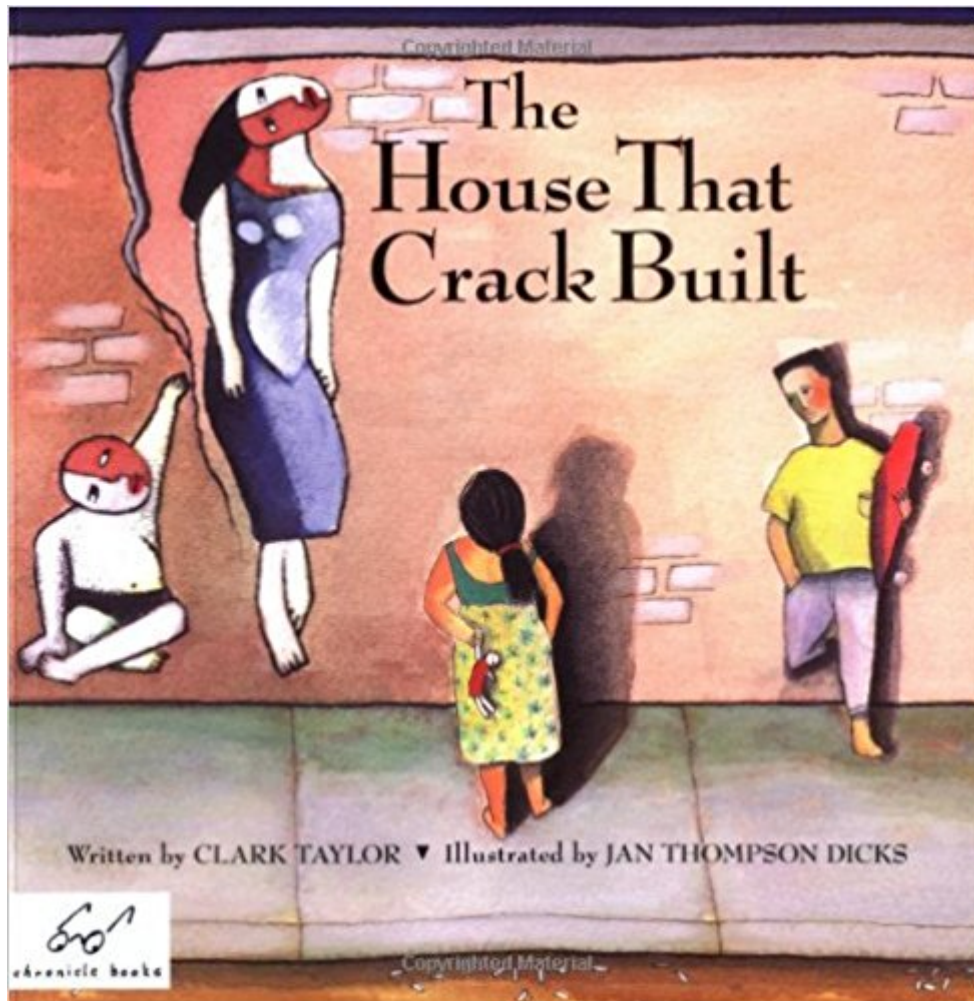




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The House That Crack Built



Synopsis

With a beat reminiscent of hip hop or rap music, a well known nursery rhyme is brilliantly transformed into a powerful poem about the tragic problem of illegal drugs and its victims. From the harvesting of the coca plants to dealers and gangs to the innocent crack babies born everyday, cocaine's journey is starkly traced from beginning to end. The rhythmic text, which is realistic but not moralizing, will appeal to teenagers and adults. But it is also accessible for even very young children, making this a valuable resource for parents, teachers, librarians, caregivers, and everyone else who is looking for a way to broach this difficult subject. A list of organizations is provided for those seeking help for a loved one or a way out for themselves. A foreword by children's advocate Michael Pritchard teaches us that we are all victims of this debilitating drug but reminds us that we also have the ability to change our world.

Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books (July 1, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0811801233

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Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #404,885 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #628 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #802 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse

Grade Level: Preschool - 7

Customer Reviews

A familiar nursery rhyme takes a decidedly dark turn in this sobering picture book. Written in a hip-hop rhythm and based on "The House That Jack Built," the new cumulative rhyme focuses attention on the drug trade and abuse of crack cocaine. No stone is left unturned as the text demonstrates the drug's ripple effect that begins with exploited South American coca farmers--"These are the Farmers who work in the heat"--and ends up invading urban neighborhoods also infested with gangs, violence, despair and hopelessness: "This is the Street of a town in pain"; "This is the Girl

who's killing her brain." Dicks uses muted, somber colors and almost cubist figures and images to illustrate crack's lethal potential. The picture book format is well-suited to presentation of this subject matter to a wide audience--younger readers can readily digest the sparse text and ask questions about the art, while older children and adults may use the book as a jumping off point for more involved discussion. All of the publisher's proceeds from the book will go to drug education, prevention and rehabilitation programs that specifically help children. All ages. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

K Up-- A picture book that uses the patterns and rhymes of the traditional "House That Jack Built," this tells of the despairing trail of crack/cocaine from the cultivation of " . . . the plants that people can't eat," to the addicted mother and baby, the overworked cop, and the other victims and villains of the inner-city drug trade. The handsome, somber modernist paintings echo Picasso's earliest proto-Cubist work, and will appeal to an older age group, although the strong line, touches of bright color, and representational style do make them accessible to younger children. It will work best for any age when introduced by an adult and used as the basis for serious discussion. An afterword for adults by PBS activist Michael Pritchard and a brief list of national organizations working in addiction services are appended. This is a unique book, disturbing but valuable. The challenge will be where to shelve it and how to introduce it. --Rosanne Cerny, Queens Borough Public Library, NYC
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Came on time, good quality

Written more for adolescents or adults.

An off beat, interesting coffee table book.

Simple yet touching book.

This story was a good introduction to explain to young at-risk children the illegal drug system for the drug prevention unit.

Easy reading, a good tool to use for anti-drug programming. Enables thoughtful classroom or group

discussion for children and adults.

A take-off on the House that Jack built which I used in group therapy for my drug and alcohol clients. They appreciated the message.

Good story, easy to understand and great graphics. I saw the story on-line then bought the book. Highly recommended. Thanks

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