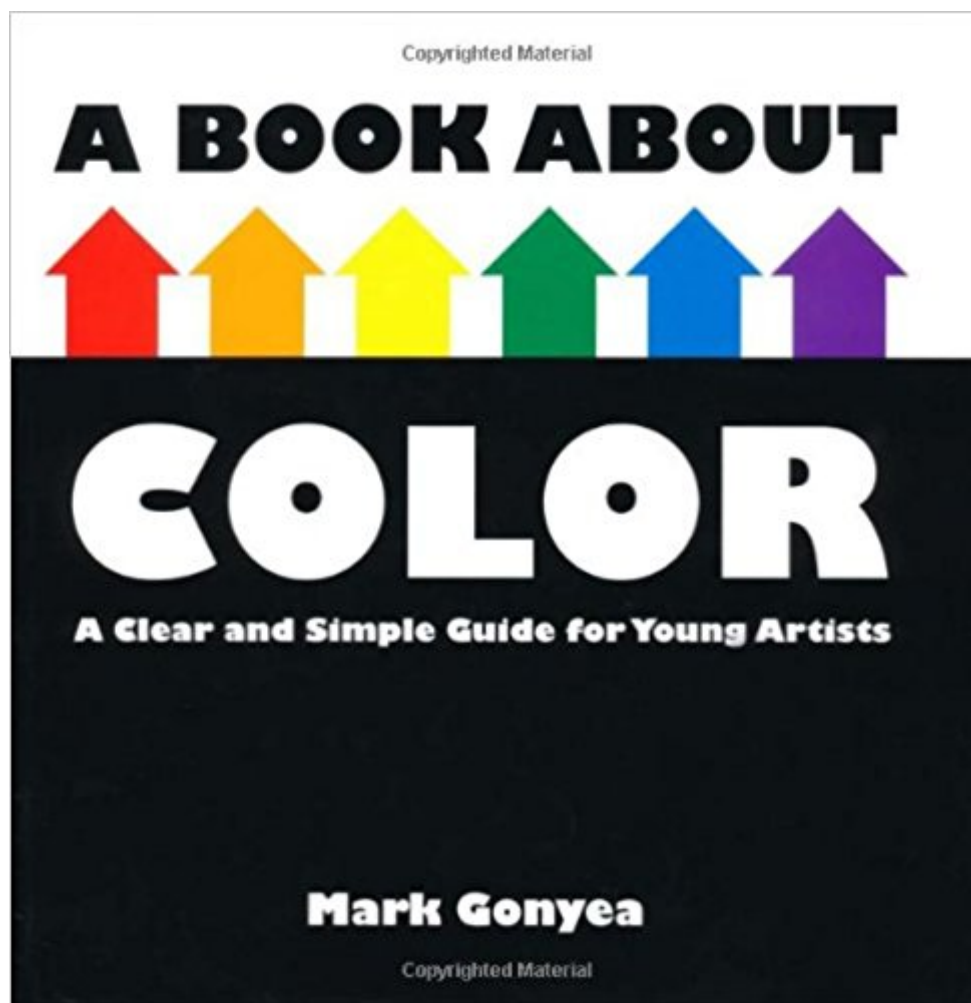




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# A Book About Color: A Clear And Simple Guide For Young Artists



## Synopsis

Beginning with the six houses on Color Street—red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple—and concluding with the introduction of the color wheel, in this follow-up to *A Book About Design* Mark Gonyea explains how artists visualize and choose colors. *A Book about Color* uses simple building blocks of color, shape, and design to introduce young artists to the world of color theory. *A Book About Color* is a 2011 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 1—*"Welcome to the Neighborhood"* begins this introduction to color theory. Information is divided into seven short chapters, beginning on Color Street where six houses shaped like upward-pointing arrows pop out against a black-and-white background. Primary colors are introduced, and the resulting secondary colors are explained in white text on bright solid-colored pages. Next, monochromatic illustrations accompany simple ideas associated with each color ("Blue is calm. Blue is wet."). Properties such as warmth, saturation, and value are presented with clarity. Finally, the houses on Color Street turn to form the familiar shape of a color wheel, bringing this explanation full circle. While books ranging from Kathleen Westray's *A Color Sampler* (Houghton, 1993) to Etienne Delessert's *Full Color* (Creative Editions, 2008) cover similar material, there is still something uniquely appealing about Gonyea's treatment that makes this introduction to color a primary selection.

—Lisa Glasscock, Columbine Public Library, Littleton, CO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gonyea, the author of *A Book about Design: Complicated Doesn't Make It Good* (2005)

and Another Book about Design: Complicated Doesn't Make It Bad (2007), returns to the familiar square format to introduce color theory. Topics presented include primary and secondary colors, warm and cool colors, saturation, and the addition of black and white. In the digital illustrations, simple forms in solid colors stand out sharply against white or other solid-color backgrounds. Though usually short, pithy, and conversational, the text is occasionally ambiguous. Complementary colors are said to "work well together" while (a few pages later) analogous colors are also said to "work well together" with little distinction made between the very different ways that these color combinations interact. Although visual rather than verbal content is the selling point here, this attractive volume offers plenty to observe, ponder, and discuss. Classroom teachers and art specialists will find the book a good entry point for discussing basic ideas about colors. Grades 2-5. --Carolyn Phelan

I purchased this clever book for multiple reasons: as a resource for my work in teaching, as a neat way to introduce the world of color and contrasts to my grandchildren, and perhaps most importantly, to give me some insight and inspiration for a developing work about color in painting that might evolve into a story book some day. As a painter, and as one who spent far too many hours creating color swatches in art school, this has proven to be a good tonic to understanding color without 'tears.' I recommend it to anyone curious about the way colors work together in the visual arts. It has proven to be a nice parallel read to another work in my studio, Victoria Finlay's COLOR: a natural history of the palette (2004).

This book makes understanding everything about color very simple as colors are introduced on "color street". The book was part of the curriculum in my daughter's art class so we bought it and it's amazing how much she has learned about color theory -- the color wheel, complementary colors, saturation, etc. Although the author uses some difficult words, he illustrates each concept very well. Definitely a must buy for a young artist!!!

I did not care for this book. In my opinion it left a lot to be desired re: facts about color. I do not think that this would be very engaging for anyone in any age group.

Awesome book about colors. My son loves this book. It truly is a great book for young artist. I think the best thing about this book is that it really does not have an age limit. Young kids can enjoy learning about colors and older people can learn more about color combinations, contrast and so on

EXCELLENT book for reinforcing color theory concepts for elementary students. It has become an essential tool in my teaching.

Includes lots of information on how colors work, not just how primaries are used to make secondaries. Has a "chapter" on complementary, neutrals, warm/cool. A great resource to read and share with young artists.

Good way to teach kids about the color wheel and mixing colors to create new colors.

Wonderful book about color theory for young artists. I have used this book as a complement to several lessons with different age groups.

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