

What Is It?



In the book *Dragon and Captain*, the boys imagine that a cardboard tube is a telescope, and that a broken toy watch is a compass. The “What Is It?” game is a variation on Paper Bag Dramatics, played in a single group of friends or classmates. It is sure to spark imagination.

Needed:

1 large paper shopping bag
assorted objects to put in the bag, like:

- a length of rope
- a paper plate
- a ball
- a book
- a cup
- a plastic comb
- a bow from a present
- a spoon
- a bucket or bowl
- a cardboard tube
- an umbrella

How to Play:

Everyone sits in a circle. One person reaches into the bag and pulls out an object. He or she imagines what the object could be, and then acts this out while the others try to guess.

Note: the actor can pantomime or talk, as long as he or she doesn't say what the object is supposed to be. For example, the rope could be a scarf (shiver from the cold, then wrap rope around neck like a scarf and say “ah, that's better”), a dog leash (pull the rope behind and say ‘Come on, Rover’), a snake (wiggle it on the ground and act scared). A parent or teacher could demonstrate at the start of the game.

When the object is guessed correctly, it is passed to the next person who has to imagine a *different* use for the same object, and act until someone guesses correctly. After the object has been used a few times (or when no one can think of a new use), it's time to reach into the bag, pull out something new, and continue acting and guessing.

