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Older Than The Stars



Synopsis

How old are you?--Older than you think. In a way, we are all as old as the universe itself. In fact, every bit of every one of us was created in the Big Bang, billions of years ago. Stunning illustrations and lively verse tell the story of the cosmic connections that tie human beings to the beginning of the universe. Simple, informative prose provides additional facts.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (83 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #30,822 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Astronomy #576 in Â Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews

What a cute, beautiful and fun approach to teaching about the origin of the universe. My daughter (3.5 yo) found it engaging and easy to understand for the most part. The recursive way of telling the story made the steps make sense to her in a way other books have not. We're strongly atheist but I don't think there is anything in this book that would insult most religious parents who want to expand their children's horizons a bit. Pros:- Easy for young children to grasp.- Fun and engaging.- Beautiful art. Cons:- Like a lot of these books, it subtly elevates humans above other animals as if we're the pinnacle of evolution.

Karen Fox's book does a wonderful job of presenting a brief history of the universe, from Big Bang to the kid reading the book, with parallel textual tracks that provide just enough for younger readers and more science heft for older kids. Starting with the Big Bang, her evolving rhyme -- "This is the

Bang" etc., kind of like "There once was a woman who swallowed a fly" -- goes through the creation of atoms, their diffusion through space in star formation and supernovae, and ultimately the formation of our sun and Earth and its inhabitants. With my five year old, just reading the rhyming part is enough. But on each page there is also a smaller more science-y text that older kids will find appealing, coupled with a glossary at the end and a timeline of the universe. The illustrations are beautiful and dynamic. I liked how the theme of stars was echoed in many of the drawings. All in all this is a very satisfying book that I look forward to my daughters turning to over the next few years and continuing to gain more as their reading and understanding match the book's universal story.

and we have to get ourselves back to the garden." If you remember this song from Hair, you're probably a grandparent like me. And what grandparent or parent doesn't want the kids they love to know they're made of star stuff? It's an indispensable message. Once I ordered this and read it, my only problem was deciding whether to send it to the precocious two-year-old or the phenomenal eight-year-old. When they got together with my copy last week I realized it was great for both, with the catchy House-that-Jack-built refrains and the scientific information running together on every spread. I'm going to keep mine AND order two more!

The author does a pretty good job of getting the idea across that we are all part of the universe, without simultaneously brainwashing the child into believing that the whole thing MUST have been put in place by some kind of a higher power. Thanks.

I wanted to love this book. The first and last page have a great message, "you are as old as the stars," and the last two pages are beautifully illustrated. However, the story itself and illustrations throughout the main book are disappointing. What you see on the cover is the best of it -- black, with lots of yellow, orange, and red starbursts. Honestly, it looks like the kind of artwork a toddler does with finger paint in preschool. Yes, it's space, but they could have played a lot more with color. There's nothing to hold a child's (visual) interest, nor are the words colored correctly to contrast well and stand out from the background. Reading it reminds me of reading a badly-done webpage with red letters and a black background. Ouch. Personally, I don't find myself wanting to read this book with my son, so I doubt he enjoys it much, either. Each page has 2 versions of a "story" or information about "the big bang," and the toddler version of the "story" is just repetitious -- the sentences build on each other, rather like the 12 days of Christmas, and the words mean very little. The illustrations do nothing to add to the meaning, either. I don't understand why they couldn't stick

with the theme on the first and last pages of the bookâ | that's obviously what people are looking for. The information on each page (for older kids) is fine, but reads like a bad textbook, and I think a kid who is old enough to understand it would be WELL beyond this type of a kids' book anyway, and better served by a book with real illustrations of space and more kid friendly explanations.

My 4 year old and I love this book. It has a terrific rhyming scheme, great pictures, and of course answers some of life's big questions (way better, incidentally, than I was doing on my own). Highly recommend!

I really can't say enough about how great this book is. It starts of with the bang when the world began and each page expands on that and tells the complete story of how the universe was formed all the way up to how people became a part of it. Each page has both a short statement to add onto the simple, rhyming explanation and a longer, more detailed description of each event to add as they get a little older. My four year old loves it! It's a great intro to complicated ideas and a good foundation teaching children about what's real and what's made up

I have a 6 year old boy, and he's very interested in science. I myself study biology, so I know a bit about the subject. I had very high hopes for this book, and for the most part it was pretty good, but I was disappointed in the pictures. They are just ...blah. Not engaging. The cover is probably the best picture of all. My son also said "Mom, you can stop saying the repeating part." There's a repeating poem that builds, typical of picture books. But he did like the scientific bits. And the author did tie in how we are all made of stardust, which is such a lovely thing to tell a child.

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