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Science Fair Winners: Junkyard Science



Synopsis

Pull on your gloves and experience the science of trashology! It's all about the stuff that's thrown away: analyzing the waste produced by your school's cafeteria, understanding the decomposition rates of garbage bags, comparing the cost effectiveness of one-use batteries versus rechargeables. This book is peppered with enlightening extras and humorous asides, such as background stories from expert "trashologists." Plus, kids get tips on how to rock the science fair. National Geographic supports K-12 educators with ELA Common Core Resources. Visit www.natgeoed.org/commoncore for more information.

Book Information

Series: Science Fair Winners

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: National Geographic Children's Books (September 28, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 142630689X

ISBN-13: 978-1426306891

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

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Customer Reviews

Each book in the Science Fair Winners series sketches out 20 science projects related to a theme. Within the theme, the topics vary but generally deal with interesting issues that are relevant to both contemporary scientific research and everyday life. The projects found in Junkyard Science often deal with environmental science and recycling. The useful introductory section of each book lays out the goal of preparing a science-fair project, the methodology for carrying out such a project, and the sciences and social sciences to which the projects relate. Individual activities are broken down into steps, including instructions for carrying out the project, relevant vocabulary, time needed, and recent research findings. Each project is presented simply in three to four pages, but many of them are quite sophisticated and might be difficult for middle-schoolers to carry out without some adult help. Still, the casual writing style and Goldin's playful illustrations make the books and the

projects approachable, and the pull quotes from scientists are engaging. A concluding section discusses preparing the project for presentation in a fair, and back matter features an index and a list of print and online resources, including places to find supplies. Grades 6-9. --Miriam Aronin

Karen Romano Young is an author of children's books, a scientist, and a mother well aware of the tension Science Fair time can bring. In 2007 Karen served on the board on the Ocean Census Council, and enjoyed the publication of her newest book from HarperCollins, *Across the Wide Ocean*. Ms. Young lives in Connecticut.

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