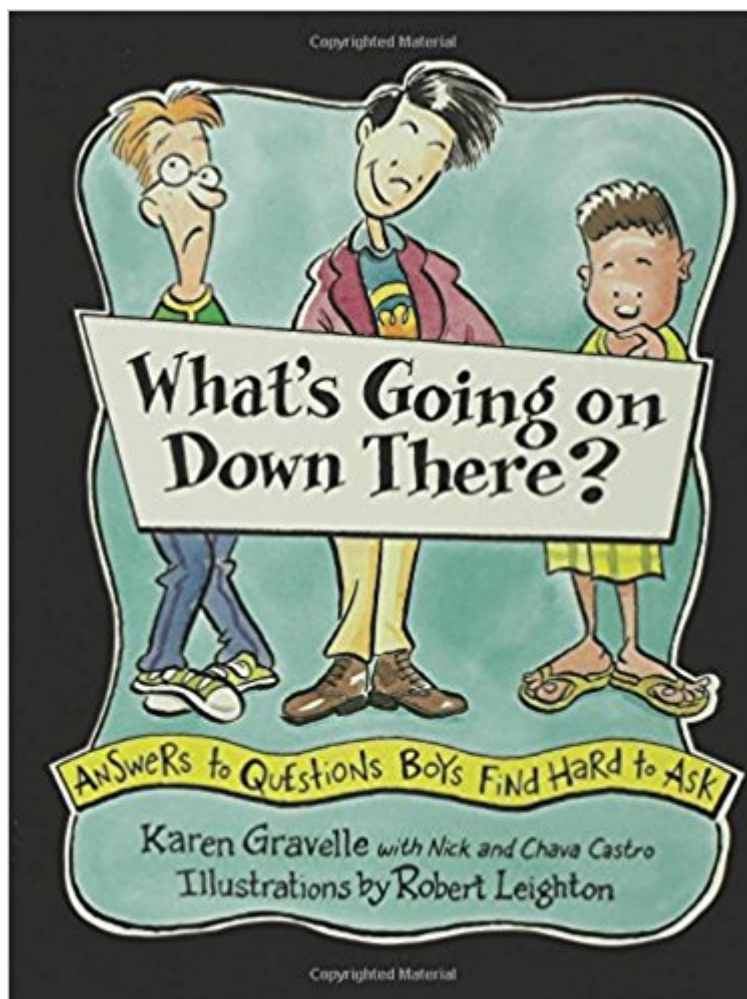


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# What's Going On Down There?: A Boy's Guide To Growing Up



## Synopsis

Why is my voice making such weird sounds? When will I be able to start shaving? Why do I keep getting pimples? What is a wet dream? Your body has been behaving very strangely lately. You hardly know what to expect from one day to the next. Karen Gravelle, with some help from her two young advisors, Nick and Chava Castro, has written a down-to-earth and practical book that will help guide you through this confusing time in your life. *What's Going On Down There?* answers any questions you might have about puberty, from what it is and what it feels like, to what puberty is like for girls, to how to handle the sexual feelings you may be starting to experience. Robert Leighton's funny and informative cartoons ease the confusion and exasperation you might feel. Part manual, part older brother, *What's Going On Down There?* will give you the facts you need to feel comfortable and confident about this new phase of your life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-10-The author of *The Period Book* (Walker, 1996) teams up with two teenage consultants to provide a useful and readable guide to puberty for boys. Written in the voice of a trusted adult, this title deftly covers physical changes, sexual intercourse, peer pressure, and pregnancy and birth. Gravelle reassures readers that there are a lot of different ways to describe normal when discussing puberty, and that each person will experience changes on his own timetable. The book balances information about being a sexual person with that of being a responsible person. While providing detailed and accurate information on genital size, birth-control devices, and sexually transmitted diseases, there is also an emphasis on the psychological changes occurring at the same time.

Homosexuality and bisexuality are covered in a frank and open manner. The chapter "Girls Are Changing Too" discusses changes readers can expect to see in their female friends and has detailed illustrations and information not typically presented in books for males. The text is complemented by comic-book style illustrations that serve to lighten the sometimes serious subject matter. Katie O'Dell Madison, Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Aided by two teenagers, Gravelle does for boys what she and her daughter did for girls in *The Period Book* (1996). As in the first book, the tone here is forthright without being sober or scary. Facts about puberty, sex, and sexually transmitted diseases, and also what happens to girls during puberty are presented clearly and completely, along with answers to an assortment of related questions. The authors also manage to slip in some counsel about wise decision making, though the emphasis is on information, not values. This is similar in scope to Paulette Bourgeois and Martin Wolfish's *Changes in You & Me: A Book about Puberty, Mostly in Boys* (1994), but it is much more thorough and contains a very detailed chapter on types of birth control, which Bourgeois and Wolfish barely mention. Teens looking for information about homosexuality will probably need to go elsewhere--to one of Thomas Ford's excellent books, perhaps--for a better discussion. Otherwise, this is a fine book, with lots of great cartoon artwork that adds fine comedy without compromising the importance of the subject. Stephanie Zvirin --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I got it for my 12 year old boy we seems to be from another planet right now. When it came I sat down and read the whole thing. I really learned a lot from this book. As a woman I had no idea how he feels about anything hes going through right now. First this book was a great read for a parent, especially a mom. Secondly this book covers anything and everything you could possibly wonder about boys puberty and sex. It is very honest about sex. Detail enough to understand without being raunchy. When I gave to my son he turned 35 shades of red and said he would never read it. Couple months later he has read some here and there. The cartoon drawings freaked him out at first making him feel like it was something bad to look at but after I explained that it was for learning he shrugged it off. Its a good book if your trying to open the conversation.

I purchased this wonderful book about Boy's and growing up for my 12yr son. I am a woman, so some questions I cannot answer or need to find out to help him and this book is fantastic for just

that! He is pleased he can look for himself to answer questions it might be hard to ask and a great guide to growing up! Kudos to the authors for Publishing this book - I believe every child should have a reference book - I would much rather he has something that is correct, to the point and about most everything he wants to know. Definitely recommend for parents to get their children - I would much rather he had this to answer his questions rather than asking his friends or getting the wrong information..

This book is awesome!!! My son is getting ready to go to middle school and with that said I felt that I needed to get ahead of what all of his school mates may share and expose him to. This book covers EVERYTHING. Including explaining what the changes that they may be noticing in girls and why. Which at first I was a little taken aback, but I would never want my son to embarrass a girl who may have had an accident. So, with that said . . . I have recommended this book to any and all of my friends and fellow Moms who have a son that is also on his way to Middle School. I would also like to add that the way the book is written is very relatable for a tween. I love that author worked with 2 Middle School aged boys and of course doctor(s) to write the book. It's not a clinical/encyclopedia delivery of information. I highly recommend this book!

This book is all about the facts of EVERYTHING. I am a nurse and I know what most kids are doing and talking about--I see them in the office getting tested for pregnancy and STDs when they're 14. You can teach your kids abstinence but I believe in teaching reality too. I have always been very frank and open about things like this with my two boys. I do not recommend this book for kids younger than 12, and depending on how aware your child is, you may want to wait longer. It discusses anatomy, development during puberty, masturbation, sex, and everything in between. You know your kid best, so you'll have to decide when they are ready for this book, but I gave it to my son when he was 13. It's information they are going to get one way or another and I think this presents it in a no-nonsense way that they can relate to.

As the "cool dad" I pride myself at being able to handle whatever parenting throws at me with panache, but even I'm a little unnerved about having to guide my little dudes through the perils of puberty. I read several other "growing up" books for boys and found that they handled the content awkwardly, became preachy, or veered wildly off topic. Not so here. "What's Going on Down There?: Answers to Questions Boys Find Hard to Ask" handles the content confidently and stays with a casual yet serious tone. I'm happy to use it as an asset in an ongoing conversation with my

kids. One small gripe: the kindle edition really needs a good editor, it's filled with typos and misprints. Go ahead and try to parse this gem: "But you also have several internal opening reproductive organs that you probably haven't been genital organs, whether aware of." (Kindle Locations 101-102) I thought I was having a stroke when I read that.

This is a good resource for boys entering puberty. My son just turned 11, and whether I'm ready for this or not, his body is starting to change. I of course am happy and willing to answer any questions he has, but this book gives him a way to find things out without needing to speak directly to me about embarrassing issues. I bought it for him along with another less specific book (the body book for boys by Rebecca Paley) and just put them on his bed. When he found out about it, he spent the next hour reading by himself. I asked later which book he liked better and this was the winner by far. It simply has the information he wants in a way he can easily understand. I also want to add that the mentions of bondage or S&M are total misrepresentations of what is in this book. There is an illustration of a boy on a rack (the torture device) being stretched, and a person in an executioner's type hood beside him, and the boy is saying "more! more!" Okay, if you are flipping through this book, you might see this drawing and imagine that it's demonstrating some bizarre sex act. However, if you actually READ the page, it's a kid who is shorter than his friends and wants to grow! Jeez people, read before you judge. It's a good, clear book. It tells information without judgement in a clear and direct way. It does go into detail... which is what the kids want to know. Knowledge is power.

I searched thru many books before selecting this book as one of 3 books for my rising middle schooler. I searched with care and was very particular about the content I wanted and did not want in the book. This book was perfect!!! Once I got it and read it, I felt even more comfortable giving it to my son. I have told him to read it when he feels up to it and come to either of his parents if he has questions. If looking at this book, I highly recommended this one. I don't think you will be disappointed.

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