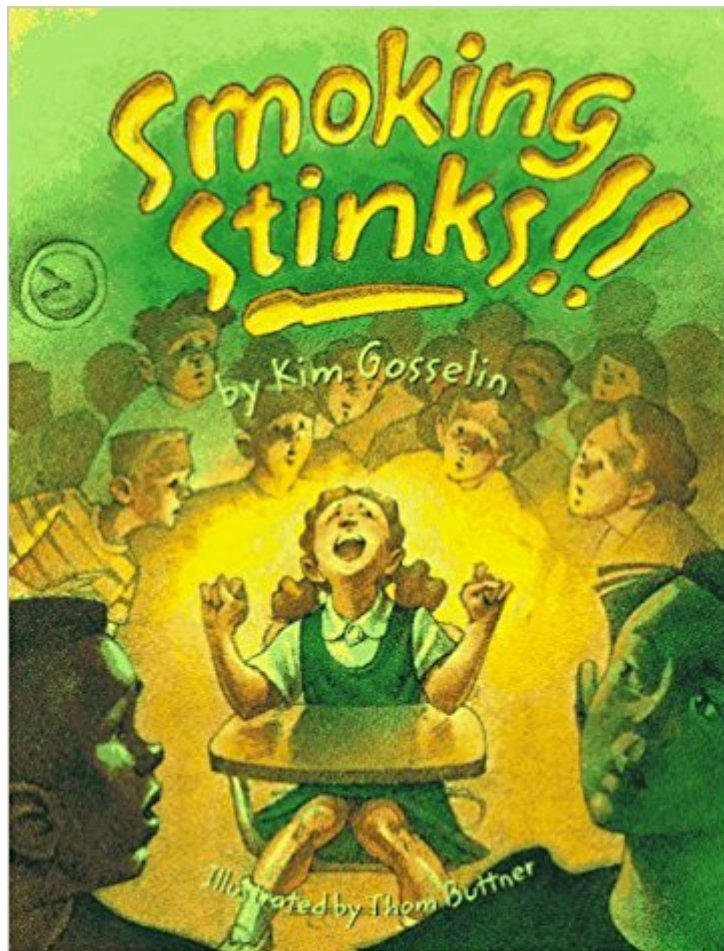




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# Smoking Stinks!! (Substance Free Kids Series)



## Synopsis

Maddie and Alex prepare for their school health report about smoking, and learn from Maddie's grandfather why he started smoking and why he hasn't quit. The story stresses the importance of never using tobacco products and the dangers of passive smoke, particularly to children with asthma and allergies. This book has received positive reviews from the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, and many health care professionals.

## Book Information

Series: Substance Free Kids

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: JayJo Books; 1st edition (January 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0963944959

ISBN-13: 978-0963944955

Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 8.9 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,937,657 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Substance Abuse #420 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Addiction & Recovery > Smoking

Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4? This pointed lesson is told as the story of a classroom health report. There's a bit of humor at the outset as Maddie, contemplating her grandfather's terrible cough, blurts out, "Smoking stinks!" Readers will empathize with her embarrassment as the teacher confronts her for her outburst and assigns smoking as the topic for her report. At lunch, she and a classmate discover that they both have health problems made worse by a family member's smoking, so they invite Maddie's grandfather to speak to the class about his habit. Buttner's charcoal sketches, suffused with subdued color, are grainy and robust, but somewhat inconsistent in the age and appearance of the two children. However, both classroom and home scenes are unpretentious and lively. The points made by Grandpa Norman are predictable: "There's NOTHING good about smoking." Endorsements from health professionals fill the jacket and endsheets, adding to the didacticism.

The story moves along well, though, and offers readers the chance to speak up about the smoking done around them. Readers will join the class in cheering Grandpa Norman as he throws away his cigarettes. The classroom scenario should be a comfortable means of introducing discussion on this pressing topic. Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 2<sup>-3</sup>, younger for reading aloud. Maddie can't concentrate in school one day because she is so frustrated and worried about her grandfather's smoking. He keeps her up at night coughing, and the smoke aggravates her allergies. Later, while working on her report for health class, she asks her grandfather to tell her about why he smokes. He explains the addictive powers of nicotine and describes the diseases smokers get. Yes, it is didactic, but Maddie's concerns ring true, and the author gives the right amount of information to make her point without overburdening the story. Artist Thom Buttner draws people with highly expressive faces, and the illustrations, on textured paper, are several notches above the norm for a book so clearly intended to present a message. Susan Dove Lempke

I use this book when I teach my smoking unit. I think the book is very well written. Every year my students reaction to this book says it all. The react and learn about the subject of the book, smoking. We have heartfelt discussions about the book and their own personal stories. My goal is that my students learn never to start smoking and to have some compassion for those who are trying to quit smoking.

Love this book. I use it for classroom guidance and my second graders love it!

Very good product, it came in on time and in good shape. i will order more when i need more of this product. Very useful for my desk. I like the entire item i get from they always come in time and good shape.

Adults who are addicted to tobacco often wonder how they can have the moral authority to tell their children not to smoke. This book will help them keep their children from falling into the tobacco addiction trap. This excellent illustrated book tells about smoking from the points of view of a girl and her grandfather. The information from the grandfather is particularly compelling. He explains to his granddaughter that he still smokes because he is addicted and has tried many times to stop. He

expresses anger that he is addicted. The granddaughter observes people smoking and chewing tobacco. Her observations and the illustrations convey the "yuckiness" of tobacco. Some people who are not moved by long-term consequences, can understand the unattractive, unappealing aspects of tobacco. Between the girl's observations and the grandfather's discussion, children experience both the short and long term effects of smoking. This book should be interesting and accessible to elementary school and middle school-aged children and adolescents. Parents who are recovering from other types of addictions might also make use of this book when they talk to their children. Carol Watkins, M.D.

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Fabulous storyline and pictures--the story of a girl doing a research project on smoking for her health class; her grandfather is a smoker. Appropriate for grades 1-6.

Such a great book to teach children to never touch cigarettes! It's very important to teach the future generation and to raise awareness and make them realise how dangerous smoking is.

The real truth of this story is lost in the sensationalist notion of it's topic, namely smoking. Obviously the authors are no shareholders of RJR or Phillip Morris. But, bury a bad-mannered girl who loses the ability to conduct her in a civil manner, by raising her hand to make her sentiments known for instance, in a topic about smoking, then all is well and good, right? Wrong. If this had been a book about anything else, we'd have been outraged at the manners of this child, yet, because it deals with second hand smoke, we tolerate it. For shame. Put this child in the corner, then let her voice

her sentiments. Teach her some manners, then she can talk about others' and their right to smoke freely, particularly adults (whom she feels the need to criticize). A bad-mannered, foul-mouthed little girl, in need of serious civility.

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