



Maybe Yes, Maybe No

Dan Barker , Brian Strassburg (Illustrator)

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In this introduction to skeptical curiosity, young readers learn that they are capable of figuring out what to believe and of knowing when there isn't enough information to decide.

Maybe Yes, Maybe No Details

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From Reader Review Maybe Yes, Maybe No for online ebook

Cassie says

Read this as a child and it always stuck with me.

Chelsea says

Amazing book for kids (and possibly adults). This book encourages kids to be skeptical and ask questions. It encourages honesty, and promotes changing your mind when better evidence is made evident. There is so much pressure for kids (and adults) to make a decision about a belief and stick to that belief, even when trial and error, evidence, and proof suggests otherwise. This book encourages kids to admit when they are wrong, and figure out for themselves what is true. Such a great book!

Abbey says

I think this is an important conversation to have with your children but I don't need a book to do it. It also seemed very leading: science good, faith bad. I am not a religious person and I feel you should think critically about what you choose to believe in but I think skeptics are too negative. I prefer to leave room for something to believe in and leave room for those ideas to change. I am not going to tell my kids not to believe in miracles, as this book suggests. I am agnostic and so I believe in the possibility of something and nothing at the same time.

Russ Painter says

Good book for kids, but way too short for the price.

Karen says

This book teaches the concepts of skepticism and science to kids. I bought this after my kids started hearing all sorts of stories at school from other kids (ghosts, kids flying, etc) and I wanted to teach them to not blindly believe everything they hear. I think this book was useful for that.

Kay Iscah says

Be skeptical about this take on skepticism.

I think the first 39 pages of this book make for a great teaching tool, and I do like the comic with Andrea investigating the ghosts. But Mr. Barker doesn't know when to quit, and kind of blunders through the

explanations for scientific process.

I picked this up from the free bin at McKay's today, since I have a friend named Andrea. But I decided to read it first, and I'm hesitant to pass it along.

I wanted to like this book. I do like the basic concept. Ask questions, don't accept things at face value, use scientific process whenever possible.

However, I feel like the book can only earn a two for it's bad points because it tells some very big, very dangerous lies.

"If something is really true, you should be able to repeat it again and again."

Think about this one for a while. Mommy gives Joe a cookie. Joe tells Judy he got a cookie. Judy refuses to believe Joe got a cookie unless he can get another cookie. Joe asks for a cookie and Mommy says "no". So is it true that Joe got a cookie?

Many things can be proved/validated through repeated experiments, but not everything can.

"If you can't think of any way to prove something is false, there's no way to know if it is true."

1. The universe does not work based on the limitation's of an individual's ability to question. That's just silly.
2. While I understand what the author is getting at, this is a very big presumption. For instance can you think of way to prove water is not wet? Does this mean water is not wet?

"If something is true, then it should not be confusing. It should be logical."

I confuse people with logic all the time. It's very easy to do...

Yes, when you are confused you should ask questions and try to work past the confusion. But the fact something confuses you does not necessarily make it untrue or illogical.

Some things appear illogical because we are missing some piece of information. For instance the inner workings of a car engine confuse me. There are people who have information I lack, and the inner workings of a car engine make perfect sense to them.

The universe is more complex than a car engine.

"Some religions teach you can pray to a god and get what you pray for."

Strictly speaking this is not a lie, but it is highly misleading about the nature of prayer in many if not most religions. Prayer is about communication. Yes, you can ask God (or whomever) for something, just like you can ask a parent for something. This is not a guarantee of getting it.

Prayer is not a ring a bell, win a cookie type deal...and yes, you should be skeptical of anyone who proclaims that it is.

It's easy to disprove that praying/receiving isn't simple cause and effect. However lack of simple cause/effect does not mean that people can't pray and get what they ask for, or that asking doesn't improve their odds of receiving.

I LOVE science. But blind faith in science is just as dangerous as blind faith in anything else. And that's the biggest things missing here, a sense of skepticism about the limitations of science. They do exist.

Of course the biggest presumption here is that the universe is logical. Sure I'd like to think it is, but sometimes, I'm skeptical...

VBergen says

Book to read with the child. Not so nice illustrations, no color and long so it is to read just a little each time.

Markii says

great tool for growing kids on what kind of information to accept from friends, and how to investigate claims further. one of a kind.

Julie says

I want to give this 2.5 stars, since half the book was really good. The rest.... not so much. I love the idea behind this book, which is why I wanted to read it with my kids. But boy, am I glad I pre-read it. The comic in the beginning is great, and does a fantastic job of illustrating the fact that it is good and smart to question things. Right after this, though, the author bashes people's personal beliefs on quite a few topics. I skipped these pages with my kids. I don't want ANY book to tell my kids what they should or should not believe, and while the author did not explicitly come out and say that such-and-such a belief is bad, the mocking tone was apparent and uncalled for. I certainly am not going to read material to my kids that ridicules another person's beliefs, no matter what that belief is. There is enough nastiness in the world as it is... I don't need my kids thinking that it is alright to look down on someone else for any reason. Furthermore, while I can see where the author was trying to go with using the scientific process to analyse information, the way in which some of it is presented is misleading and most of it is over simplified. I did read this part to my kids, and they got a lot out of it, but I won't be rereading it due to some inaccuracies.

Sigh... still searching for something worth buying :(Thank goodness for libraries.

Lupine says

How many books out there for kids broach the topic of how to question ideas? Not many and this one does it well. Keeping it on my list of books to get when my wee one is older.
