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Fantastic Feats and Failures

Sandra L. Tidwell

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Editors of Yes Mag. *Fantastic Feats and Failures*. Kids Can Press, 2004. ISBN 1553376331.
\$17.95. 52 pp.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational Books;

Subject: Engineering Successes-Juvenile Fiction; Engineering Failures-Juvenile Fiction;

Fantastic Feats and Failures introduces readers to the work of engineers in designing and building amazing structures. The editors of *Yes Mag*, a bimonthly science magazine for school-age youngsters, chose twenty buildings, bridges and other engineered projects and presented them as examples of either successful engineering endeavors or failures. Among these are the Sydney Opera House, the Eiffel Tower, the Panama Canal, the Hubble Space Telescope, and the World Trade Center. The reader sees the problems that the engineers face on each project such as, use of materials, environmental concerns and structural forces. With each success or failure, engineers have learned valuable lessons which have been used to plan and construct other edifices.

The editors have developed detail-filled text, used various text font sizes, and added numerous colored illustrations to keep the interest of the young reader. A detailed index and a glossary add to the usefulness of this book as a learning tool for the budding engineer. Easy-to-follow science projects are also included such as the "Goodie-Goodie Gumdrop Dome" and "Build a Bridge" that will interest older children as well.