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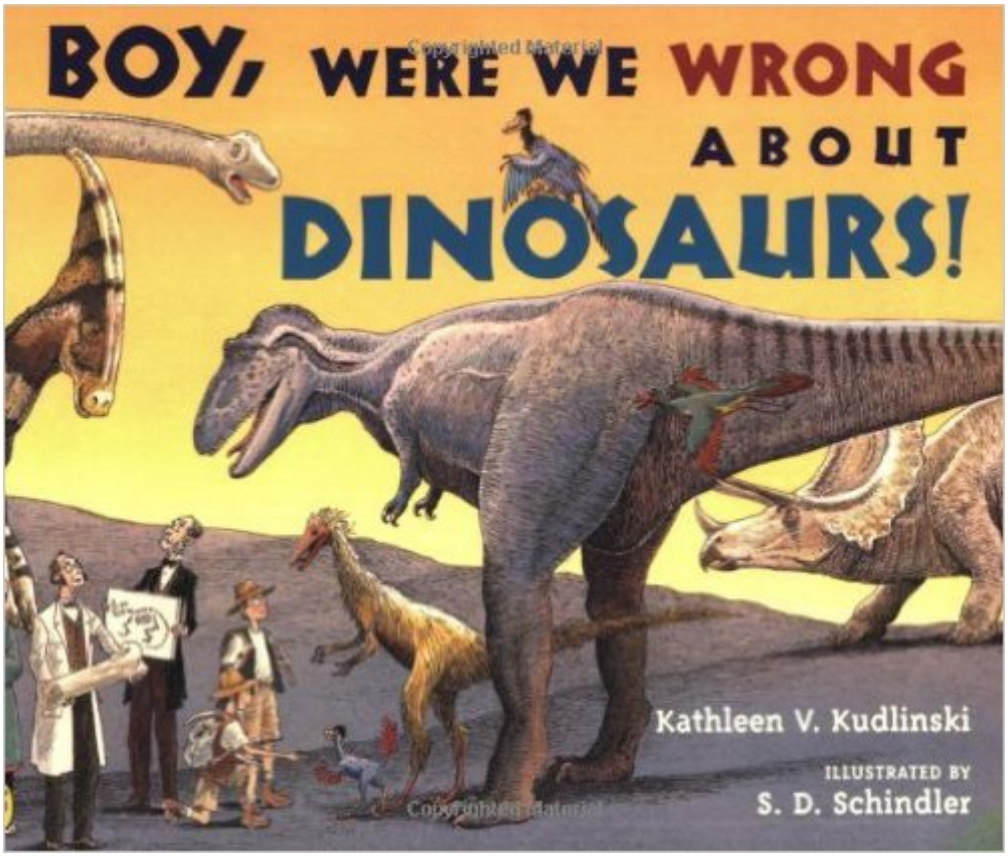
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys: Common Core Trade Book Grade 3 Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs, Kathleen V. Kudlinski



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Synopsis

The ancient Chinese thought they were magical dragons. Scientists thought they could only float on water since they were so big. Boy, were they wrong! Even today, notions about dinosaurs are being revised as new discoveries are made. This lively book offers fascinating insight into how certain theories were formulated, and then how those theories were proved or disproved.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD900L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

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Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 03 and up

Customer Reviews

A pretty great book, full of neat stories such as people mistaking Iguanodons' massive conical thumb bones for horns until they found a complete skeleton, or how some bone cross-sections look more like those of warm-blooded animals than of cold-blooded ones--which is part of what spurred the whole movement toward dinosaurs-as-bird-ancestors and away from dinosaurs-as-big-lizards.But the book also is a better example of how science works than it really set out to be: It contains two glaring examples of how, for all the real power of the scientific method and (most) scientists' genuine commitment to objectivity and open-mindedness, science is carried out (and interpreted and written about) by people who are subject, to a greater or lesser extent, to all the biases and assumptions of their day. Those blinders creep into their conclusions far more than they would like to admit.For example, one of the points that the book makes is that we used to

think of dinosaurs as having reptile-like parenting skills--i.e., none; they lay eggs and leave. But then paleontologists found evidence (such as nests with older hatchlings in them) that dinosaurs may have been more active parents.Except the book doesn't say parents.It says mothers. Over and over.I have no need to project egalitarian parenting onto other species, where it often doesn't exist. But since it does exist among birds quite often, I would have been pretty slow to make such a massive assumption and present it as a "discovery."And in fact, last December a flurry of articles about active dinosaur dads came out--some researchers think in some cases they were the primary parent.Boy, was the book wrong--not in a scientific way though, in a lazy way.

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