

SB&F

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SB&F (Science Books & Films) Your Guide to Science Resources for All Ages is written for librarians, media specialists, curriculum supervisors, science teachers, and others responsible for recommending or purchasing science materials. SB&F provides critical reviews of the scientific accuracy and presentation of print, audiovisual, and electronic resources intended for use in science, technology, and mathematics education. Careful evaluation of these resources is vital to a better understanding of science by the next generation.

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ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

FEATURES

146 Project Highlight: Books for Treats

147 BOOKS-PLUS: Science Kits, Models, and Activities

SECTIONS

153 Adult Books

161 Junior High and Young Adult Books

175 Children's Books

186 AV Materials

188 Electronic Media

189 Science on TV

190 Index

192 Editor's Choice

EXPLANATION OF REVIEW PROCEDURES

SB&F reviewers are scientists in academia and industry, teachers, librarians, and media specialists. Reviewers are asked to "write a critical evaluation... describing (1) the merits and/or demerits of the book or film and any accompanying supplements, (2) the content, technical quality, and instructional value, (3) the audience(s) the material is most appropriate for and why, and (4) how the material could be used for collateral reading or viewing, reference, or classroom use."

SB&F reviewers summarize their overall opinion of materials in terms of quality and level of difficulty by choosing ratings symbols from the list below. When rating materials, reviewers take into account accuracy of scientific information, scope, quality of illustrations or cinematography, and value when compared to other titles. Second opinions are obtained for materials rated "NR."

SB&F reviews are normally signed by reviewers, but if a reviewer so requests or if substantial changes are made, reviews are signed "Staff."

SB&F evaluations are the personal appraisals of the reviewers or of the staff and do not represent official recommendations or decisions of the reviewers' affiliations or of the AAAS.

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

Appraisal

★★ **Highly recommended.** The material contains no serious errors or deficiencies, and the reviewer thought the content and presentation were excellent.

★ **Recommended.** The material contains no serious errors or deficiencies, and the reviewer thought the content and presentation were above average.

Ac Acceptable. The material contains no serious errors or deficiencies, and the reviewer thought the content and presentation were average.

Q Questionable. The material contains errors of fact, deficiencies in development, and/or the reviewer thought the content and presentation were below average.

NR Not recommended. The material contains serious errors of fact and/or deficiencies in development.

Level of Difficulty

K Preschool or kindergarten

EP Elementary, grades 1 & 2

EI Elementary, grades 3 & 4

EA Elementary, grades 5 & 6

JH Junior high, grades 7 & 8

YA Young adult, grades 9–12

C College

T Teaching professional

GA General audience

Two consecutive levels are separated by a comma; for example, **K, EP**. Three or more consecutive levels are condensed to show the youngest and oldest age groups, and the symbols for these are separated by a dash; for example, **K-EI**. **GA** and **T** are always noted separately.

LETTERS

SB&F is written for librarians and science teachers in schools, colleges, and public libraries. Letters may be edited and will be published as space permits. Letters submitted for publication should be addressed to "Letters," Science Books & Films, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Innovative Idea to Give Books, Not Candy, at Halloween

Books? Aren't ghosts and witches craving gobs of candy?

"Not necessarily," says Books For Treats founder Rebecca Morgan. "Kids actually appreciate the 'brain food' of books instead of candy at Halloween. Our program encourages individuals and communities to think differently about how you can feed kids' minds, not their cavities at this sugar-focused holiday."

When asked what she thought of Books For Treats, seven-year-old Alana said "I like books better than candy. A book lasts a long time and candy is gone in a bite! And I can sit on my daddy's lap and read the book over and over with him."

Morgan started giving gently read children's books in 1995 after wanting an alternative to the handfuls of candy she was pitching into her trick-or-treaters' bags. She expanded the program to encourage others to do the same in 2001 after much positive feedback from her neighbors and the community.

With childhood diabetes and obesity growing at epidemic rates, books—even used books—are a welcome alternative. Morgan has partnered with city officials in her hometown of San José and is now an integral part of the merchant's Halloween trick-or-treating program. Last year Books For Treats gave out 3500 books in 4 hours before they ran out. This year she has more than double that number and is expanding the program into other parts of San Jose. Orange County (CA) is also planning to bring Books For Treats there this year.

What will the kids think about getting books instead of candy? Kids, as well as their parents, are thrilled by receiving books for treats. Morgan says, "They are much more enthusiastic than we have ever seen them when we gave candy. We have witnessed many children running to the sidewalk waiving a new treasure yelling 'Mom, look! I got a book!' We also saw a group of kids standing on the sidewalk showing each other their books. And we heard one girl greet a friend coming from the other direction 'Hey, this house gives books! Cool!'"

Catherine Edwards reported, "I escorted five fourth-grade boys trick-or-treating and they were thrilled the most about receiving a Books For Treats book. When the boys saw their friends they exclaimed 'Look at the cool book from the lady across the street!' When we arrived home, I quickly hid the bag of candy. My son didn't even ask for the candy; he begged for the book that he received from Books For Treats!"

How do you get involved? Go to www.BooksForTreats.org to read how you can create a program for your community, or download the free kit on how give books to your own Halloween visitors.