

Mac Barnett & Jon Klassen talk about their new book

T R I A N G L E



photo by Sonya Sones



photo by Moranne Keeler

An internet chat conversation about shapes and fears

Mac: Hello, Jon!

Jon: Hello Mac!

Mac: We're here today because Candlewick has asked us to answer some questions inspired by our new book, *Triangle*.

Here is the first one: "Are you afraid of the dark? Yea or nay?"

This question uses a yea-or-nay format. Keep it brief!

Jon: Well it's really both yea AND nay, because I'm not afraid of like, nighttime dark, when you can still sort of see stuff, but absolute, pure dark for long periods of time I think would begin to get to me!

Mac: Nay.

Here is their next question: "Snakes?"

Jon: NAY.

Mac: I think that was Jon saying nay to the idea of snakes. "Nay on snakes."

Jon: Right. Nay to snakes in the abstract. And in the world for real.

Mac: As for me: yea, I am really afraid of snakes. It is actually my second biggest fear, but probably the one that comes up the most since I see a lot of rattlesnakes in California, and very few people are trying to bury me alive.

Jon: There is that one guy that keeps trying to do it.

Mac: Yeah. Clarence.

Jon: You should probably steer clear of him.

Mac: Next question! “What is the sneakiest trick you ever played?”

Jon: Once at a family reunion I put maple syrup between the folds of my uncle’s napkin at his place setting at the table and then when he sat down and took his napkin, it was all stuck together and he had this look on his face like “why is my napkin all stuck together?” and he went and got a new one.

Mac: That is the most Canadian prank.

Jon: I didn’t even say sorry or anything. He still doesn’t know it was me.

Mac: He thinks back and is like, Man, that one napkin . . .

Jon: I’ll probably never tell him.

Mac: NEXT QUESTION! “Are you more of a Square or a Triangle?” Jon, maybe you should explain what this question means.

Jon: OK. Well, in these books that we are making, Triangle is a character and so is Square. There is Circle too, but we won’t get into that yet.

Mac: THIS IS GETTING COMPLICATED.

Jon: I’M ALMOST DONE. All of the shape characters have eyes, but Triangle is wider on the bottom than on the top, so his eyes have to be drawn lower down on his body where there is room for them, which makes him look sneakier. Square, on the other hand, is even on all four sides, so his eyes can go right in the middle of his body, which makes him look more solid and dependable.

Mac: I am more of a Triangle.

Jon: Me too. Even just the thing with the napkin points to that answer.

Mac: LAST QUESTION. “Favorite shape?”

I’ll say this is a very hard question.

Jon: I have an answer to say.

Mac: OK, you go.

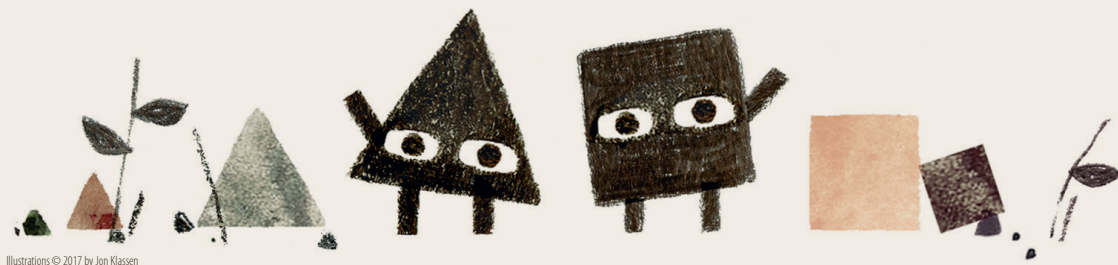
Jon: Well. This is going to sound kind of convenient, but it really is true.

Mac: I think I know where this is going.

Jon: I really like triangles best.

Mac: Yeah. Me too.

Jon: Goodbye, everyone! Thanks!



Illustrations © 2017 by Jon Klassen