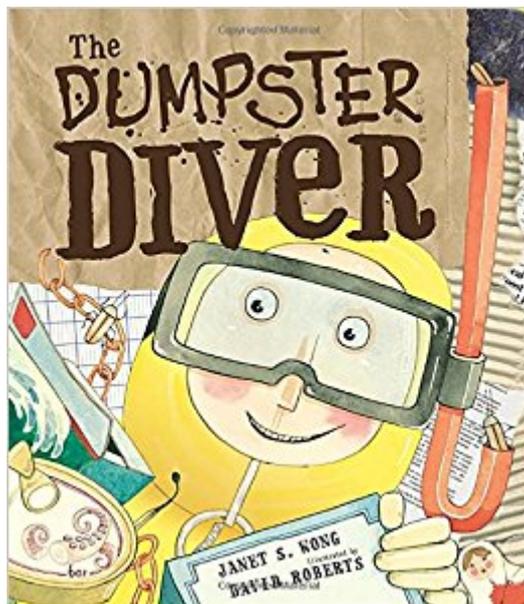


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# The Dumpster Diver



## Synopsis

One person's trash is another person's treasure in this vivid picture-book ode to creative recycling and to loyal friends. Anyone can dive for treasure in the ocean, but Steve dives for it in his neighborhood dumpster! As he delves into the trash each weekend, Steve encourages his young neighbors (aka the Diving Team) to see the potential in what other people throw away. With a little bit of imagination, trash can be transformed into treasure and as the Diving Team soon discovers, it might even help a friend in need.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (February 13, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763623806

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Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.4 x 11.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #948,795 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Recycling & Green Living #720 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life #1041 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Environment

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2 "This urban trash-to-treasure tale will resonate with city dwellers and send suburbanites and kids in rural areas searching for similar adventures. A boy waits at his bedroom window for his adult neighbor Steve, a.k.a. "the dumpster diver," to set things in motion. Five taps come on the boy's window and two other young residents of the building also receive the signal to report to duty. The children are "Hose Handler #1," "Hose Handler #2," and "The Fauceteer." Armies of insects are dislodged when Steve dives into the back-alley Dumpster and hauls out seemingly worthless junk, but worth is in the eyes of the beholder, and the three assistants share his reverence for discarded objects. Broken skis, blenders, and lamps can all be reincarnated, and half the fun is

finding a tenant who will appreciate some newly fashioned object. Steve's enthusiasm and creativity are so infectious that neither he nor his helpers are deterred by the building grouch, who thinks that the man should get a real job. The text aptly appears on torn scraps of paper or, in the case of the final words, a Band-Aid that Steve will need, having incurred a "work related" injury and convalescing in a homemade wheelchair! With his unmatched gloves and flippers, goggles, and hooded yellow slicker, Steve is a lovable comic figure. Roberts portrays him with a playful elasticity that perfectly matches Wong's playful story.â "Gloria Koster, West School, New Canaan, CT  
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\*Starred Review\* Riffing through rubbish isn't an activity that most grown-ups wish to encourage. But seasoned writer Wong cleverly spins the topic for children, leaving the actual diving to a grown-up who is clearly known to everyone in the featured apartment complex: "Our neighbor Steve the Electrician dives for buried treasure right smack here in our backstreet alley." The book's African American narrator describes how Steve enlists a "Diving Team" of children to dream up wild ways to reuse his finds, such as a blender lava lamp or a zany contraption held together by "thirty-two screws and a roll of duct tape." Essential to the book's charm are Wong's dry humor (rule number one of garbage immersion: "KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT") and Roberts' screwball watercolors, which capture the whimsy of the creations, the gross-out fun (cockroaches abound), and the breathless energy of all involved. The topsy-turvy artwork keeps things light, but adults will find plenty to talk about with children, from the value of creative conservation to safe modeling of the depicted activities (which include gathering junk from apartment tenants who may or may not be strangers). This will be popular anytime, but especially around Earth Day, when it will inject new possibility into enjoyment to reduce and recycle. Jennifer Mattson  
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This is an amazing children's book. I've read it to hundreds of kids over the past few years. I've never had anyone complain about nightmares. It ain't Goosebumps, after all.

So extremely cute! I bought this for a friend for their baby shower because we are dumpster divers. They LOVED the book. I will be purchasing the book again when the time is right.

This is a very funny book for kids and adults. As regular "treasure hunters" or "gar-bage (say it like it's french) shoppers" we are naturally interested in the dumpster diving movement. Although they

are usually locked around here, but people leave plenty of treasures out on garbage night! I like that they also covered safety and how you can get hurt dumpster diving. My kids are also very inventive so they love how inventive the characters are with the things they find in the dumpster. I also feel this lends a great story to the sustainability movement.

Inspired by Kerry Wade, an artist who takes old skis and turns them into chairs, Janet S. Wong crafted this colorful (thanks to illustrator David Roberts) story about Steve the electrician, also known as The Dumpster Diver. Every month, Steven dons his special dumpster diving suit, dives right in to the big trash bin, and counts on three young friends to assist him: one turns on the faucet, another keeps the hose from getting tangled up, and the other aims the nozzle at all of the nasty bugs and spiders that evacuate the dumpster in the wake of Steve's invasion - and then at Steve once he emerges from the dumpster. They turn "junk" into all kinds of neat toys, gizmos, and furniture. Lest you think otherwise, the book doesn't really encourage young children to follow in Steve's dumpster-diving footsteps. In fact, Steve ends up sustaining an injury from this little hobby of his. The real point of the story, I believe, is to pass along the idea that you can have fun by turning materials you might normally throw away or just have lying around the house somewhere into useful, fun things. In other words, one man's trash can be another man's treasure. This is a fairly large and colorful little book that young children should really enjoy - probably little boys more than little girls. Parents would do well to talk to their children about the story, though, not only because it could lead to some fun adventures that the parents can share with the child but also because you really don't want to come home from a hard day's work to find little Johnny sitting there surrounded by a bunch of broken toys and other junk he's collected from the neighbors.

My daughter loved this book. She enjoyed how Steve turns trash into treasure. She laughed out loud at his silly creations. I like the fact that the book promotes recycling. Her fifth birthday is coming up and I have been asked to read her favorite book to her class at school for her birthday. I asked my daughter what her favorite book is and she picked The Dumpster Diver. Interestingly, we don't own this book, but we checked it out from the library about a year ago. She still remembers this book as her favorite!

My 4.5-year-olds are so scared of this book. Reading it once has caused countless nightmares and kept them out of the children's museum (where they read it) for 6 months. We have to plan our museum visits around how we'll get around the bookshelf without seeing this book. It's about a guy

who digs through the trash to make fun stuff. Cool! My kids love making things! And then he gets hurt, goes to the hospital, and ends up in a wheelchair. HOLY WHAT? Way to kill the fun in making stuff. And reading. The illustrations are cool and recognizable because the characters all look like Iggy Peck.

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