

Mini-Review

The Chickadee Book of Puzzles and Fun. Debi Perna. Illus. Debi Perna. Greey de Pencier/Books from OWL, 1992. 32 pp., \$4.95 paper. ISBN 0-920775-82-9.

I have mixed feelings about *The Chickadee Book of Puzzles and Fun*. Some of the observation games in the book are too complicated for a child between the ages of three and nine. For example, the "Odd One Out" on page seven does not diversify the objects enough for a child to understand the distinction between them. In some areas the puzzle illustrations are very general while in others they are very specific and detailed. For instance, on page six, the "Pond Puzzle" aims to teach the interesting concept of the difference between a polluted pond and a clean pond. The problem lies with the answer to the puzzle. The illustrator and/or author/editor provide an answer that is very general. Instead of individual items in each of the ponds, they use the ponds as a whole. Then on the very next page in the "Odd One Out" the illustrator and/or author use very specific items for the child to distinguish between. Yet other puzzles in the book cater to much older children due to their level of difficulty. This inconsistency may confuse a child and therefore discourage them from attempting to advance to the next puzzle. However, I did enjoy the variety and sheer imagination of the puzzles in *The Chickadee Book of Puzzles and Fun*.

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