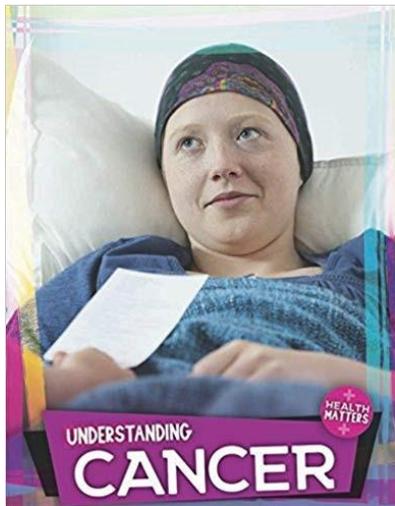


**MACMILLAN**  
**CANCER SUPPORT**  
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

# BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



## **Understanding cancer (2018)**

Duhig H.

King's Lynn: Booklife Publishing, 2018.

32pp.

ISBN 9781786373397.

**Average star rating 4.5 (out of 5)**

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Cancer can be a very frightening word for children if they, or a family member or friend, are diagnosed. This book illustrates cancer very clearly, with pictures, facts and explanations that can ease the whole experience. It is very realistic, showing all the stages that anyone goes through, but ends positively by considering ongoing research and technology. I like the fun aspect of fundraising that is illustrated.

It is a very informative and useful reference book for young people with cancer, or who know someone with cancer. It is also useful for parents, family, and friends and health professionals who may need to explain things to patients. It can be used through all stages of the cancer journey. It is very easy to understand for children who can cope with the realities of a cancer journey; I particularly like how medical words are displayed and how the authors explain very simply how to pronounce them. There is a very useful glossary and helpful index. The cover illustrates the realities of cancer and the book is illustrated throughout in a friendly manner.

Overall, a very practical and positive book of facts about cancer for children to refer to on their journey. It is suitable for children who can understand the realities of cancer (probably at least ten years old). It is very informative and honest.

**Daughter of parent who had cancer (56-65) (April 2019)**

A fabulous information book for older children (eight and older) about having cancer and what can happen. It is also useful for parents, family and friends of children affected by cancer, and health professionals, anyone in fact. The layout is fantastic, with clear text and amazing photos. It's not at all patronising. New or 'hard' words are in bold and explained in a simple glossary. There is also an index. The illustrations are clear and hard hitting at times. The cancer cells are particularly fascinating.

I like everything about it, but especially how it doesn't try to make it all ok – it tells it like it is. I can't really sing its praises enough, so will end this review now with just one more word... fab-u-lous!

**Living with cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome) and former teacher of 3-16-year-olds with SEN (46-55) (October 2018)**



This is a good, general, initial text for any child curious about cancer and wanting to find out more. It will be more useful for a child directly affected by cancer to read later, during or after treatment. I would not suggest it immediately after diagnosis – the detailed information might be overwhelming.

It is a good size for its target age group and its bright colours and uncluttered cover make it attractive for a child to pick up spontaneously. The clear text is well laid out and the content is well structured; it follows a logical sequence and will answer a broad spectrum of children's initial questions. It is very easy to understand, with good explanations throughout. The diagrams are well labelled. I particularly like the phonetic interpretations of medical terms – these make the text accessible to younger children. There is a simple but effective glossary and an index.

This is an excellent initial reference for a child wanting to find out general information about cancer. It covers a broad spectrum of initial information and topics related to cancer, combined with case studies of cancer treatment. The case studies are well written from a child's perspective and most children would be able to identify with the comments made. The section on health professionals involving the whole family in hospital visits and discussing treatments would be reassuring to a child.

It will be good on a school bookshelf but possibly not as a first text for a child directly affected by cancer for the reason given above. I would recommend it as a general read for a primary school child wanting general information. Although the diagrams are very good I do wonder if some of the close-up photos would be alarming – for example, donating bone marrow (p. 25) and possibly leukaemia cell (p. 14) – and might lead to some misunderstandings, particularly for a younger child.

**Living with lymphoma. A teacher with experience of working with children who have a family member with cancer (46-55) (May 2019)**

This is an excellent reference book for children aged six to 12 to understand cancer, how it is diagnosed and treated and how people cope. It is particularly good for children who have cancer and those who have a family member with cancer. It talks about feelings and is positive, with information on research and developments in treatment. It is easy to understand, and words are explained well. The illustrations are mostly photographs and explain things well.

It is very good at explaining the types of cancer. The only thing I would like to see is a page about surgery. Chemotherapy and radiotherapy are covered, but not surgery. It might not be so frequent in children, but many children will know someone who has had surgery – e.g. a mum for breast cancer – where a stay in hospital could happen.

This would be a very good book to have in a school classroom and a hospital cancer unit. It even talks about fundraising. A good book all round.

**Breast cancer survivor with seven grandchildren (46-55) (September 2018)**

# Further information

## Why does Macmillan Cancer Support review books?

We use reviews to help us compile a list of suggested cancer books, the [Macmillan Core Book List](#). Cancer information centres and public libraries can use this list to select appropriate and relevant books for people affected by cancer.

We add reviews to the [Directory of information materials for people affected by cancer](#) so that people affected by cancer can see what others in a similar situation think about a book. You can also see details of all the books reviewed in the [Book reviews listing](#), which also has links to all the reviews.

We recruit most of our reviewers through the [Volunteering Village](#) and the [Cancer Voices Network](#), people affected by cancer who have signed up to help Macmillan Cancer Support in a number of ways. Volunteers are a vital part of our book review process; since 2007, over 1,500 Macmillan volunteers have written more than 6,000 reviews of over 500 different books.

If you are a health professional who would like to review books for us, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

## Information and support for people affected by cancer

If you are looking for support to help you live life with cancer, you may wish to contact one of [Macmillan's cancer information and support services](#). Or you can call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00** (Mon-Fri 9am–8pm). We have an interpreting service in over 200 languages. Just state, in English, the language you wish to use. If you are deaf or hard of hearing you can use textphone no 0808 808 0121 or Text Relay.

You can also email us using the [website enquiry form](#). Alternatively, [visit our website](#).

## Feedback

If you have any comments, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

**We're here to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can, providing physical, financial and emotional support. So whatever cancer throws your way, we're right there with you.**

**For information, support or just someone to talk to, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit [macmillan.org.uk](http://macmillan.org.uk)**

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