



## What's the Matter in Mr. Whiskers' Room?

By Michael Elsohn Ross

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**"Oh, to be a kid in Mr. Whiskers' primary science classes! The next best thing is doing hands-on explorations at school or at home with this guide."**  
— KIRKUS REVIEWS

Mr. Whiskers, the teacher, has that wild look in his eyes again. That's the look that means, Get ready for hands-on science! This time the subject matter is . . . matter. Using seven science stations, Mr. Whiskers encourages his kids to use all their senses to make observations and draw conclusions. Everyone's a scientist in Mr. Whiskers' class, where hands-on mini-experiments lead to Big Ideas — and promote an ongoing passion for independent, open-ended discovery.

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3—Mr. Whiskers allows his eight students to spend the day exploring seven science centers around the classroom and on the playground. As the students experiment, they uncover "big ideas" about matter. For example, using water droppers allows them to figure out that matter takes up space, while playing with "gloop" points out that matter can be explored by using the senses. As each concept is revealed, it is displayed in the ink-and-watercolor illustrations on a bulletin board, banner, or clipboard. Although this book is not as fantastic as Joanna Cole's "Magic School Bus" stories (Scholastic), it takes a similar approach by encouraging students to learn through interacting with one another as well as with adults. Readers can follow the characters' thought processes through the narration and in dialogue bubbles. Mr. Whiskers provides a note to adults at the beginning about how students learn through exploration and again at the end by supplying information on how to create learning kits (including addresses for purchasing supplies).

Although adults might be able to glean some ideas from this book, it's really more for entertainment.—*Sandra Welzenbach, Villarreal Elementary School, San Antonio, TX*

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### About the Author

Michael Elsohn Ross is the author of more than forty books for children, most about science or world cultures. He lives right next to California's Yosemite National Park, where, for close to thirty years, he has been working as a naturalist, taking visitors on hikes and walks to learn all about the park. His ideas, he says, "come from my work as a naturalist and my adventures with school kids."

Paul Meisel is well known for his illustrations in more than thirty children's books, including the Cool Crazy Crickets books by David Elliott, *ALMOST LATE TO SCHOOL* and other picture books by Carol Diggory Shields, and books in the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out science series.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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