



What It Is. [By Lynda Barry]

By Lynda Barry

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What It Is demonstrates a tried-and-true creative method that is playful, powerful and accessible to anyone with an inquisitive wish to write or remember. Bursting with full-colour drawings, comics and collages, autobiographical sections and gentle creative guidance, each page is an invigorating example of exactly what it is: 'The ordinary is extraordinary'. Lynda Barry explores the depths of the inner and outer realms of creation and imagination, where play can be serious, monsters have purpose and not knowing is an answer unto itself. How do objects summon memories? What do real images feel like? These types of questions permeate the pages of What It Is, with words attracting pictures and conjuring places through a pen that first and foremost keeps on moving. Her insight and sincerity will tackle the most persistent of inhibitions, calling back every kid who quit drawing to feel alive again at the experiential level.

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What It Is. [By Lynda Barry] By Lynda Barry Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 9 Up—Every so often a book comes along that surpasses expectations, taking readers on an inspirational voyage that they don't want to leave. This is one such book. Each page is a feast for the eyes with beautiful full-page collages of photographs, watercolors, ink drawings, and text, resulting in a gorgeous volume that explores and encourages writing in a combination of ways. The author challenges readers with philosophical questions to ponder, such as What is an image? Where are they found? Can we remember something we can't imagine? The volume also acts as a workbook that successfully encourages teens to explore their own creativity through writing. In addition, autobiographical glimpses of Barry's journey from childhood to adulthood appear throughout the book. The struggles and obstacles she faces while following her path of becoming an artist and writer allow readers to believe in the possibility of writing themselves. This stunning book will appeal to those teens who are interested in delving into their creativity through words and art. The questions posed and valuable exercises that exist within its pages, along with the illustrations, could also make this book a valuable tool for English and art teachers in the classroom.—*Lara McAllister, Halifax Public Libraries, Nova Scotia*

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Review

Praise for Lynda Barry:

"Barry is, underneath the wonky handwriting and the quirky, naïve drawings, a great memoirist . . . Like [Tobias] Wolff and [Dave] Eggers, she finds a tone that accommodates self-criticism and self-irony without tipping over into self-loathing . . . but what she is particularly good at is resonance." --"The New York Times"

"Barry is not just a storyteller, she's an evangelist who urges people to pick up a pen--or a brush . . . and look at their own lives with fresh, forgiving eyes." --"San Francisco Chronicle"

"America's leading cartoon artist of childhood angst . . . The precise rightness of Barry's smallest observation puts TV's "The Wonder Years" to shame." --"Entertainment Weekly"

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About the Author

Lynda Barry has worked as a painter, cartoonist, writer, illustrator, playwright, editor, commentator and teacher and found they are very much alike.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alan Dean:

Here thing why this kind of What It Is. [By Lynda Barry] are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all studying a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content from it which is the content is as delightful as food or not. What It Is. [By Lynda Barry] giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no guide that similar with What It Is. [By Lynda Barry]. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your technique home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of What It Is. [By Lynda Barry] in e-book can be your alternate.

Edith Stewart:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love What It Is. [By Lynda Barry], it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Simona Vela:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this What It Is. [By Lynda Barry] guide written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, leaking every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still hesitation What It Is. [By Lynda Barry] as good book not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one publication that can break don't determine book by its handle, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Nathaniel Mathis:

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