

Concept Books

Bernhard, Durga. *Earth, Sky, Wet, Dry: A Book of Nature Opposites* New York: Orchard Books, 2000. ISBN 053130213X.

Engaging illustrations complement the simple text in this book of opposites. Double-page spreads and large font give a deceptive appearance of simplicity. But there is much to explore in the world of plants and animals in this book. Endnotes provide detailed information about both.

☞ Related Reading: *Here A Chick, There A Chick, Hot Cold Shy Bold, Bears in Pairs* (opposites)

Carle, Eric. *From Head to Toe*. Toronto: Scholastic Inc., 1997. ISBN 0590222023

Animals and children bend, wiggle and wave as they explore body parts from top to bottom. The “Can you do it?” questions invite young children to demonstrate their body movements just as the animals do. This is a wonderfully interactive book, made very appealing by Eric Carle’s dynamic artistry.

☞ Related Reading: *Me and My Amazing Body, Dem Bones, The Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body* (parts of the body)

Charles, N. N. *What Am I? looking at shapes through apples and grapes* (illus. Leo and Diane Dillon). New York: The Blue Sky Press, 1994. ISBN 0590478915.

Rhymes and shaped peekholes provide clues about the colourful fruits in this book. As shapes and colours are reinforced, children enjoy guessing which fruit is being described. The illustrations are large and vibrant, inviting the reader to partake of these wonderful offerings.

☞ Related Reading: *The Shape of Things, So Many Circles, So Many Squares, The Colour Box, Colour Farm, Eye Spy* (colour)

Ehlert, Lois. *Snowballs* Toronto: Scholastic Inc., 1995. ISBN 0590129465.

Photography, collage and paintings are combined in this unique, superbly-designed book that features a snowball family, including the cat and dog. The snowballs are covered with lots of unusual “good stuff”, including food for the birds and animals in Winter, giving children great ideas for dressing their own snowballs. Real-life snowmen appear in photographs that surround a scientific explanation of “What makes it snow?” The text is large and familiar, making this an inviting book for young readers to enjoy on their own.

☞ Related Reading: *The Biggest, Best Snowman, Frozen Noses, Sadie and the Snowman* (Winter fun)

Hamanaka, Sheila. *All the Colors of the Earth*. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1994. ISBN 0688111319.

Painted in neutral shades, this book depicts the many colours of skin that are in our world. Children come in many colours. Nowhere do we see this more than in today's classrooms. The book flows from page to page, with lyrical text and pictures that have a life of their own. Love and laughter abound on each page. This is a book that all children should share.

☞ Related Reading: *The Snow Tree* (colours in nature); *All Kinds of Children, My Song Is Beautiful, Whoever You Are* (culture)

Jonas, Ann. *The 13th Clue*. New York: Dell Publishing, 1993. ISBN 0440408873.

Children will be fascinated by the way words are depicted in this book. Except for the opening and ending letters of the book, the story is related through the illustrations and the clues that are worded out of everyday objects. Reading this book for the first time will be an adventure. However, readers will want to return to the hidden messages to try samples of their own. It is an ingenious book that will attract repeated viewers.

☞ Related Reading: *The Secret Birthday Message* (clues); *I Read Signs* (signs)

Martin, Bill Jr. and Kellogg, Steven. *A Beastly Story*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1999. ISBN 015201683X.

A group of mice experience fear, surprise, mystery and loads of fun as they enter a dark, dark wood and encounter a scary beast. To embellish the familiar version of this story, the mice create their own story that emphasizes the colours they see as they venture along the story's trail. The reader is captivated by the scary suspense and delighted by the surprise ending. The illustrations alone make this an outstanding addition to a collection of books for young children.

☞ Related Reading: *A Dark Dark Tale* (format); *Hello Red Fox, Color* (Heller) (colour)

Rosenberry, Vera. *Run Jump Whiz Splash*. New York: Holiday House, 1999. ISBN 0823413780.

Captivating illustrations take us through the four seasons as they are lived by children. The poetic text and vibrant pictures make one want to run and jump as suggested in the title. The action words in the book highlight each page with zest. The text is brief, but the message is clear: the four seasons are fun for the young.

☞ Related Reading: *Snowy Flowy Blowy: A Twelve Months Rhyme, A Child's Calendar* (seasons)

Stinson, Kathy. *Red is Best* (illus. Robin Baird Lewis). Toronto: Annick Press Ltd., 1982. ISBN 0920236243.

White stockings and yellow pyjamas may look better and feel warmer but red stockings make Kelly jump higher and red pyjamas keep the monsters away, so “red is best”! Kelly and her mom disagree often on the little girl’s choice of red clothing and other red objects that make her life so much better. Coloured line drawings add appeal and charm to a story that helps the reader recall favourite things.

☞ Related Reading: *Lunch*, *Mouse Paint*, *Take A Walk on a Rainbow*, *Growing Colors* (colour)

