

What's Going on Down There? A Boy's Guide to Growing Up



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Recommended Grades: 5-12

Subjects/Courses: Science,
Physical and Health Education, Applied Design,
Skills & Technology/Home Economics and
Culinary Arts

ERAC Review

DESCRIPTION

This user-friendly guide to navigating puberty discusses the physical, emotional, and social changes that boys experience, including physical body changes, body image, and consent. The straightforward, engaging text and descriptive cartoon-like images complement the text and help students make personal connections and make this sensitive topic more approachable. Useful for independent reading, an at-home parent resource, to support class discussions, and as a class or research resource for students in grades 5-12.

CURRICULUM FIT

Does the resource support BC curriculum? Extensively

This product supports the Core Competencies of the BC curriculum:

- Communication
- Positive Personal and Cultural Identity
- Personal Awareness and Responsibility
- Social Responsibility

Comments:

This book supports the BC curriculum in Physical and Health Education, Family Studies, and aspects of the Core Competencies. The resource could be used to explore some of the Big Ideas in Physical and Health Education 5-10 including: "Understanding ourselves and the various aspects of health help us develop a balanced lifestyle" as well as "Healthy choices influence our physical, emotional, and mental well-being." The book also relates to the "body systems" in grade 6 Science. This resource also supports facets of the following Core Competencies: Communication, Positive Personal and Cultural Identity, Personal Awareness and Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Belief System: The book references safe sex with condoms as a method of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. It also briefly discusses masturbation and types of sexual orientation in relationships

Social Considerations Comments:

Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning? Extensively

This book describes the physical, emotional, and social changes that take place during puberty in an age-appropriate manner; however, some students may have questions about the information presented if it differs from their personal belief systems. Additionally, while presented in a straightforward manner, many of the topics covered may be new or uncomfortable for students as they deal with sexuality. On the other hand, the book uses examples, illustrations, and thoughts of young people and is an excellent reference for teachers, parents, and students in the middle/ high school age group.

GENERAL CONTENT

Content:

Is the resource engaging? Extensively

Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade? Extensively

Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade? Extensively

Is the content timely and important for student broad understandings? Extensively

Audience:

Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students? Extensively

Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking? Moderately

Is the level of detail appropriate? Extensively

Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students? Extensively

Are the visuals appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students? Extensively

Comments:

This book discusses sensitive topics that students may find embarrassing to discuss. The language used includes scientific descriptions without being too complicated. The text addresses important aspects of changes during puberty with direct information. The text is engaging and written in a conversational style, enabling students to make personal connections. The cartoon-like images support the content and help to make a sensitive topic more approachable for all learners. The book shares factual information so there is limited opportunity to differentiate instruction. Students could use the questions in the "What If?" chapter as their own inquiry learning.

TECHNICAL DESIGN

Does the resource make effective use of the medium? Extensively

TECHNICAL DESIGN

Is the location of illustrations appropriate?	Extensively
Is the resource easy to use?	Extensively
Is the use of font, text size and presentation uniform?	Extensively
Are extraneous elements/illustrations kept to a minimum?	Extensively

Comments:

A guide to navigating puberty, this book is designed with the young adolescent reader in mind. It is written in readable chunks that allow readers to digest a lot of information quite easily. The illustrations are simple, yet descriptive. They complement the text and make the pages reader-friendly. It is a 132-page informational text that is divided into 13 chapters. Each chapter covers a specific topic and contains several sub-topics, making it easy to locate specific topics and information.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

Is the instructional design effective and appropriate for the intended audience?	Extensively
Are the instructional elements consistent with the purpose of the resource?	Extensively
Are the concepts clearly explained?	Extensively
Does the progression in learning go from the simple to the complex?	Extensively
Are the content chunking and sequencing appropriate?	Extensively
Does the resource provide multiple strategies to help learners construct meaning?	Extensively
Does the resource support the transfer of learning to personal or applied contexts?	Extensively

Comments:

As this is a reference text, pre-teaching activities, follow-up, and assessment activities are not provided. The concepts and technical terms are clearly explained and the concepts move from simple to complex. Because of the simplicity and user-friendly layout, it can be used by a variety of educators and students. Each chapter is straightforward and provides text, illustrations, and examples to give learners multiple strategies to construct meaning. This is a reference resource to a unit of study and is not meant to be a teacher guide.

PRINT CLASSROOM

Does the reference cover topics with sufficient depth for the intended audience?	Extensively
Does the classroom reference have a bibliography and footnotes?	Not at all or slightly
Are the subject area list and/or subtopics extensive?	Extensively
Do the external links contribute to the learning experience	Not at all or slightly
Does the resource broaden students' experiences and understandings?	Extensively
Does the resource make effective use of visual elements?	Extensively
Are the images compelling?	Extensively

Descriptors:

Student research tools
Primary reference material

PRINT CLASSROOM

Comments:

This book covers a wide range of topics that will inform readers about the changes that happen during puberty. The reading level and content in this resource are appropriate for students in grades 5-10. The content is clearly organized with chapter topics, headings, and subheadings. The resource does not include a bibliography or footnotes but does include an appendix. The illustrations are complementary to the text.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

Comments:

This book could be used as part of a Physical and Health Education unit focusing on maturation, puberty, and physical and social/emotional health. It can be used as a supportive text for classroom discussions about changes that occur during puberty and beyond. It supports the Core Competencies by helping students to understand the physical, emotional, and social changes that boys experience during puberty. This resource would be a great addition to a library for students and a resource for parents to read at home and discuss with their children. This resource could also be used in Family Studies courses when discussing sexual maturity, family planning, and concepts of child development.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Readability:

At intended grade level(s)