

# RODZILLA

## Story Hour Kit



# RODZILLA: STORY HOUR KIT

## THE KIT

This kit was designed for librarians, educators, and booksellers, and for families hosting playgroups, parties, or simply looking for an engaging read aloud. Best for ages 3-6.

The picture book opens with a Godzilla-like attack on the city of Megalopolis. It ends with the realization that Rodzilla is actually the toddler Rod laying waste to a city of toys and leaving a trail of goo that every parent or older sibling will recognize. With the kit, you can turn your readers into Rodzilla with a mask and a miniature paper bus to clutch in their monster claws. Readers can replicate Rodzilla's "goo" with a non-toxic slime recipe to take home.

The kit contains:

- Poster and copy to share your event
- Suggested preparation
- Cut-out mask template
- Cut-and-fold bus template
- Slime recipe (best for over age 4)



## ABOUT THE BOOK

### RODZILLA

By Rob Sanders

Illustrated by Dan Santat

Published by Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster

ISBN-13: 9781481457798

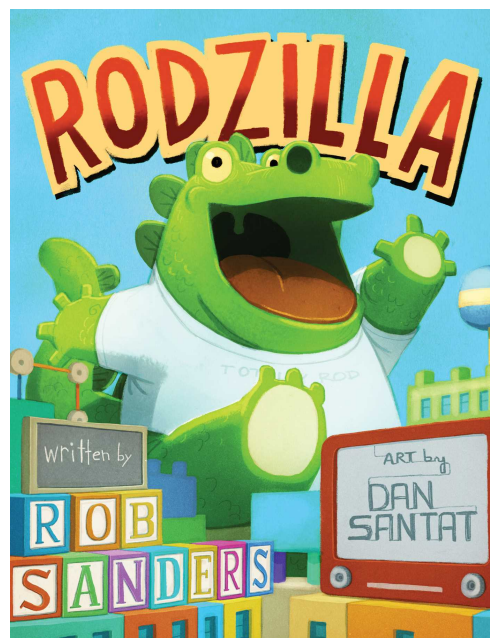
Age Range: 4 - 8 Years

This just in! There's a Rodzilla on the loose! Is he a monster...or just your typical toddler? Tune in for the full report in this riotous picture book from Rob Sanders and Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat.

Rodzilla is the mightiest toddler to ever roam the streets of the city. Marvel at the sight of his chubby monstrosity. Gaze at his toothless grin. Take a whiff of his...no, don't do that. Only a mother could love such a creature.

Rodzilla is taking over the city (that is really his playpen) and causing all sorts of chaos for its inhabitants (um, his parents).

Can he be stopped before he toddles one step too far? Told as an action-packed news report, kids will love following Rodzilla on his mighty tear through the city, and ultimately back to his parents' arms. Because sometimes even monsters need a little help.



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## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"Sanders's sendup of a rampaging toddler is both cute and gross—kind of like toddlers themselves...Sanders's faux horror and Santat's exuberant, richly colored spreads pour on the mayhem. Don't read this aloud anywhere kids are expected to stay quiet."

—Publishers Weekly

"Kids will gravitate to Santat's marvelously clever and animated illustrations; they capture perfectly the changing emotions of Rodzilla, and the expressions on the faces of the fleeing civilians (later revealed to be just toys) are hysterical and priceless. The vibrant colors are just right for the story of a toddler/monster who is alternatively destructive and tearful. VERDICT An engaging and humorous picture book for young children and their parents to share together."

—School Library Journal

"Young listeners will enjoy the story's over-the-top humor, while slightly older kids will have fun matching the Megalopolis sites with Rod's toys."

—Booklist

"It's a dinosaur! It's a toddler!...Santat's watercolor, pencil, and digital art is cinematic in its play with perspective, and it makes the most of the scenes' chaos...Older siblings will find much to identify with."

—Kirkus Reviews

## OTHER RESOURCES

Enjoyed using this kit? Visit [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com) for other story hour kits, event kits, treasure hunts, book club guides, book giveaways, and more ways to engage in children's literature with play, conversation, and social action.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**ROB SANDERS** is a writer who teaches and a teacher who writes. Every day he goes to Mintz Elementary School in Brandon, Florida, to teach kids about books and words and reading and writing. Then he heads back home to write books for children. On weekends and holidays you might find him hanging with his dog, Baxter; spending time at the beach with his great-nieces and -nephews; or talking with other children's writers. Nothing makes his heart dance more than hearing boys and girls say, "Read it again!"

**DAN SANTAT** is the Caldecott Medal-winning and New York Times bestselling author and illustrator of *THE ADVENTURES OF BEEKLE*, as well as the illustrator of many other picture books, including *CRANKENSTEIN* by Samantha Berger. Dan lives in Southern California with his wife, two kids, and various pets.

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## PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES

You will, of course, create your own grand program or classroom activity! Following are simply suggested ways to prepare for an event or classroom experience.

\_\_\_ Locate a copy of the picture book **RODZILLA** by Rob Sanders and illustrated by Dan Santat (Simon & Schuster).

## MARKETING

Among other things, there is a book trailer available to help promote your event at:

<https://youtube.com/Ed3DI3DwcnY>

\_\_\_ If you list your events in newsletters and/or online calendars, here is some text that may help with those listings:

This just in! There's a Rodzilla on the loose! Is he a monster...or just your...toddler? Tune in for the full report at Story Hour! We will be reading the riotous picture book **RODZILLA** by Rob Sanders and illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat (Simon & Schuster) and playing with your child's inner monster. All welcome, but best for ages 3-6.

\_\_\_ If you are doing a pre-event display, raid the toy box and see if you can make the miniature city of Megalopolis like the picture book creators did.

\_\_\_ If this event is for the public, print out the event poster (page 6), add your date, time, and location, and duplicate it to advertise the event. If you prefer to adapt the poster on your computer, you can find a JPEG of the poster design on CuriousCityDPW.com. Simply search for "rodzilla" and navigate to the Story Hour Kit listing. The fonts on the poster are CoopForged and CoopBold.

## PLAYING THE ROLES

The book is narrated by the on-the-scene reporter and plays out like a goofy monster movie.

\_\_\_ Consider dressing like a reporter and using a real or prop microphone like the reporter for story hour.

Is Rodzilla a monster? A dinosaur? Or...your typical toddler? With a few cut-outs you can transform your readers into Rodzilla. This kit contains a Rodzilla mask and a small paper bus cut-out for the giant monster to clutch in his pudgy fist.

\_\_\_ Print the Rodzilla Mask on page 7 on card stock or regular paper. Make sure you print enough so each reader gets one.

\_\_\_ Will you pre-cut the masks for readers? The simplest way to cut out the eye holes is to fold the mask in half, cut from the edge, cut out the eyes, unfold, and then tape the cut edges of the mask.



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\_\_\_ Decide how you will affix the masks. You can have readers tape a popsicle or paint stir stick to the back or hole punch the sides and run string through. Secure whatever supplies you need.

\_\_\_ Print Rodzilla's Bus Model on page 8 on card stock or regular paper. Will you pre-cut the buses for readers? Make a prototype for readers to see. Cut on the solid lines and fold in on the dashed lines. Make sure you print enough so that each reader gets one.

\_\_\_ Rodzilla wears a t-shirt that reads, "Totally Rod." Do you have access to plain t-shirts and non-toxic fabric markers so that kids can make their own shirts?

\_\_\_ Consider creating a Rodzilla photo booth or simply taking pictures to share. With their masks on, your readers' identities will be hidden. If you share photos online with the hashtag #RodzillaBook, the picture book's creators will get to follow your event.

\_\_\_ On the last two spreads of the book we discover that the Rodzilla action is all imaginative play. Consider gathering blocks and toy vehicles for readers to build their own Megalopolis.

## SLIMING STORY TIME

As you may have already experienced, Rodzilla produces some "slime missiles." We have created a take-home sheet that allows families to make their own non-toxic Rodzilla Slime at home (not recommended for children under 4). The instructions even offer a label to affix to a slime container.

\_\_\_ Print the Rodzilla Slime Recipe sheets on page 9. Cut them lengthwise. Make sure you print enough so that each reader gets one.

## DAY OF THE EVENT

\_\_\_ Lay out your masks, bus templates, and the supplies needed to assemble them.

\_\_\_ Lay out the Rodzilla Slime Recipe as a take-home item.

\_\_\_ Lay out blocks and toy vehicles for readers to build their own Megalopolis.

\_\_\_ Read the picture book **RODZILLA** by Rob Sanders and illustrated by Dan Santat (Simon & Schuster). Use your best on-the-scene reporter voice!

\_\_\_ Lead mask making, bus folding, and possible picture taking!

\_\_\_ Send kids (older than 4) home with the Rodzilla Slime Recipe.

\_\_\_ When everyone is gone, repeat after me, "I am totally Rod at Story Time. I am so totally Rod."

# RODZILLA

We will be tearing through  
the picture book **RODZILLA** by  
Rob Sanders and illustrated  
by Dan Santat (Simon & Schuster).

ILLUSTRATION  
© DAN SANTAT



# RODZILLA

## MASK

### INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1: PRINT MASK OUT (CARD STOCK PAPER)

STEP 2: CUT OUT WITH SCISSORS

STEP 3: GLUE OR TAPE POPSICLE STICK TO BOTTOM  
OR ATTACH STRING TO THE HOLES ON SIDE





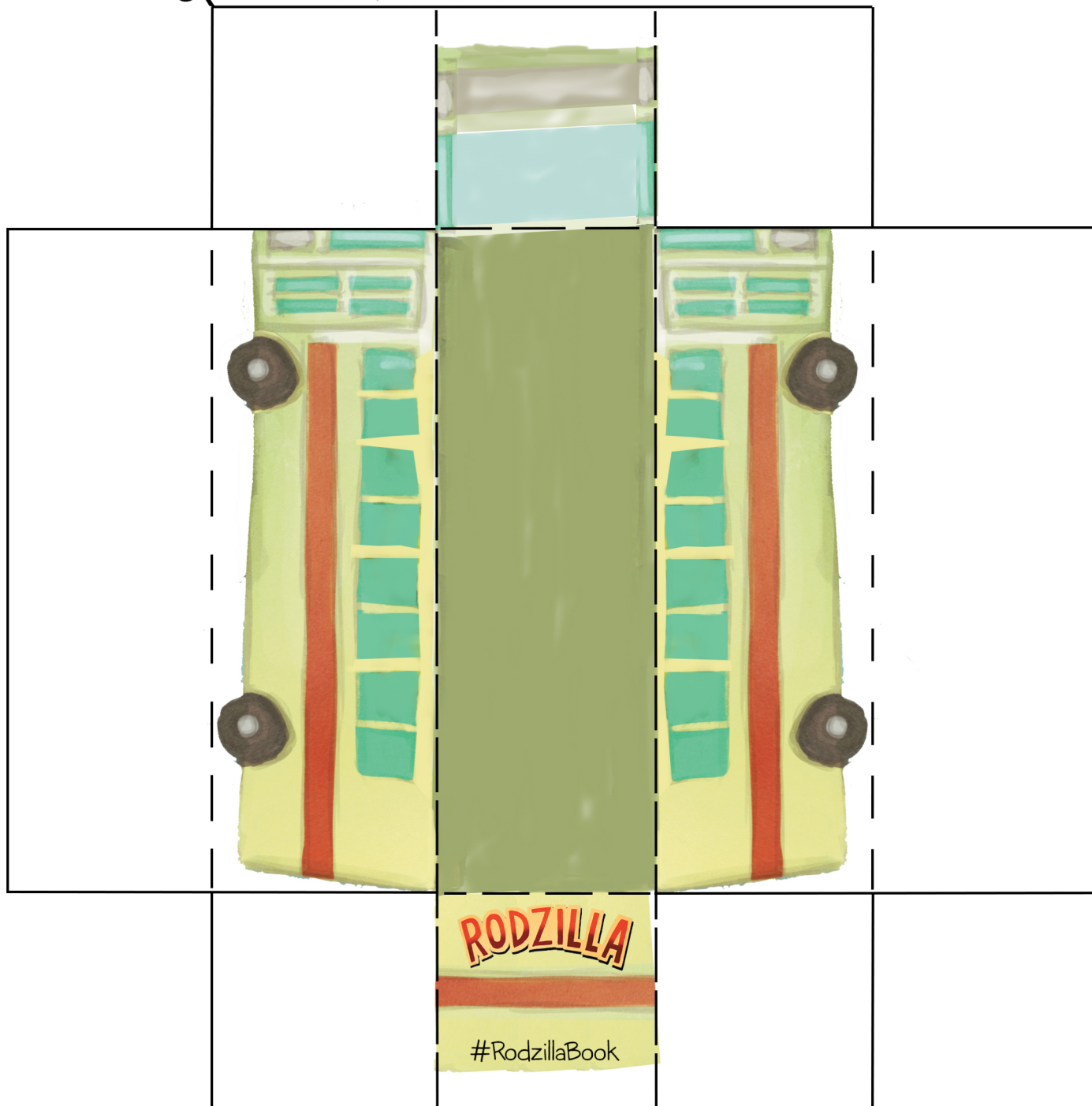
Every young monster needs a bus to clutch in their claws to show how big and mighty they are!

# RODZILLA

## BUS MODEL

- 1) Print on card stock or regular paper.
- 2) Cut on the solid lines.
- 3) Fold in on the dashed lines, keeping the images on the outside.
- 4) Tape the underside of the bus.

 Cut on solid lines, fold on dashed lines.



This activity is the monster child of the picture book **RODZILLA** by Rob Sanders and illustrated by Dan Santat (Simon & Schuster). [RobSandersWrites.com](http://RobSandersWrites.com)



# RODZILLA

## SLIME RECIPE

Chances are that you do not want to voluntarily make slime the way Rodzilla does. With this simple recipe, you can drop slime missiles on Megalopolis that do NOT come from your nostrils.

**THIS RECIPE IS NON-TOXIC, BUT SHOULD NOT BE EATEN!!**

Not recommended for children (or monsters) under the age of 4.

### NEEDED FOR SLIME:

- 2 (4-ounce) bottles washable school glue
- 2 or more drops of food coloring
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 - 3 tablespoons contact lens saline solution

- Measuring spoons
- Mixing bowl
- Mixing spoon
- Airtight container for storage

### MAKING SLIME:

- Pour the glue into a medium bowl. Stir in the food coloring.
- Add the baking soda: Add the baking soda to the glue mixture and stir until smooth.
- Add the contact lens solution: Pour in 2 tablespoons of the contact lens solution and stir slowly. The mixture should begin to harden, becoming stringy.
- Mix until a ball forms: Continue mixing slowly until a ball of slime forms.
- Knead by hand: Pick up the slime and work between your two hands, until smooth. If the slime is particularly slimy, work in another 1/2 tablespoon of contact lens solution as needed.
- Store in an airtight container at room temperature.
- Wrap the container with the official label from the city of Megalopolis (below).

This activity is the monster child of the picture book **RODZILLA** by Rob Sanders and illustrated by Dan Santat (Simon & Schuster). Thanks to Meghan Splawn at TheKitchn.com for the recipe.



Recipe: RobSandersWrites.com

**Ingredients:** school glue, food coloring, contact lens saline solution, baking soda

## RODZILLA SLIME



Product of Megalopolis | Non-Edible

Inspired by the slime missiles in the picture book **RODZILLA** by Rob Sanders & illustrated by Dan Santat (Simon&IDS).

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