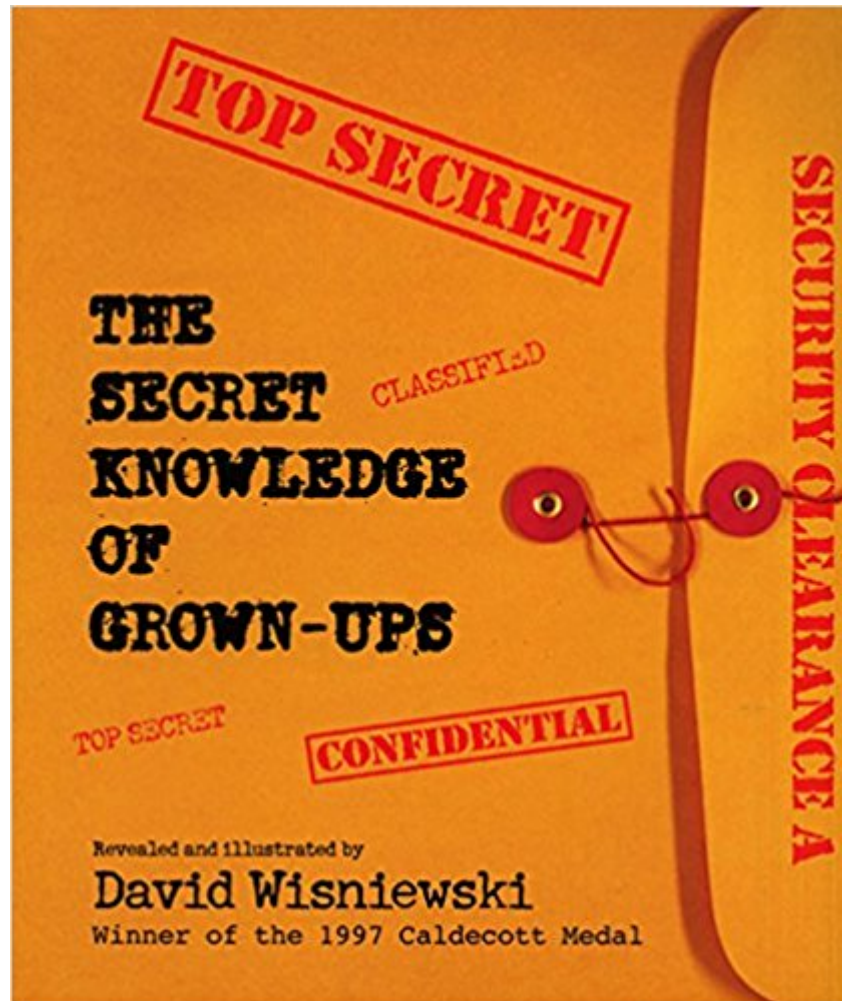




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The Secret Knowledge Of Grown-Ups



Synopsis

Parents are always spouting these rules. Do they really care about nutrients and mattresses, or are they hiding something? Luckily, one fearless grown-up will risk his neck and his dignity to find out. Disguised as everything from a chocolate milk scuba diver to a giant nose, this counterspy uncovers the disturbing truth. And what he learns will shock you like nothing before. Startling suckface emergencies! Dangerous digit gangs! Powerful sumo cells! Those are just some of the secrets revealed in this book by Caldecott medalist David Wisniewski. But don't let anyone catch you reading it-especially grown-ups. Who knows what could happen if they knew that you knew?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 810 (What's this?)

Series: Top Secret (Paperback HarperCollins)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (July 31, 2001)

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Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #53,795 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Personal Hygiene #152 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Manners #167 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews

Caldecott Medal winner David Wisniewski is back, with a second helping of secret information about the real reasons behind parental rules and commands. Brush your teeth because it prevents cavities? Naaaw. By breaking into the National Dental Association (disguised as the Tooth Fairy), Wisniewski has discovered that kids should brush their teeth because not doing so causes... unrest: "Reckless incisors cavort with Ginger Vitus... Pulp Rocker Tommy Rot sings inflammatory lyrics...."

Yes, Wisniewski crams in every possible pun, and his inimitable style of paper cut-out illustrations is the visually punning equivalent. The underlying idea here is fun, but it remains a mystery as to why adults would have a global conspiracy to conceal explanations that are, in the end, just more imaginative versions of the ones they do give. For example: kids should avoid junk food not because it's plain bad for them but rather because it causes each CFG (Cruddy Food Group molecule) to steal a bit of your brain and "drive it to an abandoned warehouse in an unpleasant industrial section of your body." Ordinary parental advice with a fancy hat on? Maybe. But fans who found themselves privy to the first "classified folder," *The Secret Knowledge of Grownups*, will be tickled with round two. (Ages 6 to 10) --Richard Farr --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Wisniewski spoofs conspiracy theories in this "confidential volume," revealing why grown-ups tell children to eat their vegetables and drink milk. "The engagingly silly formula repeats throughout, and the text and the art are consistent in their over-the-top humor and sure execution," said PW. Ages 7-up. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

One of my children brought this home from the library and all of us were quickly convulsed with laughter. We had often joked with our kids about the "real reasons" that we asked them to do things, but David Wisniewski did a much better job of expanding and illustrating these types of fantasies. I decided to buy two--one for each of my office waiting rooms. However, my kids could not bear to part with one copy so I got three. Some of Mr. Wisniewski's scenarios get mentioned regularly around our dinner table, "Eat your vegetables so they won't eat you--I think I see a claw coming out from your salad!" Sometimes I use this book to illustrate more serious issues. Conflicting agendas: When a family has a problem, the parents and the children often define the problem differently and have different hopes for the outcome. Power differences: Young children may see adults as having secret information and mysterious conversations behind closed doors. This book helps parents and kids look at these issues gently and laugh about them. This may soften the way toward discussing a family's conflicts and differing points of view. The illustrations are excellent detailed cutouts. They are bold and dramatic. He makes use of multiple textures to give the cutouts a 3-dimensional feel. Some of the pictures are "gross." If you pick your nose, your brain may deflate. But the "gross-out" factor is funny, not scary or violent. I get the sense that the author must be a funny, kind individual. I wish he could come to my son's school to teach a class on cutout art.

Bought as a gift for a friend who is a writer/illustrator of quirky children's picture books.

Pretty light on information. I was hoping for so much more!

My 10 year old daughter read it in a couple of hours and said it was fun. I think she was disappointed that there weren't really any big "secrets" that we and the rest of the adult world had secretly been conspiring to hide from her. I told her that was the case, but I suspect she didn't believe me and wanted to read this to audit my assurances for accuracy. : Still, once she picked it up, she didn't put it down until she was finished. That's always a great sign.

This is an excellent children's book for intermediate grades. The illustrations are wonderful and the ideas and word choice are great for teaching those traits. Some of the vocabulary is a little difficult, but if read aloud, is easily understood. I utilized this book when teaching ideas, organization, and word choice to my fourth grade students. It was an excellent prompt for some of their best writing. The chance for them to write creative narratives within a restricted theme made this a book I will use year after year. I heartily recommend The Secret Knowledge of Grown-ups to parents and teachers alike. Kids love it!

GREAT GREAT GREAT BOOK! Extremely funny and has enough content to make an entire unit out of. You can do geography, math, literature, science, EVERYTHING! The book is extremely engaging and a lot of fun to read!

Such a cute book with a funny perspective!

Purchased the book after reading it to my Grandson's 4th grade class. They really enjoyed it as did my grandson and he wanted to read it again. Appeals to this age group with their delight in icky and crazy things. It is sometimes difficult to find books for this age group as they aren't ready for the pre-teen stuff, but don't want to be treated as babies. This fit the bill. Also generated a lot of discussion.

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