

## **Book Reviews**

DEBORAH HODGE. *Simple Machines: Starting With Science*.  
Toronto: Kids Can Press (1996). Ages 5 – 9. \$11.95. 32 pp.  
ISBN 1-55074-311-2

*Simple Machines* is an ideal textbook for the grade-two science classroom. While adult supervision and active participation is an absolute must, the scientific activities illustrated are certain to add an abundance of excitement to the students' learning experience. Though the book is said to be targeted for children between the ages of five and nine, some of the tasks such as cutting a milk carton in half, and pulling on brook sticks with string, seem to be inappropriate for the small hands of a five-year-old, and for safety reasons should be aimed towards nine-year-olds.

The discipline-specific vocabulary, which is defined throughout the pages, helps to introduce students to everyday machines such as the lever and the wheel and axle. The activities are not too difficult, however, the explanations do offer the young reader a bit of a challenge.

Deborah Hodge's twelve years of experience as a primary school teacher were well represented throughout the book as it was written in a user friendly style so that teachers will be intrigued to introduce the experiments to their students.

The photographs by Ray Boudreau, photographer for *Owl* and *Chickadee* magazines, are sharp to the eye while the images they capture are certain to entice the young viewer. Though the cover is somewhat busy, the photographs inside illustrate the experiments so intensely that one almost does not need to follow given instructions.

While children might not pick this title as a "must read" on their own, it is certain to be a favorite for primary science school teachers.

VICKY FRASER *McGill University*