



# Living Color

*Steve Jenkins*

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Red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, pink—animals can be startlingly colorful. Why are they found in so many shades, tints, and hues? From the scarlet ibis to the blue-tongued skink, award-winning author/illustrator Steve Jenkins depicts a whole world of colorful animals in his signature style. *Living Color* explores a range of animals from old favorites like the pink flamingo to rare and fascinating creatures such as the long-wattled umbrella bird and the ringed caecilian. How do the brilliant feathers, scales, shells, and skin of these animals help them survive? Find out in this strikingly beautiful book how animals use color to warn predators, signal friends, attract a mate, or hide from their enemies.

## Living Color Details

Date : Published September 10th 2007 by HMH Books for Young Readers

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Author : Steve Jenkins

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Nonfiction, Animals, Science

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# From Reader Review Living Color for online ebook

## **aarifa says**

Very interesting book. Good for anyone who wants to know what color means for animals. Good resource in the classroom, too.

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## **Colleen says**

3.5

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## **Becky B says**

Jenkins takes readers on a tour of bright colors in the animal world and what the purpose of flashy colors can be. Each page spread includes about eight critters who use that color in a variety of ways. A sentence accompanies each animal, and further information about all the animals included can be found in the back of the book.

I was curious to look up some of the things that Jenkins stated in here, because they run contrary to what I've heard in the past. For example, that Viceroy butterflies are also toxic, not just Monarchs and in fact it turns out Jenkins did his research. I found this article about their mutual mimicry. So this one taught me a few things too. This is a more advanced colors picture book great for older kids and animal lovers. The illustrations are very eye-catching and the book is full of nice little animal facts.

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## **Lisa Vegan says**

This is a picture book but it's not a storybook. It's an informative textbook/encyclopedia type picture book length book about animals and the meaning of their colors. The paintings are beautiful and, yes, very colorful.

Red, Blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, and pink are covered. All sorts of scientific facts and tidbits about various types of fauna are given. It shows these animals and how they use color to communicate or hide. I didn't find the text presentation scintillating but it could be fascinating for children who are interested in science, biology, and especially zoology, and could even attract the curiosity of budding young artists, although I can think of many better books for children interested in color, art and creating art.

I did learn quite a few facts about specific animals.

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## **Dolly says**

We've read several books by Steve Jenkins recently and we have enjoyed his style of combining short, factual bits of information with colorful, mixed-media illustrations.

This is an entertaining book that highlights how color is used in nature - how different colors are used for camouflage, warning, attractiveness, and identification. The illustrations are just as wonderful as we've come to expect in his books.

The narrative is rather long, so we only read a color or two each night. The end of the book features a section that gives additional information about each animal in the book and we enjoyed reading several of our favorites. We really enjoyed reading this book together.

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## **Ma Jiani?Marjorie? says**

The artist Steve Jenkins examines the dynamic palette of the natural world in an interesting volume of information. Jenkins shows different animals according to their colors (red, blue, yellow, green, and orange, purple, pink). This book provides information about animals based on their colors. Actually, this book can be used as a book for social learning courses. It is a very good book. It can be used as a classification class and put the habitat of certain animals.

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## **Melissa McMaster says**

This book shows how animals use different colors as a survival strategy. There are several examples of animals that use each color (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink) for varying strategies for survival (such as attracting a mate or blending in to the environment). The book ends with an explanation of how these survival strategies work and how animals developed their color schemes.

Living Color uses accurate descriptions of different animals and why they use color as an advantage for survival. There is a brief heading to each animal that catches your eye, and gives you an idea of what the survival strategy is, without even having to read the paragraph. The paragraphs provide descriptive explanations, and the name of the animal is bolded, so you can easily see what the animal is. The end of the book provides a chart as well that has additional information about each of these animals, such as size, habitat, and diet.

This book flows very well. The first page describes the purpose of the book, and also says that there is additional information about these animals in the back. This book categorizes the animals they describe by the color they are, and has the heading for the page and for each animal large and in the color that is being used. Before the chart of animals, the book concludes with more information about why animals use these various strategies, how animals came to be these colors, and even how lack of bright color is used to survive. Living Color is a well-designed book. The animals are categorized by color, and the headings are also in that color font. There is an illustration for each animal described, and the description for each animal is either right next to or right below each picture. The pictures are created by cut-paper collages, and are fairly detailed.

This book definitely demonstrates the author's enthusiasm for the subject of animal colors. The author describes the purpose for the color strategies, but also provides interesting facts about the animals (for example, that chameleons also use their color to express emotion). The headings for the animals are like an

introduction to the animal, and are interesting and humorous. The information about the animals is interesting, but also factual. This style of book could be used for teaching a variety of subjects, like vocabulary, and science. This book can also appeal to various ages, because animals are fun to learn about, and based on reading abilities and interests, you could pick and choose what you want to look at and read.

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### **Melissa says**

Really interesting and easily understood for kids.

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### **Jordan Davis says**

The colorful non-fiction book discovers unique animals and insects by separating them into color groups. First it discovers red animals from fish, to birds, to insects. It shows a picture of each animal while discussing unique facts about the animal and then describing how its color helps protect it in its habitat or helps them catch prey. The book then travels into each color: red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple and pink. An example of an unusual fact this book describes is one in the green section about the green tiger beetle. Did you know this bug emits a gross tasting substance when they are threatened? Interesting facts such as this one attract student's attention through out the entire book. After author, Jenkins, travels through animal's unique traits and facts he then discusses the importance of colors in animals. The book explains how animal colors are created, evolved and clever strategies animals use to survive. Finally author has a neat chart of each animal describing his or her length, habitat and diet. This book is one that children would be attracted to and enjoy reading.

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### **Lynn Davidson says**

Fascinating, informative book about colours in nature - birds and animals and how colour is used to their advantage. Five pages of extra information at the back of the book.

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### **Mary Anjali says**

This book is very informational and very easy to read, giving lots of vibrant pictures. There is also a little bit of humor added in for captions underneath the pictures to make it seem like the animals are talking.

This book as all of the informational features and would be great to launch for perhaps a Science unit, adaptations, environment, life cycles etc. Also, it would peak students interest if they were to do a report on an animal, (insect, mammal, amphibian, reptile) of their choice. This would also be a great book to do a categorization lesson and put certain animals with their habitats and place them in the correct locations on a map. (Social Studies)

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## **Christine Turner says**

### Terms of use

Red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, pink-animals can be startlingly colorful. Why are they found in so many shades, tints, and hues? From the scarlet ibis to the blue-tongued skink, award-winning author/illustrator Steve Jenkins depicts a whole world of colorful animals in his signature style. *Living Color* explores a range of animals from old favorites like the pink flamingo to rare and fascinating creatures such as the long-wattled umbrella bird and the ringed caecilian. How do the brilliant feathers, scales, shells, and skin of these animals help them survive? Find out in this strikingly beautiful book how animals use color to warn predators, signal friends, attract a mate, or hide from their enemies.

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## **Tricia Douglas says**

Since discovering Steve Jenkins' books through one of my Goodreads bookclubs, I have learned more information than I ever would! This one on animal colors and how their colors are used would be enjoyed by children and adults. The illustrations are wonderful as they are in all of his books. Additional information is always found at the back of the book for those readers who might really be into a topic. I am sorry that I hadn't found Jenkins' books when I was teaching. They are some of the best non-fiction books for children that I've ever read.

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## **Luann says**

This is quite a bit more involved than other Steve Jenkins books I've read. It has a LOT more text, but still the same amazing cut-paper collage illustrations that we've come to expect from Steve Jenkins. He goes through the colors red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, and pink, giving details of many animals sporting those colors and what those colors mean in the animal world. There are also two pages giving additional details about animal color, and an index at the end with more details about each animal shown in the book. A great book for older students.

Some facts I learned:

- \* No one knows why robins' eggs are such an extraordinary shade of blue.
- \* The Portuguese man-of-war is really a colony of thousands of smaller animals called polyps.
- \* The common cuttlefish can "hypnotize" shrimp and small fish with a mesmerizing display of changing colors. They stop to stare and the cuttlefish grabs them with its long tentacles.
- \* If there are no males around, a female parrotfish can change sex. The new male fish signals the change by turning bright pink, red, or yellow.
- \* Humans and other primates are among the few mammals that can see a wide range of colors. Almost all insects, amphibians, fish, reptiles, and birds have good color vision.
- \* A group of jellyfish is called a smack.

\* The Malaysian cherry-red centipede is large enough to eat the occasional lizard or mouse!

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## **Ch\_hayley Medsker says**

Steve Jenkins's *Living Color* can compare to a concept book for learners of all ages, a bit different audience than his usual young readers. The layout of this book is inviting and so creative, like many of Steve Jenkins's works. This informational book is organized into subsequent spreads of rainbow colors, each section explaining the reasons behind animals' brilliant colors. "If an animal is very colorful, it is likely that its brilliant skin, scales or feathers somehow help it stay alive." For instance, "Orange says...better not eat me or back off!" Each animal picture is accompanied by a small informational paragraph; it specifically links the animal's color to survival tactics such as camouflage, mating, or a warning to keep predators at bay. The cut-paper medium that Jenkins typically implements provides rich texture and detail to each unique animal depicted. The selections of animals are inventive as well. The animals chosen will likely be new to young readers, and many will need to be introduced to older readers as well. I for one was not familiar with the white uakaris or the ringed caecilian prior to reading this text. My favorite part of the book is the back where a picture index is provided with more tidbits of information about the fascinating animals. Steve Jenkins's texts featuring animals and their amazing abilities can be described as masterful, playful, extraordinary, engaging, accessible, and compelling.

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