



## Pass the Energy, Please!

By Barbara Shaw McKinney

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**Pass the Energy, Please!** By Barbara Shaw McKinney

Here is a favorite of elementary science teachers for the food chain. Each of the creatures passes the energy in its own unique way. In this upbeat rhyming story, the food chain connects herbivores, carnivores, insects and plants together in a fascinating circle of players. All beings on Earth--from the anchovy to the zooplankton--depend upon the green plant, which is the hero of the story. The special talent of the author shines again (see also *A Drop Around the World*) for being able to present the science curriculum so concisely, creatively, and cleverly. A 48-page Teacher Guide based on the book is also available (sold separately).

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## Pass the Energy, Please! By Barbara Shaw McKinney Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 1-5-McKinney presents the ecological food chain in a rhyming story. Couplets are frequently sketchy or vague. For example, in describing an owl, she writes, "Her wide yellow eyes, designed for the night,/get their glow from the reptile, captured in flight." Some rhymes are forced ("The vulture is known as a great opportunist/that preys on the fallen if finding it soonest") making the explanation of the links in the food chain even more confusing. Wallace's illustrations done in oil paints are large and colorful, showing fine details of birds, mammals, insects, and plants in their natural surroundings. There is no glossary to explain words such as "phytoplankton" and "zooplankton" and the rhymes that constitute the table of contents sacrifice understanding ("Link Number One-Born in the Sun"). Rice investigates the question of whether animals experience feelings such as compassion, loyalty, grief, deceitfulness, and love. Chapters are arranged by attribute. Although Calvert's illustrations are large and colorful, the text on each page is dense and daunting. Three out of 13 sources cited in the bibliography are old Reader's Digest articles (1964-79) with incomplete references. There is no table of contents, index, or glossary. All in all, there is not much coherent information in these titles.

*Blair Christolon, Prince William Public Library System, Manassas, VA*

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### Review

"...Full of beautiful, full color pictures, every child will enjoy reading or hearing this story read to them..." --  
*Education Clearninghouse, December 2002*

### Winner of the 2001 Skipping Stones Magazine Honor Award --

### From the Back Cover

Everyone is somebody's lunch. Each of nature's creatures "passes the energy" in its own unique way. In this upbeat rhyming story, the food chain connects herbivores, carnivores, insects and plants together in a fascinating circle of players. All beings on Earth -- from the anchovy to the zooplankton -- depend upon the green plant, which is the hero of this story. Barbara McKinney's special talent shines again for being able to present the science curriculum so concisely, creatively, and cleverly.

### Users Review

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#### Concepcion Maldonado:

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**Patricia Jones:**

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**Philip Newman:**

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