

Book reviews

Ready for research

Alex Winstanley and Novel Varius (illustrator)
Bear With Us, 2023
26 pp. £8.99
ISBN 979 8 38891115 5

A great explanation of what is entailed in health and care research for young readers



This brightly coloured and informative text explains what would happen if you were asked

to take part in any health and care research. The format has the flavour of a story for a younger child, with relatable characters and eye-catching illustrations. It would be a wonderful gift for a child who is uncertain about this process.

I really like the easy-to-read text and the diversity of the characters, which include a postwoman and a father who is a wheelchair user. The ethnically diverse representations are excellent. It is a fun read and I always appreciate a bit of humour; the reference to a person taking part in research into his poo appealed to the child in me! The book deals sensitively with fears and worries, explaining that these feelings are normal and how research can lead to these being abated.

The child-friendly illustrations are colourful and match the text well. I like the relatable addition of images of the clinic and literature. The story ends with some quiz questions, a useful list of research jobs and a glossary.

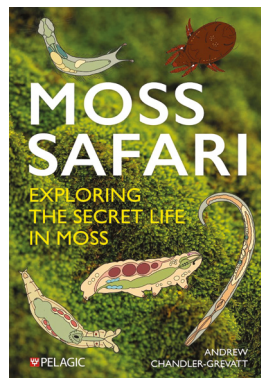
It seems there is a very specific use for this book, and I believe it would be hugely successful in its mission. It would be great to use in school; as a SENCo, I can recommend this book wholeheartedly!

Kathryn Jagger
 Assistant Principal, Spotland Primary Academy, Rochdale

Moss safari: exploring the secret life in moss

Andrew Chandler-Grevatt
London: Pelagic Publishing, 2025
173 pp. £24.99
ISBN 978 1 78427 561 7

A great teaching aid for anyone teaching key stages 2 or 3



This book delves into the mysteries of microscopic life in moss, which most of us are unaware of. It provides a fascinating journey of new

discoveries and detailed explanations to the questions that surround this unique world.

Although apparently aimed at more advanced academics, this would make a great teaching aid for anyone teaching key stages 2 or 3 – the content would simply need to be modified. It is written to a very high standard, with plenty of detailed fact-based topics, and references to back up any claims made. The text appears to have covered all topics associated with life in moss; it even has a helpful section on completing your own step-by-step moss safari experiment.

There are plenty of real-life microscopic photographs and easy-to-follow diagrams to help the reader's understanding. There are clear, earmarked sections, a detailed glossary, diagrams of the 'tree of life' and then big-life diagrams. These are extremely helpful for any student or teacher, who may, initially, find this book a little challenging to understand.

The author definitely grabs the reader with the amount of information provided in this encyclopedic book, but the subject content is not for the faint-hearted! The author's passion for the subject clearly comes across and I would recommend this to anyone (teacher/academic/student) who is searching for a more knowledge-based read, although the subject content can be adapted for teaching purposes.

Elizabeth Ramaswamy
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