



You Can't See Your Bones With Binoculars

By Harriet Ziefert

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You Can't See Your Bones With Binoculars By Harriet Ziefert

This acclaimed "edu-tainment" series offers an active exploration of subject matter from fingertips to lunar trips! Classroom-ready and packed with kid-centered science information and activities, the You Can't... books combine laughing with learning. What's inside your rib cage? Hint: it's not a canary! Why is bumping your humerus totally not funny? Why do football players and carpenters need knee pads? Kids will learn about all 206 of their very own bones - what they look like, where they are, what they do. Actual x-rays of real bones take kids through the skeletal system, inviting them to locate and explore their own bones. Clear explanations (fact-checked and approved by a pediatrician), colorful illustrations, and humorous analogies make for a fresh look at a familiar topic. From head to toe (or from cranium to phalanges), kids will get a skeleton of fascinating bone-formation!

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 3-5-In a slightly timeworn device, this book uses the old song "Dem Bones" for a tour of the major bones of the human skeleton. While the tone is jokey, information is imparted in a scattershot fashion. For example, in discussing the anklebones: "They do- have neat names like 'navicular,' and 'calcaneus,' and 'cuneiform.' But if you tell your friends you know all this, they will think you are terribly nerdy and won't talk to you for a week." The description of the cervical vertebrae reads, "The topmost neck bone holds up your head. (No, not your cantaloupe, Charlie!) It is called the atlas and is named after the giant who holds the world on his shoulders in a Greek story." A helpful suggestion is to "stop and run your hand along the bone or bones being described." Goofy cartoon illustrations include X-ray inserts for the parts under discussion. The final drawing is of a complete skeleton with the major bones identified, helpful to pull the book together. Seymour Simon's *Bones* (Morrow, 1998) and Barbara Seuling's *From Head to Toe* (Holiday, 2002) cover the same material and more; the three could form the beginning of an informative study unit.

Dona Ratterree, New York City Public Schools

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From [Booklist](#)

K-Gr. 2. In this follow-up to *You Can't Taste a Pickle with Your Ear* [BKL Ja 1 & 15 03], Ziefert and Haley offer another whimsical introduction to human anatomy for the very young. The lighthearted text takes children on a tour of their bones, showing the connections from skull to toes, all illustrated in Haley's goofy cartoons with X-ray images overlaying each spread's featured bone. The text's attempts at corny humor may be lost on some kids, and the drawings don't always clearly illustrate the more subtle concepts. But Ziefert's enthusiasm is contagious as she encourages children to move from the text to their own skeletons: "Wiggle those toes. Do you see your phalanges move?" A final, labeled skeleton offers all the bones' names on one page. Pair this with Bob Barner's *Dem Bones* (1996), a more musical introduction to the skeleton, or with Lizzy Rockwell's *The Busy Body Book*, reviewed above. *Gillian Engberg*

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About the Author

Harriet Ziefert is the author of more than two hundred books for children. The mother of two and the grandmother of four, she lives and works in Maplewood, New Jersey.

Amanda Haley holds a B.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She lives in Ohio with her husband and their golden retriever, Sally.

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