

***The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors***  
**Drew Daywalt (author); Adam Rex (illustrator)**

From *New York Times* bestselling creators Drew Daywalt, author of *The Day the Crayons Quit* and *The Day the Crayons Came Home*, and Adam Rex, author-illustrator of *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich*, comes a laugh-out-loud hilarious picture book about the epic tale of the classic game Rock, Paper, Scissors.

You've played the game. Now read the legend of how it all began . . .

Long ago, in an ancient and distant realm called the Kingdom of Backyard, there lived a warrior named ROCK. Meanwhile in the Empire of Mom's Home Office, a second great warrior sought the glory of battle. And his name was PAPER. At the same time, in the Kitchen Realm, in the tiny village of Junk Drawer, lived a third warrior. They called her SCISSORS.

These three were the strongest, smartest, and fastest in all the land. Time and again they beat the most fearsome opponents they could find: an apricot, a computer printer—even frozen, breaded, dinosaur-shaped chicken nuggets! But when the warriors finally meet each other, the most epic round of battles begins . . . and never ends. That is why, to this day, children around the world honor these worthy adversaries by playing ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS!

Drew Daywalt is an award-winning, *New York Times* #1 bestselling children's author and horror screenwriter whose books include *The Day the Crayons Quit* and *Star Wars: BB-8 on the Run*. He lives in Los Angeles, California, with his wife and two children. Drew loves to play Rock Paper Scissors, but most of the time he can't decide fast enough which one to pick and ends up making some bizarre shape with his hand that looks like a weird octopus with a hat. He'll claim Weird Octopus with Hat beats everything, but don't let him pull that nonsense on you.

Adam Rex grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, the middle of three children. He was neither the smart one (older brother) or the cute one (younger sister), but he was the one who could draw. He took a lot of art classes as a kid, trying to learn to draw better, and started painting when he was 11. Later he got a BFA from the University of Arizona, and met his physicist wife Marie (who is both the smart and cute one).

Adam and Marie live in Tucson, where Adam draws, paints, writes, spends too much time on the internet, and listens to public radio. He likes animals, spacemen, Mexican food, Ethiopian food, monsters, puppets, comic books, 19th century art, skeletons, bugs, and robots.

His first picture book, *The Dirty Cowboy* by Amy Timberlake, was published by FSG in 2003. His picture book *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich*, a collection of

stories about monsters and their problems, was a New York Times Bestseller. 2007 saw the release of his first novel, *The True Meaning of Smekday*, which was adapted into the DreamWorks film *Home* in 2014. He has illustrated the work of many authors, including Jon Scieszka, Mac Barnett, Neil Gaiman, Jeff Kinney, David Lubar, Kate DiCamillo, Eoin Colfer, Christopher Paul Curtis, and Paul Fiege.

**Sources:**

<https://www.harpercollins.com/childrens/rockpaperscissor>  
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/authors/drew-daywalt/>  
<http://www.epicreads.com/authors/drew-daywalt/1431>  
<http://www.adamrex.com/bio.html>

**Web contacts/related websites:**

<https://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=55854&a=1>  
Adam Rex's website: <http://www.adamrex.com/>  
Publisher's page (has book teaser and video of Daywalt talking about the characters' personalities): <https://www.harpercollins.com/9780062438898/the-legend-of-rock-paper-scissors>  
Activity ideas (including reproducibles and booklet): <https://www.harpercollins.com/childrens/rockpaperscissor>  
Official book trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjvc6fGF9II>

**Big Ideas and Enduring Understanding:**

Winning isn't everything.

Making friends is the greatest victory.

**Satire** - This book uses lofty and overdramatic language to weave everyday objects, places, and a well-known hand game into a "legendary" tale.

**Overarching Questions:**

1. What is a legend?
2. How is this story similar to a legend?
3. What can you learn from losing?

**Target Vocabulary:**

**Adjectives:** victorious, adhesive, epic

**Places:** realm, empire, wastes

**Synonyms for enemy:** foe, adversary, challenger

legend

outwit

glory

monstrosity

forged

ensue

**Sample Text-Dependent Questions:**

1. How do you think our three challengers will find worthy opponents?
2. Why is the language in the book so complex and descriptive?
3. How are the three main characters different? Why are they each so powerful?
4. What are the three main characters all looking for, and how do they find it?
5. How do the author and illustrator personify inanimate objects throughout the story?
6. How does the artwork (especially the facial expressions and backgrounds when characters fight) add to the humor and “legendary” nature of the book?

**Common Core ELA Standards:**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7

Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.a

Choose words and phrases for effect.

**Suggested Activities:**

1. Have students play “Rock Paper Scissors” after reading the story. They will probably be eager to do this.
2. Have students create their own hand signal game in the style of “Rock Paper Scissors.” For an example of how this can be done or the original rules can be expanded upon, see this clip from the Big Bang Theory: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSLeBKT7-sM>.
3. Draw a cartoon where two household objects are fighting each other, complete with speech bubbles where they throw down challenges.
4. After looking carefully at the “versus” or battle pages in the story, paint a battle landscape where two everyday objects are fighting with a dramatic background.
5. Brainstorm lists of different words or phrases used in the book: different synonyms used for fighters, realms or places, insults or fighting words, and adjectives that describes all the characters in the book.
6. Write a Mad Libs in the style of the book. After brainstorming the lists above, write a “legend” of a household object that lives in a household realm and issues a challenge to another object.
7. Have students write their own legend that personifies an everyday object and describes an epic struggle or battle.

8. For more ideas, see this website:

<https://www.harpercollins.com/childrens/rockpaperscissor>.

**Companion Books:**

**Legends (of how inanimate objects came to exist):**

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *The Princess and the Warrior*.

DePaola, Tomie. *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush*.

**Simple games:**

Baldwin, Wyatt. *The Rock Paper Scissors Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide to Everything Rock Paper Scissors*.

Jurchenko, Jed. *131 Boredom Busters and Creativity Builders For Kids*.