



The Most Magnificent Thing

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The girl has a wonderful idea. She is going to make the most MAGNIFICENT thing! She knows just how it will look and work. But making her magnificent thing is anything but easy. She tinkers, hammers and measures; she smooths, wrenches and fiddles; she twists, tweaks and fastens. And finally manages to get it just right.

Award: ALA Notable Children's Book Award 2015

Lexile: AD380L AR Level: 2.9

Author Website: <http://www.ashleyspires.com/index.html>

Book Trailer/Author interview: <http://www.kidscanpress.com/makesomething/trailer.html>

Other Websites/links:

Teacher Pay Teachers STEM Project:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/STEM-Design-Challenge-My-Most-Magnificent-Thing-1375030>

Student created book trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgECc3gKuTo>

Food: Junk in Da Trunk Cookies:

<http://www.rachaelray.com/recipes/junk-in-da-trunk-cookies>

Nonfiction Titles:

Casey, Susan. *Kids Inventing! A Handbook for Young Inventors*.

DK Publishing. *100 Inventions That Made History*.

Jones, Charlotte and John O'Brien. *Mistakes That Worked*.

Spengler, Kremen and Rick Morgan. *An Illustrated Timeline of Inventions and Inventors (Visual Timelines in History)*

Worth, Bonnie. *Oh, the Things They Invented!: All About Great Inventors (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library)*

Introduction: Hold up a light bulb, ask the students if they know what it is and what is used for. Let them know that Thomas Edison was the inventor and that it took him many tries to get the bulb to work the way he wanted. When he was asked about failures in getting the light bulb to work he said “If I find 10,000 ways something won't work, I haven't failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is often a step forward” What do you think he meant by that?

Today we are going to read a story about a girl trying to create the most magnificent thing. It turns out to be harder than she thought, and she might just quit.

Story time Activities:

Have students use the attached worksheet to imagine their own most magnificent thing. If more time is available there are some wonderful STEM activity packets on [TeacherPayTeacher.com](https://www.teachpayteacher.com) that would be good for this book.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is the girl's best friend? *Answer: Her dog*
2. When the girl sets up on the sidewalk, it is really "somewhere out of the way"? Do the illustrations help you with your answer? Why? *Answer: Not really. Yes, the illustrations help show the feelings of the neighbors. The illustrations show the neighbors' faces not looking real happy that she is on the sidewalk.*
3. How does the girl's work change as she gets mad and has to start over and over again? *Answer: The angrier she gets the faster she works, smashing and jamming pieces instead of being careful.*
4. What causes the girl to explode? What does she do after? *Answer: She smashes her finger. After she explodes she says she quits.*
5. What does her assistant do to help her? Does it help? Why? *Answer: He suggests a walk. Yes, it helps her cool off and as she comes back she notices the right parts in all of her part things and is finally able to make her magnificent thing.*