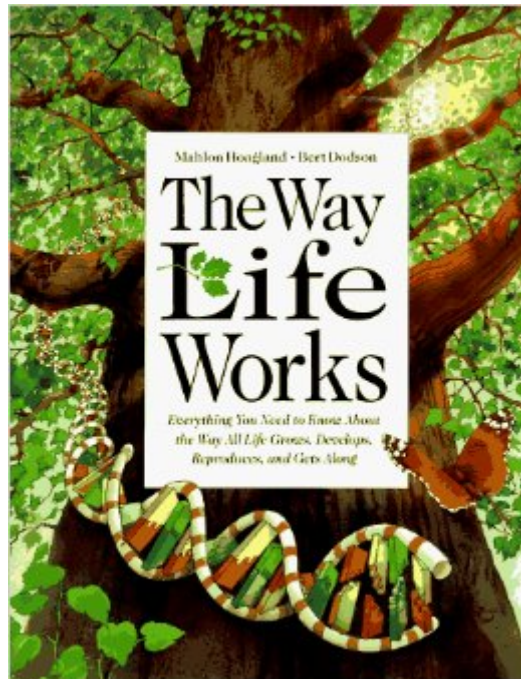


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# The Way Life Works



## Synopsis

In the tradition of David Macaulay's *The Way Things Work*, this popular-science book--a unique collaboration between a world-renowned molecular biologist and an equally talented artist--explains how life grows, develops, reproduces, and gets by. Full color.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 233 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (47 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Style is awesome!. The graphics and analogies are so well done that almost anybody without previous biology knowledge can get the full picture of the basics (and even some level of detail) of molecular and cell biology after reading this book. The level of abstraction is so good that sometimes I had to stop to think about what I read to get the real dimension that the writers wanted to exposed. It is a real master piece describing life (as life and not as an specific species) in its full dimension. Congrats to the authors!, I have read so many books, but I can't remember one with such an in depth, simply and universal style. That book is worth far more than the \$20 I paid for it.

I agree with the other reviews but take issue with the reviewer: This book is not for the biology illiterate. Those who love biology will be especially charmed by the way the material is presented here. It will allow those proficient in biology to see different perspectives on familiar concepts. From a pedagogy perspective, there is no better biology text-truth be told: visuals are presented using a number of models so students can understand conceptual nuances. The attractive pictures are inviting and interesting. Text and picutres are united and work together- you don't get blocks of words. It is engaging-not "easy". And often it is darn funny.

As soon as I browsed through this book at a local bookstore, I knew I had to have it. For visual thinkers, this book is a must. I've read about many biological processes for years but when I read this book I constantly find myself saying, "Aha! So that's what's happening." Very educational and enjoyable to say the least. It deserves 10 stars.

I've just terminated to read this book, and I think the authors have done a fantastic job. Explaining major biology themes in such a pleasant way is really wonderful. It's difficult to imagine a better introduction to biology! The book explains what is life, how it produces energy, what is genetics, ... Even evolution is covered in a very clear manner. Latest theories and thoughts about these topics are included, for example about the origin of life. I have read some books on biology (I'm a mechanical engineer), and I think this one is the best to begin with. It's a great refreshing to see all these beautiful drawings (the work of Bert Dodson is great), and to read a text so sharp and clear (thanks to Mahlon Hoagland)! A vital book for everybody amazed by life and biology, who feels some gap in his/her knowledge about the subject.

The illustrations and text are so clear at explaining the concepts of biology that I recommend this book to everyone I know with a high school kid. I used this as my basic text for a class for homeschoolers on cell biology. My little geek daughter has read and reread this book from the age of 8 or 9, and at the age of 12 (with some other study) got a 750 on the SAT II Biology test. Hoaglund really knows how to explain life science. I especially recommend the section explaining how life staves off entropy to allow building of complexity. I learned more from this little book than from high school Biology.

This book is excellent! If you're a current or future student of biology (especially a beginner, like me), or even a teacher, you will have no trouble understanding the concepts of biology due to the illustrations and explanations. The book's examples reference everyday life so you can instantly apply what you're reading and seeing. The illustrations are colorful and well defined, and the text is light and even a bit humorous. As a future teacher this book will definitely be added to my permanent collection of reference books.

This book is a masterpiece. It opens up your eyes and your imagination in such a fashion, you will understand many concepts that otherwise an ordinary person like myself couldnt put together

sciencewise. Thanks so much to the Authors. Big talent.

Not since Dr. Suess has someone managed to pack so much wisdom into an illustrated book. What McCaully's "The way THINGS work" did for the mechanical, this does for the NATURAL world: bring elegant, complex processes into focus with humor, simplicity and absolute love for the topic. Should be required reading for high school and college biology students. They'd learn more and LOVE more. The artist and author must have been telepathic to mesh together as well as they did.

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