

Reference books for the young

Our 'junior reviewers' look at some worthwhile titles for school or home

In this issue of inCite focussing on School Libraries, we proudly present some books for young readers, reviewed by Caitlin Delaney (12), Patrick Delaney (11), and Peter Hawkins (11)

The Children's Atlas of the Human Body, **Richard Walker** **(RD Press)**

In viewing this very attractive looking book you are immediately impressed by the illustrations of the parts of the body because they are almost all life size and are all in colour. Also included is a life size human anatomy chart which is two sided and shows you exactly where everything is in the body. It cleverly shows the muscular, skeletal, respiratory, digestive and urinary systems. I think this book would be handy to have in a school library or at home because it includes a very high level of detail and is extremely informative. It would be a great book for assignments as it covers all the parts of the human body very carefully.

The book is well organised and includes a contents page, glossary, index and acknowledgments. It is therefore easy to find the information that you require. It would be especially suitable for children in late Primary school and early High school. It is good value for \$24.95. ISBN 0 86438 613 3.

How the Universe Works, **Heather Couper and Nigel Henbest** **(RD Press)**

Upon first looking at this book, it looks very informative and

useful. Upon further inspection it reveals itself as a book with a lot of potential for school projects. It provides many experiments, with accompanying illustrations, which can be carried out by children of all ages. However, unless you have children who are astronomy fanatics, at a price of \$40 it is may be a bit too expensive for the home library. We therefore recommend that every school library should buy one. It contains some very useful experiments. For example—make your own telescope (but for this you would require some expensive lenses).

Being 160 pages long it is not a book you would read from cover to cover. It has a good index making it an ideal reference book. Its glossary has good explanations of terms. Price \$40.00, ISBN 0 86438 512 9.

The Visual Dictionary of the Universe **(RD Press)**

Usually we expect to find information arranged in alphabetical order in a 'dictionary'. The Visual Dictionary of the Universe is not organised alphabetically and, therefore, the title is a bit misleading. Nonetheless it is an excellent reference book and has a detailed index and glossary so it is not too difficult to find specific items of interest. It is a slim volume of 64 pages and is

designed as a book 'that can be used by the whole family'. It would also be a good addition to a school library as it has over 200 colour photographs and illustrations that are both informative and attractive.

There are a number of other subjects covered by books in this series which include dinosaurs, buildings, military uniforms, animals, plants and ships and sailing. If these are as good as this book on the universe they are worth a look. Price \$9.95, ISBN 0 86438 546 3

Picturepedia: Machines, **Consultant John Farndon** **(RD Press)**

This book starts with the history of machines and the following chapters contain information on specific categories of machines with headings such as 'Moving at Sea', 'Making Movies', 'Spying and Snooping', 'Electronic Games', and 'Robots'—to name a few. It has lots of pictures and diagrams and would interest young readers (K-4) but older readers will have lots of questions unanswered. This book will stimulate young readers to explore the world of machines, and if they are interested, they can find more detailed reference books to satisfy their interest. Recommended price \$19.95, ISBN 0 86438 577 3 ■

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