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Poop: A Natural History Of The Unmentionable (Animal Science)



Synopsis

A noted zoologist teams up with a playful illustrator to present a fun, fact-filled guide to the fascinating (if not fragrant) world of poop across species. Hippos navigate by it, sloths keep in touch through it, dung beetles eat it . . . and most grownups would rather not to mention it. Meanwhile, scientists who study animal feces find out all sorts of things, such as how many insects a bat eats or just what technique a T. rex used to devour a triceratops 70 million years ago. However you look at it, poop is the quintessential prototype for recycling and probably the most useful stuff on earth. Take a peek at POOP and find out all you need to know â” what it’s for, where it goes, and how much we can learn from it. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Series: Animal Science

Paperback: 64 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.2 x 5.9 inches

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

In *Poop: A Natural History of the Unmentionables* (Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2004), author Nicola Davies and illustrator Neal Layton explore the scientific wonders of feces—from their biological functions to the many different shapes and forms of excrement. Most of the subjects are animals, with a few references to human defecation. Davies, who holds a degree in zoology, successfully tackles the arcane and often hush-hush topic with a mixture of humor and straightforward biology. For example, the appearance of whale poop is explained plainly: it looks like

"giant blobs of strawberry ice cream breaking up in the water." The glossary at the end, though, offers vague definitions, at best. With that said, Davies has an ability for seamlessly combining the scientific terminology with colloquialisms. The words poop and feces are used interchangeably. The book's second person "you" point-of-view speaks directly and gently to the audience. However, Davies may assume too much about her audience. She disregards non-Christian readers in describing the mistletoe "we use to decorate our homes at Christmas." The product of many unconventional artistic mediums—including an old toothbrush and a cake-icing bag—Neal Layton's hilarious illustrations will stir up giggles from children and adults alike. Especially funny are the personifications of animals, with thought bubbles above their heads. Some actual photographs of some of the subjects would be helpful (their outward appearance, not their waste). Obvious comparisons can be drawn between this and Susan Goodman's *The Truth About Poop*, illustrated by Elwood H. Smith, and *The Scoop on Poop* by Wayne Lynch. *Poop: A Natural History of the Unmentionables* is not a book for every youngster. The faint of heart or queasy of stomach need not read. Otherwise, this is a great book for a second to fifth grader interested in learning more about the brown stuff.

Love the book.... my daughter loves the book... but the print is TOO SMALL. I would highly recommend the larger version of the book... which compared to other books... is "mini" but the font is "normal". It's easier to read and for the little one to follow along. By the way... my eyes are 20/20 and I have no trouble reading anything... I can read the mini book... it's just too small. 5 STARS for the larger book. It's fun and both your child and YOU will learn a lot! ENJOY! By the way... it says for 9 to 12 years old. My girl is 5 and LOVED IT! She found it completely entertaining and interesting.

I bought this for my mother, as a gag-gift. She's a "poop talker", and I bought a few books, including "Everybody Poops". And this, it just happens to be fun AND educational. They all still sit in my mother's bathroom, but they're still adequate for bookshelves, if you're looking for a fun/interesting read, and aren't too poop-shy.

I got so tired of my 5 year old saying "poop". And giggling with her friends about "poop". Then I found this book at the library. It was fun and educational.... did I mention fun? Anyway, now that my little one knows all about animals and poop... she finds the science of poop so interesting... that the giggling about poop is gone! (For now at least!) The book is really interesting and engaging. I loved it too! As did my Mom... who teaches 5th grade... she had me buy the book for school!

I love this series of natural science books for kids. They interest me a great deal so while I'm using them to inform but also put an 8 year old to sleep, I'm enjoying myself and want to read on and on.

Written towards children in grades 2-5, POOP: A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE UNMENTIONABLE by Nicola Davis is an entertaining book that, through a scientific viewpoint, explains just how interesting and marvelous feces really is. The book mainly tackles poop from the perspective of animals, but there are some references to people and their poop. The book explores the different shapes and colors of poop and why they look that way, why animals (including people) need to poop, what can be learned by examining poop, how poop decays, and how poop can be useful. The illustrations from Neal Layton that accompany the text provide a lot of additional humor to what some children might find as a disgusting subject. Everybody poops and although this book is full of it, it's a very entertaining and educational book that many children will probably enjoy reading.

My three boy's (10,11,14) are no eager readers. So I'm in constant search for the unusual, different. We'll this is one of those booklets not too much to read and it is full of amazing information we never had thought about it, but worthy to know.

This is a great book to learn more about poop and they do a great job discussing natural history. I think it takes a bit of the yuck out of it and appreciate what it does for the environment. It is a great book to introduce to children to. My 2 year old loves the book

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