



## I Wonder

*Annaka Harris , John Alfred Rowe (Illustrations)*

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**“I Wonder offers crucial lessons in emotional intelligence, starting with being secure in the face of uncertainty. Annaka Harris has woven a beautiful tapestry of art, storytelling, and profound wisdom. Any young child – and parent – will benefit from sharing this wondrous book together.”—Daniel Goleman, author of the #1 bestseller *Emotional Intelligence***

**“I Wonder captures the beauty of life and the mystery of our world, sweeping child and adult into a powerful journey of discovery. Magnificent!”—Daniel Siegel, author of *Mindsight* and *The Whole-Brain Child***

Eva takes a walk with her mother and encounters a range of mysteries: from gravity, to life cycles, to the vastness of the universe. She learns that it’s okay to say “I don’t know,” and she discovers that there are some things even adults don’t know—mysteries for everyone to wonder about together! *I Wonder* is a book that celebrates the feelings of awe and curiosity in children, as the foundation for all learning.

## I Wonder Details

Date : Published October 15th 2013 by Four Elephants Press (first published October 8th 2013)

ISBN : 9781940051048

Author : Annaka Harris , John Alfred Rowe (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review I Wonder for online ebook

### Cat says

Marvelous book! A must read by parents and caregivers everywhere. I used to hate when grown ups didn't have answers to my questions, or made stuff up. I also hated when adults made fun of me for not knowing something. This book is respectful and teaches both ADULTS and children that it's ok not to know something and admit it! And to ask a question, to seek answer and not be told its stupid a stupid question. I like that it encourages curiosity and seeking knowledge. The illustrations are wonderful!

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### Rachel says

This is such a beautiful, sweet read - the story and the illustrations. The author's note further explains the message behind the book development, which is that it's okay to say, "I don't know", to wonder, and teach our children curiosity. Highly recommended.

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### Sarah Wakefield says

Beautiful book about a mother and daughter sharing what they wonder about the world. Great for opening up conversations and talking about what you wonder about.

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### Paula says

I know that it's a book for children, but somehow I just wanted it to be a little bit more....something. I had such high hopes. Maybe when I read it to my own children and see how they respond I will feel differently.

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### Pam says

I understand why everyone loves this book and agree that it serves an important purpose, but I have several major issues with it. I agree that "I don't know" and the humility that conveys is an important teachable lesson. I was severely disappointed that at no point did the mother say, "Let's go read about this and find out." Wonder is a good thing, but it is the action taken to learn that is the greatest gift we can give our children! Annaka Harris could have also taken two pages at the end to address the questions posed in the book and provided additional recommendations for studying the moon, butterflies, etc. Lastly, Annaka Harris and the illustrator John Rowe dramatically reduced the audience for this book by using only female characters. It would have been so much more useful if there were two children, a boy and a girl.

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### Claudine Yanting says

Love the idea behind this picture book and the glorious paintings.

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"It's okay to say, I don't know," says her mother.

"When we don't know something, we get to wonder about it!"

Young, curious Eva takes a beautiful walk with her mother, and explores the mysteries of the world.

Where does gravity come from?

How many grains of sand are there in the whole world?

Things are always changing. Eggs to caterpillars to butterflies to eggs. What else changes?

The best part of this picture book is when Eva asks a question and Mom tells her it's all right not to have the answers. That gives us permission to wonder. 'I don't know' becomes 'I wonder' and that sustains children's thirst for learning.

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Full review here: <http://www.carryusoffbooks.com/blog/w...>

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### **Viv says**

The book is beautifully illustrated and the content of the conversations between a mother and a daughter is fun to read. I am going to see if I could use this book for my preschool science storytime...The book does a good job teaching children how to wonder and ask questions about the nature and unknowns.

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### **Lyndsey Wells says**

I Wonder captures many significant questions that young children, and we as humans begin to assemble at a very young age which carries with us into adulthood. As a mother and young daughter wander about the great outdoors, the child begins to develop a strong sense of inquiry to her surrounds and how cycles within the world relate. Inspiring the sense of inquiry within young learners is essential for future development and gathering interest about systems in which the world operates. More importantly, this book highlights and validates the answer "I don't know" as being a sufficient answer. This is a highly empowering read to set young readers up for exploring larger concepts of the world while feeling united in that sometimes one is perfectly justified in saying "I don't know."

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### **Sambucas says**

Fantastic book on the nature of the known and unknown for any young child, or adult for that matter.

## **Mehwish Mughal says**

What a beautiful book! I loved the illustrations - it had a very calming and soothing effect on the brain! The message: It's okay to teach the young ones that we do not have answers to everything and that life is mysterious! It most probably will set a strong foundation for independent inquiry.

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## **Dan Meier says**

This is one of the best children's books I have read in a long time. Turning a parent's "I don't know" into a child's "I wonder?"

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## **Elisabeth says**

A girl and her mom go for a sweet walk together, wondering about the world around them. For the story of it, I like it very much. The feel of the story and accompanying illustrations are just lovely. Dreamy even. There's also kind of this wonderful sense that wondering about something can fill you with wonder, which was really nice. But as a discussion (or lesson if you must put it that way) on how to face uncertainty, I have mixed feelings. I think it's a wonderful thing, to learn to be open to not knowing, but on the other hand I also appreciate a "let's find out!" approach to gaps in knowledge. Ok most of the examples aren't knowable, but the gravity example bugged me a little. Ok, I guess we don't know for certain, but scientists have an idea of what they believe to be true based on available evidence. I'm kind of left feeling like the author wants us to see everything as mysterious, ungraspable, and appreciate it for the mystery, versus enjoy solving some mysteries. To me the message may make a person less inclined to engage with the world and instead see it as all beyond one's comprehension.

Thinking about it more though, maybe that's why this book is perfect for our family, because I am a "let's find out" kind of mom. Maybe this fills in a little space in our lives that I didn't even know was there. Maybe our family should learn to be more open to not knowing!

I really did love putting the question in the kid's hands though.

As an atheist, I must say I appreciate this book on a further level. There's absolutely nothing in here that a religious person would find objectionable, but it's nice to see the mysterious unknowns in the universe answered with "I don't know", "no one knows", or "we can't know" but isn't it beautiful? Versus every answer being "God." Normally this is the kind of book I'd expect would be answered in quasi religious ways, and it wasn't and that's was kind of a breath of fresh air for me. It wouldn't preclude a religious person from interpreting it in a religious way though -- I don't want to be unfair to the author and turn off religious people.

I'm really torn about what rating I should give this book. There are elements I really love and others I feel ambivalent about.

### **Tanja says**

How did I miss this wonderful book that was published already a few years ago? Brilliant and beautiful!

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### **Portable says**

This is a beautiful book about curiosity, asking questions, and not always knowing the answers. Dreamy, purple and gold-toned illustrations portray a girl and her mother as they explore nature and the universe, asking questions, finding some answers, and being happy just to wonder. A great book for our investigations unit, but also for encouraging growth mindset, extending boundaries and relaxing into not always knowing.

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### **Hailey says**

Great book with amazing illustrations. I greatly enjoyed how the message of being curious and saying "I don't know" was conveyed in this book. Too often people don't realize it's okay not to have all the answers and this book is one way to share with kids that it's okay to just wonder and not know.

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