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Wild Ideas: Let Nature Inspire Your Thinking



Synopsis

From the creators of *You Are Stardust* comes a new informational picture book that brings the big ideas of their first book down to earth. *Wild Ideas* looks deep into the forests, skies and oceans to explore how animals solve problems. Whether it's weaving a safe place to rest and reflect, blowing a fine net of bubbles to trap fish, or leaping boldly into a new situation, the animals featured (including the orangutan, humpback whale and gibbon) can teach us a lot about creative problem solving tools and strategies. Like *You Are Stardust*, this book uses lyrical text grounded in current science alongside wonderfully detailed art to present problems as doorways to creative thinking. *Wild Ideas* encourages an inquiry-based approach to learning, inviting readers to indulge their sense of wonder and curiosity by observing the natural world, engaging with big ideas and asking questions. An author's note at the end delves deeper into the research behind the text.

Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

Customer Reviews

Ever wonder how squirrels learned to cross roads? Or ever wonder what we as people can learn from squirrels? *Wild Ideas* by Elin Kelsey poses these questions and others, as part of exploring how can people and animals alike both face and solve problems. Accompanying the lyrical text are breathtaking dioramas by illustrator Soyeon Kim. What I most like about *Wild Ideas* is how the text is grounded in science. The more I read of this picture book from Owl Books, the more astounding

each statement became to me. For example, I didn't know that when orangutans feel puzzled, they stop, think, and weave safe places to rest. Even more incredible is the fact that when dung beetles are seeking direction, they apparently look to the heavens and steer by the Milky Way. Author Elin Kelsey is an environmental consultant whose research for Wild Ideas came straight from those who study animals, as well as scientific journals, and she presents a lot of fascinating info in a fun format. Another feature I like about Wild Ideas is the inquiry-based approach. Kelsey asks questions, along with providing facts. Her text encourages one not to simply absorb information, but to wonder how animals seek solutions and find solutions. Did you know that just like us, when animals try to make something happen, they get frustrated and try again and find tools? Without pushing, Wild Ideas inspires one to rethink problems, because Kelsey focuses on the remarkable adaptations and achievements of animals. Through them, Kelsey gently advises her young readers to not give up in the face of problems, but instead to view problems as a way to unlock our imagination and discover a world of wild ideas. The artwork also captivates me.

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