

# HACKMATAACK

## 2006

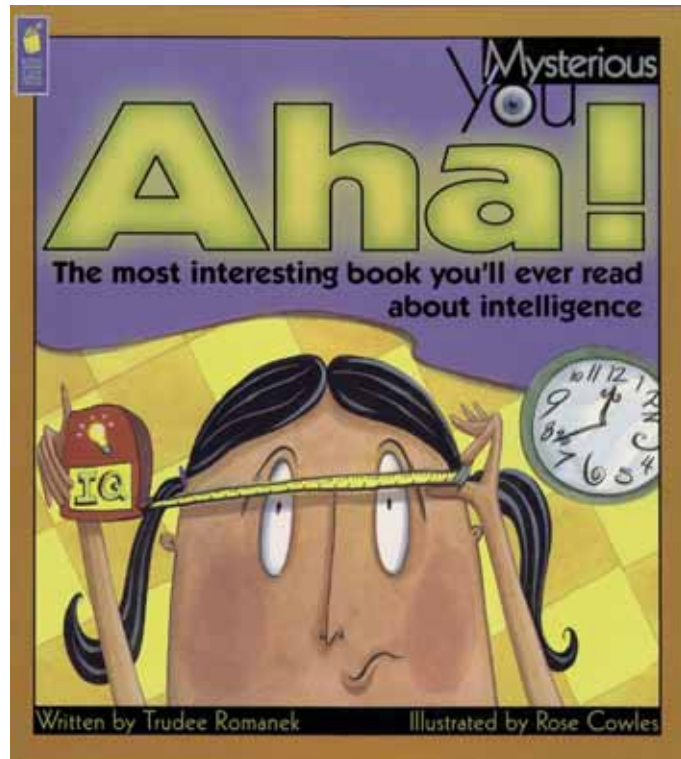
### ***Aha! The Most Interesting Book You'll Ever Read About Intelligence*** by Trudee Romanek

Have you ever wondered what makes you better at math, or makes your cousin a better reader? Or why people sometimes say left-handed people are more creative? Scientists have developed ways to measure how smart people are, describe the different ways in which we are intelligent, and even find out what parts of the brain we use for which activities.

Did you know that it's the outer layer of your brain — just half a centimeter thick! — that does all of your complicated thinking? Or that your level of intelligence actually drops when you're off school for the summer? Or that by giving your brain tough problems to work out, you can actually stay smarter?

In *Aha!* you'll read some incredible stories about real people — a top math student at Sheffield University who had very little brain tissue at all, the Wild Boy of Aveyron who couldn't learn to talk because he spent his childhood in the wilderness, and William James Sidis, a genius who became a university professor at the age of 17.

You can also try answering some IQ questions or figure out if the right half or the left half of your brain is stronger.



### **Thematic links:**

AD/HD, dyslexia and other learning differences (disabilities)  
Physiology of the brain  
Psychology  
Computer vs. brain

### **Activity Ideas:**

*Aha!* contains seven ready-made activities (each entitled 'You Try It') for readers to carry out. These include:

- testing whether you are right- or left-brain dominant
- trying some challenge activities to exercise your brain
- exploring whether you prefer learning with words or pictures
- answering sample IQ questions
- modifying what you eat to see if it affects your performance
- testing your dog's intelligence
- investigating which different areas of intelligence you possess