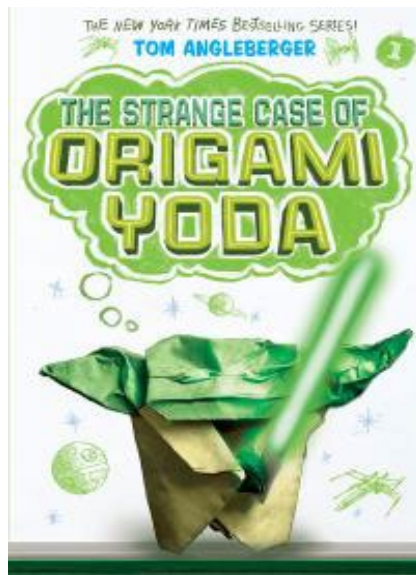


# Tom Angleberger

Have you read any of the books in *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* series by Tom Angleberger?<sup>1</sup> This popular children's book series details the struggles students at McQuarrie Middle School face and how they use origami folded in the shapes of various "Star Wars" characters to solve their problems. It all started when Dwight, a sixth-grader, folded a finger puppet in the shape of Jedi Master Yoda. Origami Yoda provided good advice to McQuarrie students and could even predict the dates of pop quizzes! Even though Origami Yoda was wise, Dwight was kind of an "oddball" and not like the typical middle school kids. It turns out that Dwight has Asperger's Syndrome!

Although Dwight never tells anyone about his diagnosis in the book, Tom Angleberger, the author of this best-selling series has discussed it in several interviews.<sup>2</sup> In fact, Dwight's character is based on Angleberger's own middle school experiences. According to Angleberger, he considers Asperger's to be his "SuperPower"!<sup>3</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> "Origami Yoda," <http://origamiyoda.com/>; accessed 4/15/15.

<sup>2</sup> Churnin, Nancy. "2012 Bluebonnet winning author Tom Angleberger speaks up for those with autism," *The Dallas Morning News*. 21 December 2012, <http://artsblog.dallasnews.com/2012/12/2012-bluebonnet-winning-author-tom-angleberger-speaks-up-for-those-with-autism.html/>; accessed 4/15/15.

<sup>3</sup> "About Tom," *Origami Yoda Website*; <http://origamiyoda.com/about-tom/>; accessed 4/15/15.