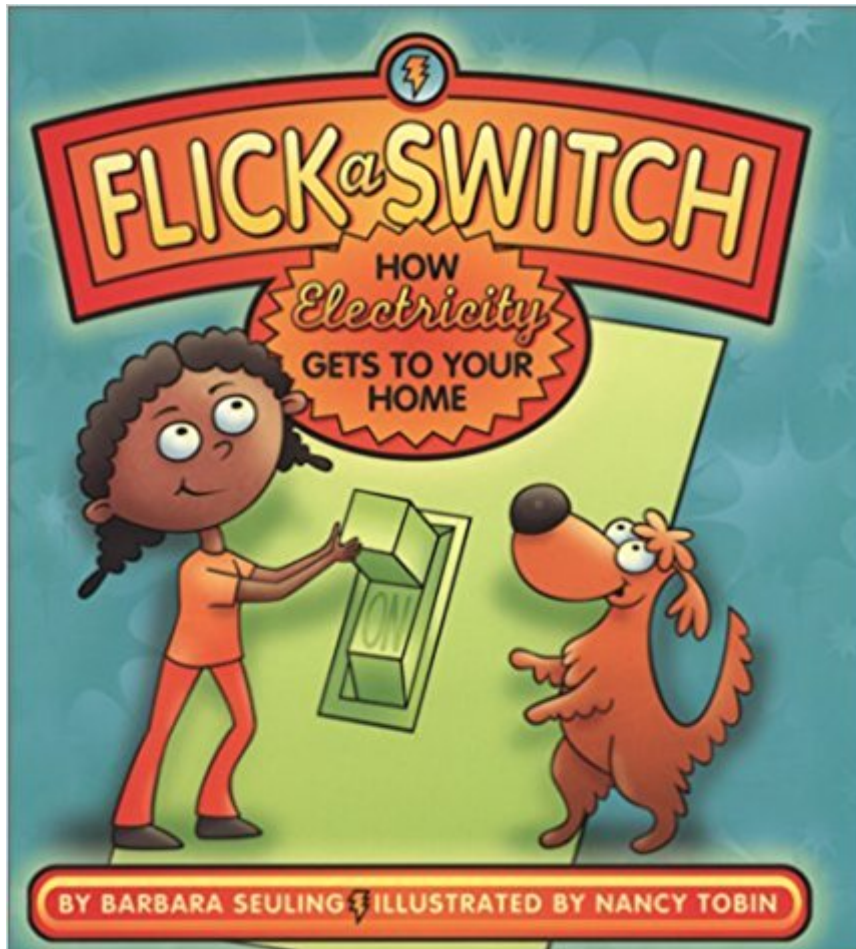




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Flick A Switch: How Electricity Gets To Your Home



Synopsis

Describes how electricity was discovered, how early devices were invented to make use of it, how it is generated in power plants and then distributed for many different uses.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; 1 edition (September 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823417298

ISBN-13: 978-0823417292

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 9.3 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 2.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #559,482 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Electricity & Electronics #275 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work

Age Range: 5 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 1-3-This attempt to explain the nature and transmission of electricity is too simplified to provide much understanding. The first page poses three questions: How does electricity work? Where did it come from? How did it get into the house? Only the third question is answered adequately, by showing a system of wires extending from a power plant into a home. Instead of defining electrons and then demonstrating that electricity is the flow of electrons from one atom to another, the book merely says that "There are little bits of electric power in everything. These little bits are called electrons." The text explains the phenomenon of brushed hair standing on end by saying, "That's the electricity in your hair being stirred up." The resinous substance amber, used by the ancient Greek Thales to produce static electricity, is referred to as a "stone." Michael Faraday's 1831 generator, constructed of a magnet and coil of copper wire, is said to have produced electricity when "The magnet stirred up electrons." Focusing on the more complex, modern electrical apparatus in a power plant, the book says, "A large magnet inside stirs up electrons." With all that "stirring," children may wonder if this was meant to be a cookbook. The illustrations are bold,

colorful cartoons. Some feature a young African-American girl and her dog. The characters' dialogue, in balloons, is a corny distraction from any scientific information provided on the same page. Robert Snedden's *The History of Electricity* (Raintree, 1995; o.p.) has clearer explanations. Lynda Ritterman, Atco Elementary School, Waterford, NJ Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 1-3. With a light touch, this picture book simplifies a complex concept to explain how electricity works. Bright, sometimes fluorescent cartoon illustrations show an African American child with her dog, who contributes in one-liners as the book traces the step-by-step process of how electricity is harnessed and then transferred from power plant to transformer and eventually into homes. Seuling also gives a little background about key inventors, including Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison, and Alessandro Volta. Some vocabulary will need to be explained to young readers, so they can fully understand how moving electrons and magnetic force work together to generate electricity, but Seuling does a nice job of repeating more difficult ideas or vocabulary to reinforce learning. Following the technical explanation, the book talks briefly about the one-third of the world still without electricity. At the end are three simple science experiments that demonstrate electricity's energy at work. Extra trivia help round out the lively, informative text. Roger Leslie Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

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