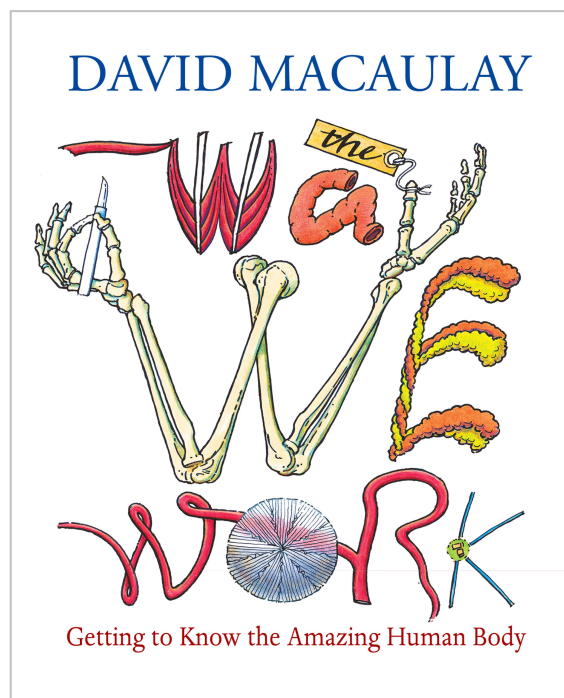


**News from Houghton Mifflin Books for Children
For Immediate Release**

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The Way We Work
Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body
By David Macaulay



From a child gymnast in San Francisco to an elderly doctor in India to an award-winning children's book creator in Vermont, one thing we all have in common is that each of us has a body. Many of us also share the habit of ignoring it until something goes wrong. The MacArthur "genius" and Caldecott Medalist **David Macaulay** was no exception. Best known for the international bestseller, *The Way Things Work*, he'd managed to overlook the most incredible machine of all. Now he has turned his uncanny ability to explain to the human body and the result, *The Way We Work* (on-sale October 7, 2008), is book like no other!

For Macaulay, it all begins with the cell. Starting with an exploration of these tiny, remarkable building blocks, he takes readers on a stunning visual journey through the major systems of the body, using detailed colored pencil drawings to illustrate how the various parts of our body work

both separately and together, coming full circle in the final chapter, where he explains how cells from a man and woman combine to create new life.

To research this extensive book, Macaulay put in years talking and studying with doctors and researchers, attending medical procedures, and laboriously sketching and drawing. He worked with top medical professionals including Dr. Lois Smith, a professor at Harvard University and researcher at Children's Hospital Boston, as well as medical writer Richard Walker, to ensure the accuracy of both his words and his illustrations. Anne Gilroy, Clinical Anatomist in the Departments of Surgery & Cell Biology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School says of Macaulay, "His remarkable curiosity and meticulous research led him into some of the most complicated facets of the human body yet he tells this story with simplicity, ingenuity and humor."

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Macaulay sat in on anatomy classes and dissections, and even put his hands into cadavers to compare spleen sizes. He observed surgeries, often standing for hours at a stretch, as varied as the removal of a diseased pancreas to a knee replacement. This hands-on investigation gave him unique insight into the way the body works, and the results can be seen in the perspective, detail, and clarity of his illustrations.

Just as he explained the process of building various structures in books such as *Mosque*, *Castle*, and *Cathedral*, Macaulay here constructs the human body in a logical and clear-cut manner, starting with the smallest pieces. Using the same blend of fact and humor that worked so successfully in *The Way Things Work*, he explains clearly (and humorously) the intricate and varied mechanisms behind the machine that is the human body. The curiosity and wonder that are the hallmark of all of Macaulay's books are clearly present in this important volume. "What began as a simple desire to better understand my own inner workings has become an opportunity to display both my wonder and gratitude," says Macaulay.

The Table of Contents is indicative of the tone of the book—lighthearted and clever—while the seven chapters clearly explain the varied and complex systems that make up our bodies.

Building Life

An awe-inspired introduction to cells, the amazing entities that build our bodies.

Air Traffic Control

A lively look at the circulatory system and respiratory systems

Let's Eat

Follow the journey food takes from the moment it enters your mouth until it exits the body—the digestive system in motion.

Who's in Charge Here?

The human brain makes its owner one of the smartest creatures on the planet, thanks to the nervous and endocrine systems.

Battle Stations

This chapter on the immune and lymphatic systems details daily assaults on our bodies and the various ways we fight against them.

Moving On

The delicate dance of the musculoskeletal system that allow us to move without even thinking about it.

Extending the Line

The reproductive system gives humans the insurance policy that guarantees we continue as a species.

An extensive glossary, index, and appendix are included, allowing for quick answers and easy reference. An informative and entertaining read from cover to cover, *The Way We Work* is also perfect for browsing and each chapter—each spread—stands alone. All who have ever wondered why their neck hurts, or how their food is digested; how someone gets sick, how someone gets better, or how life is created—*The Way We Work* is for them. An essential addition to any home, school, or public library, this book will have readers of all ages and from all walks of life.

David Macaulay's artwork is being showcased in two separate exhibits traveling the country. His *The Way We Work* exhibit, out of the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in Abilene, Texas, opened in April 2008. It lays out for visitors the creative process behind *The Way We Work*, from sketches through design decisions to finished pieces. It presents the rare opportunity to witness how a highly-illustrated volume is produced, in some cities before the finished book is even available! *David Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture*, created by the National Building Museum in Washington DC, is an interactive, family-friendly exhibit showcasing Macaulay's unique and creative approach to illustrating architecture. Both exhibits are traveling nationally, and show the broad range of readership for all of Macaulay's work.



David Macaulay has received both a MacArthur Fellowship, recognizing “creativity, originality, and potential to make important contributions in the future,” and a Caldecott Medal for *Black and White*, in addition to many other awards and accolades. His readers include kids, parents, teachers, and librarians. For more information on Mr. Macaulay and his body of work, visit www.thewayweworkbook.com.

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