



[Home](#) > In the Air; Under the Ground

In the Air; Under the Ground

Books Reviewed:

[In the Air](#) [1]

Books Reviewed:

[Under the Ground](#) [2]

Issue:

[80](#) [3]

Reviewer:

[Ted Percy](#) [4]

News to Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

In his afterword addressed to adults at the end of each of these Walkabouts, the author makes the crucial point that 'children enjoy having information books read to them just as much as stories and poetry'. It is vital to a child's development that the vocabulary of information be encouraged to develop and that questions be asked and answered constructively - many so-called 'language experts' either forget or ignore this basic truth and produce dead texts as the result. Pluckrose, with his friendly challenges, has always been an exception.

These Walkabouts look at the backgrounds to familiar things. Underground we examine plant roots, worms, rabbit-, fox-, vole-, mole- and pot-holes and go down mines, tunnels, foundations and pipes, all of which may be, literally, beneath our feet. Air looks at wind and flight of all sorts. The texts are studded with sensibly stimulating questions like 'How does silence help the owl?' and 'Does all soil look the same?' and each volume ends with a statement about our environmental responsibility to soil or air. Photography, of course, is excellent.

The continued success of Henry Pluckrose comes from his ability to enter into a partnership with his reader, gently tapping that reader's experience to allow more things to be learnt than his books 'teach'. Surprisingly few people can do this well in a book, so even though Pluckrose's name and style are widely familiar, his skill remains special.

Running Order:

9

Source URL (retrieved on Dec '19): <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/80/childrens-books/reviews/in-the-air-under-the-ground>

Links:

[1] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/in-the-air>

[2] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/under-the-ground>

[3] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/80>

[4] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/ted-percy>