of highly praised middle-grade novels, also teaches writing. This book was inspired by conversations with real kids. She lives a life of mayhem with her wife and three children in Austin, Texas. Follow her on Twitter at @karianneholt.

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