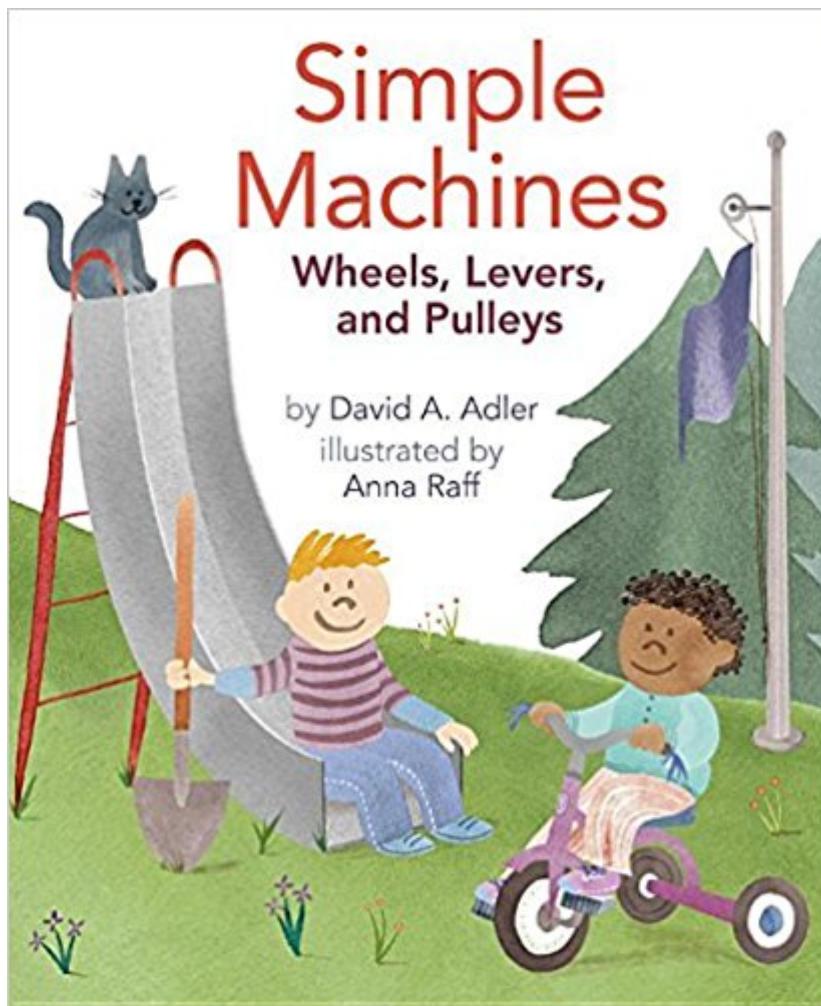


The book was found

# Simple Machines: Wheels, Levers, And Pulleys



## Synopsis

Kids use simple machines every day without realizing it. Teeth are wedges and so are knives, forks, and thumb tacks. Many toys such as slides, which are inclined planes, and seesaws, which are levers, are also simple machines. Two appealing kids and their comical cat introduce levers, wheels, pulleys, inclined planes, and more, and explain how they work. This lively introduction to physics will get kids excited about how simple machines simplify our lives.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; Reprint edition (January 30, 2016)

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #241,449 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Heavy Machinery #116 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work #126 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Physics

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3 •While Adler and Raff's *Things That Float and Things That Don't* (Holiday House, 2013) succeeded in introducing STEM principles, their latest picture book offers more confusion than clarification in its attempts to cover a variety of simple machines in a single title. The soothing, sumi ink-washed illustrations follow two children, a cat, and a lumberjack as they explore wedges, inclined planes, levers, wheels and axles, and pulleys. The screw is mentioned merely as a sidebar of inclined planes. The book lacks visual cues and headings, and readers may be caught unawares jumping from one machine to the next, especially as illustrations build upon one another.

Vocabulary words are in bold, but most are never clearly defined, and the concluding sentence leaves readers hanging on a pulley: "With the pulleys, the motor in the crane needs less lifting

power." Libraries will be better served by Bellwether's "Simple Machines," which covers one simple machine per title. VERDICT An attractive yet unsuccessful attempt; give this one a miss. •Jennifer Wolf, Beaverton City Library, OR --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

David A. Adler is the author of nearly 200 books for children. He was a New York City mathematics teacher for nine years before becoming inspired to write his first book. When his wife gave birth to their first child, David stayed home to take care of his son and to write, which he has been doing ever since. He lives in Queens, NY with his wife Renee. Anna Raff is an award-winning illustrator of many children's books. She has an MFA from the School of Visual Arts and lives in New York City.

As I read it to my 4-year-old, I made the story a tad more fun with my own interjections. I bought the book as part of a gift for another kid and I was kind of disappointed at first, since it's a little bit of a dry read. But then, my son and his friend would start to point out when they recognized a "simple machine" in our daily lives and I realized he had absorbed it entirely. It's a great introduction to concepts and initiates problem-solving skills in kids - for example my son made a Leggo lever to help his tiny people lift blocks. It was very cool.

Good purchase

Adler's writing creates clarity regarding what might be a difficult concept for some children. He talks to the reader to draw them in by connecting to their everyday experiences - "Have you ever played on a slide? If you have, you played on a simple machine" and by drawing on real life scenarios - "Imagine having to lift a box loaded with bowling balls." His descriptions are precise - "It's a flat surface with one end higher than the other" and his explanations are helpful - "An inclined plane makes it easier to climb up and down..." I'd recommend this for 2nd-3rd grade (even 4th), though. The illustrations make it seem more primary, but conceptually I think it's too difficult for kinder-1st. This would be a great read aloud for launching a unit on simple machines. By the end of the read aloud, students will have a general sense of how we are surrounded by simple machines. They could sketch/write in response. If you read it aloud again or asked small groups to reread, they could glean specific details about particular simple machines - including their construction, how they work and make work easier, and how they differ from each other. Missed the 5th star because there's a typo - "peddles" verb instead of "pedals" noun. Ouch. BTW - I'd recommend Adler's book *Things That Float and Things That Don't* for 3rd grade and up if you're teaching the concept of

density.

If you teach physical science and the concepts of work/motion, this book will compliment your teaching. Simple Machines: Wheels, Levers, and Pulleys would make for an informative read aloud for grades K-2 but is best used in an upper elementary classroom or middle school science class. The illustrations tell their own story of two boys, a parent and cat that go about their daily life and the encounters they have with wheels, levers and pulleys. The text however is a sound teaching tool. The vocabulary: wedge, incline plane/ramp, lever, friction, wheel and axle, gears and pulleys are explained in practical ways. Examples that are used come from encounters most students would have in their everyday lives. Leading these examples to ones students could try in the classroom. The labels added to the illustrations explain how force can change directions. Giving students a concrete visual to understand each concept. I can't wait to share this book with the third and eighth grade teams of teachers and in our district that teach these concepts. Using this book is another way to combine literacy and the content areas. 5 stars!

Why I liked this book- This is a rather cool nonfiction book. It shows you everyday examples of the simple machines, and how they work. For example, did you know that our teeth are wedges, and that a mountain road can be an inclined plane? There are also really nice illustrations that show what is going on clearly. The book clearly explains simple machines in a kid-friendly way. This book is a great read-aloud for young kids. I really love this book, and would recommend it for a class project.\*NOTE\* I got a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

Great for teaching STEM concepts to children. The book CAN be wordy BUT it is so worth it to see your young children recognize pulleys, levers, and ramps. Also the typos from the first edition have been corrected! Yea!

Great book for grades K-3.

Awesome kids book

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