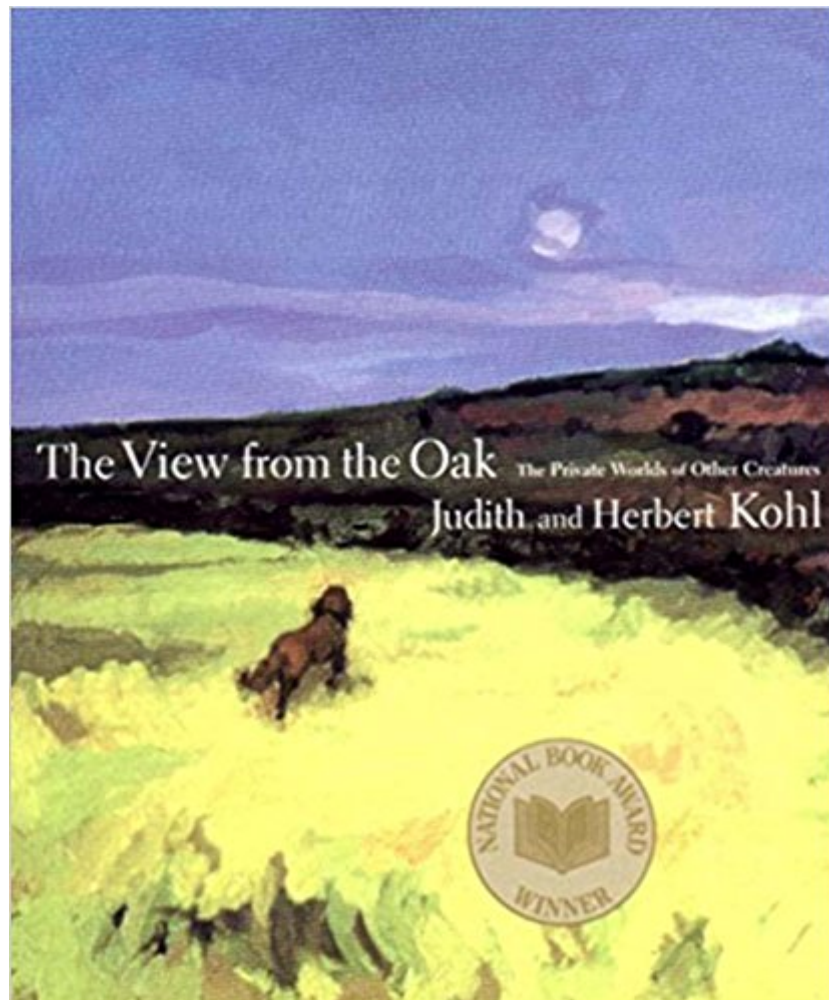




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# **A View From The Oak: The Private Worlds Of Other Creatures**



## Synopsis

Winner of the National Book Award for children's literature, *The View from the Oak* is a groundbreaking work of ethology—the study of the way animals perceive the environment—from two of America's most respected educators. With this new, illustrated edition, The New Press brings back into print this classic exploration of the strange but marvelous ways in which living creatures experience space, sense time, and communicate with each other. What do flowers in a meadow look like to a bee? How does the world appear to a snake who “sees” by detecting minute temperature changes? What is it like to live in the water strider's two-dimensional universe? Including hands-on games and activities, *The View from the Oak* helps readers enter into the fascinating, often invisible world of nature. It is a “superb book for families to share” (Winston-Salem Journal).

## Book Information

Paperback: 97 pages

Publisher: The New Press (October 1, 2000)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,738,436 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Zoology #1232 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science #1603 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Zoology

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 9

## Customer Reviews

A rare example of how science and philosophy can be fused in a book stretching the minds of readers... -- The National Book Award Citation Provocative and intriguing. . . . A superb book for families to share. -- Winston-Salem Journal

Herbert Kohl is a celebrated writer, teacher, and advocate. He is the author of more than forty

books, including "I Won't Learn from You": And Other Thoughts on Creative Maladjustment, Should We Burn Babar?: Essays on Children's Literature and the Power of Stories, The Discipline of Hope: Learning from a Lifetime of Teaching, Stupidity and Tears: Teaching and Learning in Troubled Times, She Would Not Be Moved: How We Tell the Story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and The Herb Kohl Reader: Awakening the Heart of Teaching (all published by The New Press), as well as the bestselling classic 36 Children. He is a co-author, with Judith Kohl, of The View from the Oak: The Private Worlds of Other Creatures and a co-editor, with Tom Oppenheim, of The Muses Go to School: Inspiring Stories About the Importance of Arts in Education, both published by The New Press. A recipient of a National Book Award and a Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, he was the founder and first director of the Teachers and Writers Collaborative in New York City, has served as a senior fellow at the Open Society Institute, and established the PEN West Center. In 2010, Kohl was named a Guggenheim Fellow in education. He lives in Point Arena, California. Judith Kohl is the coauthor of Pack Band and Colony and of The Long Haul.

This is a lovely book for the whole family. I imagine we'll read it several times over time. What a great idea to consider "the view" from several points of view.

changes viewpoints....see the world from the point of view of various critters....might also apply to viewpoints of people of different cultures. Just a thought.

With the exception of the one false sentence about Columbus, this book is very insightful. It provides a fascinating possible portrait of life from the perspective of ticks, spiders, dogs, birds, etc. A great read.

Herbert Kohl is a specialist for childrens' literature. But this book seems to be something different. Based on a classical biology which is prior to the molecular biology, the authors told readers this world is made of many creatures. You can't think it as a matter of course. Because he cited von Uexkull, it does not mean the "objective" world is made of diverse worlds of creatures but the world for human being is a part of worlds. Doing so, the authors guide us to the last chapter "Views of the Oak". At the end, we realize we can't decide even whether the oak is hard or soft, tall or small. Because depending on the relations to the oak, it can be changed. You can ask yourself why the title of last chapter is different from the title of this book. And enjoy this world view which is quite

similar to the world view of buddism. If children can read it and expand their imagination, how happy they are!

I am very happy to see that this book has been reprinted. I have two copies from the mid-70's, well-thumbed and dog-eared from being read so often. What the authors have to say about the way perception affects the world that we and other animals perceive, and how they say it, is timeless. To be read and enjoyed by everyone, from ages 10 and up.

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