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Oscar And The Snail: A Book About Things That We Use (Start With Science)



Synopsis

Two new Start with Science books introduce kids to core science concepts through engaging stories, fresh illustrations, and supplemental activities. One day Oscar comes across a nest made of twigs and leaves, perfect for sheltering eggs. It makes him wonder about all the things we use like glass, paper, plastic, and cloth. With the help of his friend Snail, the curious kitten learns why we choose specific materials to do different jobs, where the materials come from, and what useful qualities they have. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Series: Start with Science

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (February 22, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763653039

ISBN-13: 978-0763653033

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.2 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Love these oscar books. They are a perfect entry into science for my 4 yr old. Education and fun at the same time.

Our little family loves this book! Great illustrations for young readers, and great science concepts as they get a little older. I would highly recommend this book to any family! It is one of our favorites!

Excellent book in an wonderful series!!

I loved the Oscar character and his gentleness, his curiosity, and his wonder. He's so eager to explore the world around him and the rules that give it form and pattern--natural science. That's why I was so bitterly disappointed that this book doesn't actually teach him any science. It teaches science facts--the residue, or byproduct, of science--but it completely ignores the process that gives us those facts. The facts are presented as a series of just-so-stories from an omniscient secondary character, without any exploring or verification of the claims. At the one point where Oscar actually tries to explore the concept of why things float or sink, the snail cuts his exploration short by just telling him the underlying principle--and gets the principle **WRONG**!! I'm reminded of George Carlin: "It turned out I was pretty good in science. But again, because of the small budget, in science class we couldn't afford to do experiments in order to prove theories. We just believed everything. Actually, I think that class was called Religion." Science is a process that runs on doubt and experimentation; facts are just the residue. What we have here is a book that heaps residue on you while ignoring the process that would allow you to understand it. Stick to Curious George. He explores, tries things that work or don't, and learns by experimentation. Oscar just swallows whatever he's told without any such messiness.

Great series of science books!

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