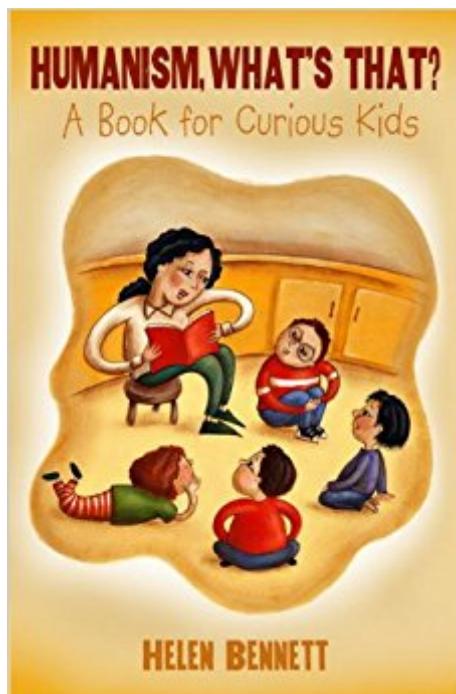


The book was found

Humanism, What's That?: A Book For Curious Kids



Synopsis

Mrs. Green is teaching her daily science class one day when suddenly she receives terrible news: A popular student named Amanda has been struck by a car on her way to class and is now hospitalized with serious injuries. "Let's all pray for Amanda," says one earnest classmate. "Surely God will make her well if He hears our prayers." Mrs. Green is confronted with the dilemma that every public school teacher must be ready to deal with. While the church-state separation laws won't allow school prayer, Mrs. Green wants to do something to help her students cope with a life-threatening situation that has raised deep questions. Thus begins a conversation between teacher and students that forms the basis of this thoughtful work. Starting with the historic concept of separation of church and state, the curious youngsters' insistent questions lead to a consideration of philosophic issues: Why shouldn't they pray for Amanda in class? Why do some people believe in God while others don't? Is there life after death? What gives life meaning? In the course of what becomes a parent-approved after-school discussion, Mrs. Green presents a humanistic point of view, making the following points. Humanists look at life as a natural process, so they don't believe in the supernatural. They rely on science to explain the meaning of life, not on religion, though they support each person's freedom to choose to believe or not to believe. Rather than speculating about what comes after death, humanists prefer to focus on life on earth. Humanists generally espouse the values of universal education, freedom of thought and free expression, open-minded pursuit of the truth, tolerance of others' differences, mutual respect, and preservation of the environment. Complete with discussion questions, suggestions for activities, and a bibliography, this innovative approach to presenting humanism to young adults will be welcome by parents and teachers looking to expose their children or students to a secular philosophic perspective.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr. 3-5. "But the Bible says that God created man in His own image!" "Humanists believe just the opposite: that man created God in his image." In a lively fictionalized discussion, a humanist teacher and a group of students talk about secular humanism. They confront the big issues, including evolution ("the best hope . . . is science," says the teacher), abortion, capital punishment, anti-Semitism, bullying, and much more--even the causes of 9/11. The kids' voices are insistent and informal, and the teacher calls for tolerance, for asking questions, for doing good right here on earth. The book, which is bound to cause controversy, is set up for adult-led discussion in school or at home, with activities, suggested discussion topics, and a brief bibliography for older teens and adults. But the readable dialogue will also reach individual children who have doubts and questions. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Covers a lot of ground in a manner and style that should help children understand humanism. Humanist and atheist parents would certainly benefit from having it because it presents basic humanist principles at a level younger children can comprehend - and it may even help them explain themselves to their friends." - About.com "This small volume holds out the hope and openness of Humanism in a form that can help young people confront Fundamentalist approaches to religion with confidence. And confront them they do, just as described in Mrs. Green's classroom and in schoolyards across this nation. Humanism, What's That? embodies the values which are central to my faith and is a wonderful addition to our ministry of liberal religious education." Rev. William G. Sinkford President, Unitarian Universalist Association

This book is a great tool if you are good at editing as you read. Its kind of bizarre as written. My children think the questions asked by the children and the manner in which they are asked is very strange. It has some good explanations though, for things that I was having a hard time putting into words, so I find it useful. I just wouldn't sit and read it to the kids. It doesn't work for us as a story.

Terrific primer for this magnificent outlook on the world. If you hope the best for your child ... and if by 'best' you mean to make them a thinking contributing human INDIVIDUAL (not an automoton who simply mimics a design of your own making) I could not more highly recommend this fine book.

Want an alternative to religion to instill values and morals in your child. This is a great book.

This book is excellent for explaining humanism and separation of church and state to kids 9-15.

Like many reviews of this book, it is a dialogue between a few children and their teacher. While the teacher challenges the children's statements and questions, such as "how can anyone be good who doesn't believe in god?" she sometimes responds with a barrage of questions of her own that could be more helpful broken down and answered individually. Also, she refers to many, many facets of history such as the Dark Ages, Renaissance, Genesis, Greek Mythology etc. in her answers and explanation of Humanism. So it will take a child well versed in social studies, various religions or science to understand her answers to some of questions. Or it will take a child/parent willing to stop and explore these things to grasp the entire concept. I would say this book would be most effective with kids with an open mind, skepticism and a willingness to stand by what feels right for them to believe. Whether it is Humanism or not.

This is a fine book for teachers and or anyone who is not a theist trying to answer questions about "non-belief." The world has always had non believers. Unfortunately fear from any and all religious sects kept the secular/humanistic point of view hidden beneath the thundering voice of authoritarian religion. We need more people to speak out.

Not hostile to other beliefs and a very good example of what humanism is. My children enjoyed reading this.

I was hoping to get a book to send to my nieces helping to explain why we do not celebrate their holidays, why we don't believe in faith. Sadly, while the tone of this book is kid-friendly, the message seems to me to be more pro-humanism than to just an explanation of this ideology. So, while I don't think I can give this book to my nieces without their parents thinking I'm trying to convert them to the "smart" and "thinking" way of being, it's a wonderful book for my kids. Actually, if your child has been raised as a 'Humanist' this is kind of a nice lesson on what the "god-people" think. My kids only

knew the basic principles of those with diety delusions, but this sure covers a lot of the finer belief tenets. I gave this a 5 star rating for what it actually is, not for what I hoped it to be. It is well written, and easy to understand.

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