



Discover the new

**WAS**  
**IST**  
**WAS**

*Because Knowledge Empowers.*

TESSLOFF





## *Dear colleagues,*

We want to make children curious about the world they live in. With our new concept of the WAS IST WAS Book Series, we invite them to take a closer look at things, to see them in context, to search for answers, and to ask new questions. Reading comprehension and a thirst for knowledge are essential skills in a world full of information – and with the new WAS IST WAS, every child will find something that makes them want to keep reading.

As a children's book publisher, we feel a strong responsibility to care for the world we will leave to future generations. That's why we've set ourselves ambitious sustainability targets in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. We're not there yet, but we're constantly learning and making progress. And of course, our focus on sustainability is also reflected in the new WAS IST WAS books!

The new WAS IST WAS is an ambitious project that has involved all of us here at TESSLOFF in different ways, and we're very proud to present our new books to you! On the following pages we invite you to take a closer look at the concept and layout – and to immerse yourself in our topics.

Have fun discovering the new WAS IST WAS world!

## *Your TESSLOFF Foreign Rights Team*



# *Because Knowledge Empowers!*

**WAS IST WAS has been a constant in children's non-fiction for decades. Over the years we've continued to write our successful brand story, and in 2024 we're adding a new chapter – with an all-new WAS IST WAS!**

**Our vision: To inspire a love of knowledge in every child.**

**Our ambition: No subject is too difficult to make it simple and understandable for kids.**

### *Shaping the future*

With the new WAS IST WAS, we encourage children to become lifelong explorers and scientists – and to use their knowledge to shape our future. Expertise at the highest level, explained in simple terms and always at eye level – that is, and will remain, our brand promise. The new books have been developed on a solid foundation of market research, which confirms that we've never been closer to our target audience – kids and parents love the new WAS IST WAS!

### *The new WAS IST WAS stands for:*

- **Complex topics made simple and fun**
- **The very latest knowledge from renowned experts**
- **An immersive approach to fascinating topics**

For the new WAS IST WAS, we look into tomorrow's innovations, talk to today's experts, and bring ancient ruins back to life – so that we can find the very best topics for our current and future readers, all the while building on our experience as one of Germany's leading publishers of children's non-fiction.

**»We invite children to look to the future with curiosity and confidence. The new WAS IST WAS supports them with that! «**

**Katja Meinecke-Meurer**  
TESSLOFF CEO



# A closer look

We have reinvented WAS IST WAS! We wanted to make sure that our new concept was really in line with what kids aged 8 and up want to read.

Pictures and text support each other and help the reader to understand the topics easily. Speaking of pictures, we've tried to find the best and most striking photos and graphics for each topic - for a real WOW effect on every page that makes you want to know more! The clear layout helps young readers find their way around the book. Elements such as timelines, infographics or extra facts and tips keep things interesting and fun.

Do you prefer to read from start to finish, or skip around and find the most exciting parts first? Whichever way you choose to read the new WAS IST WAS, each double-page spread stands on its own and offers a variety of entry points into the respective topic. Our amazing authors are true experts in their fields! They offer insights and first-hand knowledge that you won't find anywhere else. They all share a passion for passing on their expertise in a way that excites young readers.

Without further ado, here's what the new WAS IST WAS looks like:

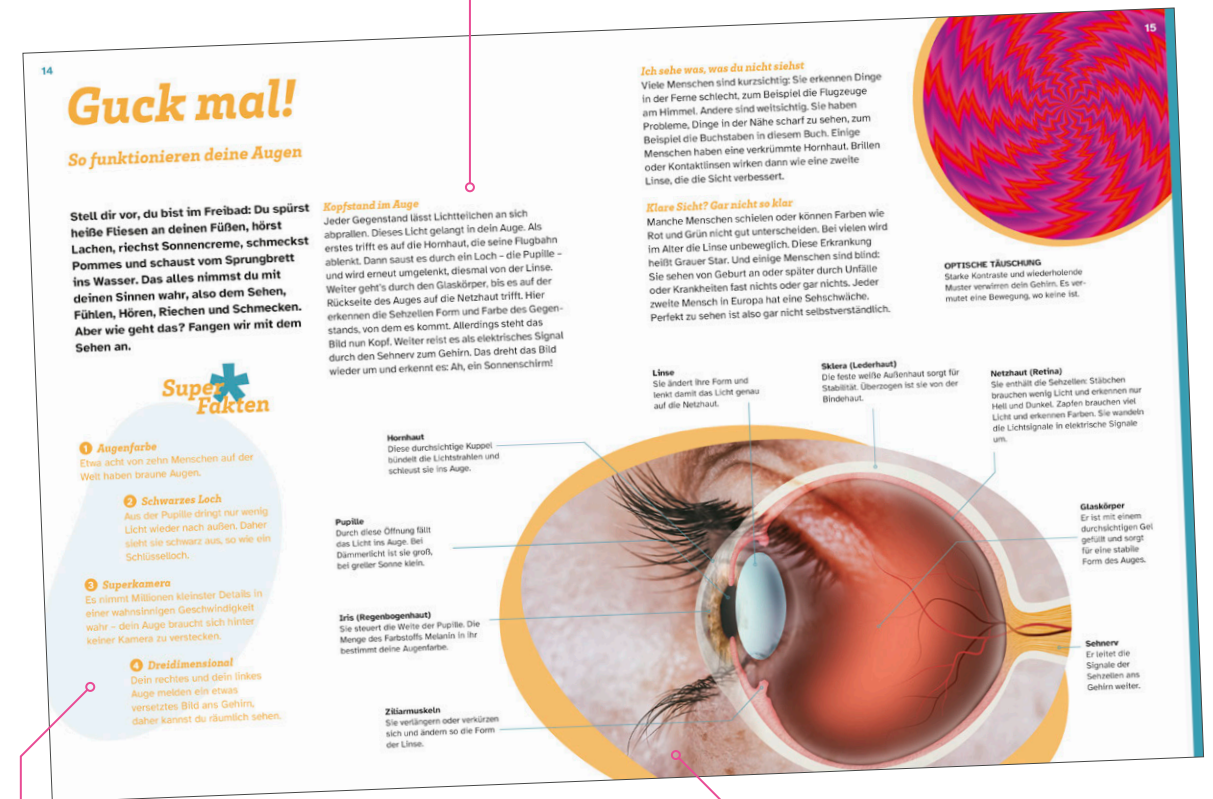
Multiple entry points into the topic



Clear, reader-friendly layout for easy orientation

Combination of pictures and text supports intuitive understanding

High-contrast text for easy reading



Exciting SuperFacts

Stunning infographics that put information into context

Powerful, engaging images that spark children's curiosity

Expert knowledge on children's eye level



Empowerment through easy-to-follow action tips



# Fall 2024



**Ancient Rome.** A City That Changed The World



**Bees.** Buzzing Geniuses



**Coral Reef.** Right at the Heart of it all



**Democracy.** Your Vote Counts



**Dinosaurs.** Super Lizards of Prehistoric Times



**The Earth.** Our Unique Planet



**Firefighters.** Full Commitment



**Green Energy.** Power for the Future



**Horses.** Friends, Freedom, Adventure



**Inventions.** How Ideas Change the World



**Jellyfish.** Is It All Just Goo?



**Owls.** Hunters with Super Senses



**Planets.** Our Distant Neighbours



**Spiders.** Eight-Legged Acrobats



**Your Body.** Everything you're made of

# Spring 2025



**Ancient Egypt.** Gods, Mumies, Pyramids



**Astronauts.** Fly to Space with Us!



**Cats.** Strong-Willed Felines



**Deep Sea.** Survival in Darkness



**Dolphins.** Always in a Team



**Germany.** Where and How We Live



**Knights and Castles.** Let's go to the Middle Ages!



**Lizards.** Little Dragons up Close



**Mission Control Centre.** Contact to Space



**Police.** On Duty for You



**Rainforest.** Wild Green World



**Robots.** Helpers with Superpowers



**Slime.** Gross? No, genius!



**Trains.** All Aboard!



**Volcanoes.** Pretty Hot!



# Fall 2025



**Ancient Greece.** A Time of Myths and Ideas



**Bats.** Swiftly Through the Night



**Below Ground.** Hidden Worlds



**Dogs.** On your Paws, get set, go!



**Europe.** Together Into the Future



**The Human.** From the Stone Age till Today



**Minerals and Rocks.** Treasures of Nature



**Mummies and Bog Bodies.** What They Tell Us



**Octopuses.** Eight Arms and Three Hearts



**Prehistoric Mammals.** From Flying Squirrels to Mammoths



**Snakes.** Scaly Skin and Super Senses



**The Sun.** Mega Hot and Super Bright!



**The Universe.** Galaxies, Stars, Black Holes



**Weather.** From Sunshine to Wild Storms

To be continued in Spring 2026

Photo Dr. Johanna Sigl © Martin Sänhof

## Ancient Egypt – Gods, Mummies, Pyramids



Let's go to Ancient Egypt! How did this fascinating civilisation develop? What was the significance of the Nile? And how were pyramids built? We go in search of clues with our author, attend a mummification and explore everyday life in ancient Egypt.

### DR. JOHANNA SIGL

She works at the German Archaeological Institute in Bonn and frequently visits Egypt for excavations. Her favourite research topic is daily life in Ancient Egypt.



## Ancient Rome – A City that Changed the World



Life in Ancient Rome was much more than wars, numbers and vocabulary lists – it was every bit as exciting as a good movie. All you have to do is ask the right questions! In this volume we follow children's curiosity and show unique images that bring Ancient Rome back to life. Topics relevant to our everyday life are explained at children's eye level.

### DR. ANDREA SCHALLER

The author has been writing for WAS IST WAS for many years: She knows what kids want to know about history, and how to make it come alive.



Photo Dr. Andrea Schaller © Private

Each title: 48 pp, 22.3 x 29 cm, HC, 8+



## Astronauts – Let's fly to Space!



What does it feel like to be in space? What does it mean to live in weightlessness for months on end? Far away from Earth and surrounded by stars? A book that not only provides exciting insights into space travel, but also shows how much perseverance, team spirit and courage the dream job as an astronaut requires. Ready for a galactic adventure?

### DR. VOLKER KRATZENBERG-ANNIES

For many years, he was responsible for public relations at the German Centre for Aerospace (DLR) and the European Space Agency (ESA). Today he works in the DLR's programme for young scientists.



Photo Dr. Volker Kratzberg-Annies: © Private

Photo Judith Weber: © Katja Illner

## Cats – Strong-Willed Felines



From a standing position, they jump five times as high as they are tall and if they sneak up on their prey, it doesn't stand a chance. Cats are wild, skilful and have real personalities. And yes, of course they are also really cute. But where does cat behaviour come from? How do you interpret their body language? A book to help you understand these beloved pets even better.

### JUDITH WEBER

She writes books for children, young people and adults. Her wish is that people will understand cats better after reading this book.



## Bees – Buzzing Geniuses



Around 200 bees have to work their whole lives to make a single jar of honey. But these hardworking insects are being threatened by shrinking habitats and the use of pesticides. With stunning macro photography and surprising facts, this volume shows what bees can do – and why they're so important for the ecosystem.

### NICOLE RÜNDIGS

In this book she shows just how interesting, amazing and important these tiny creatures are.



Photo Nicole Ründigs: © Ulrike Schacht

Photo Dr. Stephanie Helber: © Sergey Savenko

## Coral Reefs – Right at the Heart of it all!



Coral reefs are the largest structures ever built by a living creature, and among the most species-rich places in the world! They are home to tiny slugs, well-camouflaged seahorses, brightly coloured starfish, and giant turtles. We dive in to find out how reefs are formed, and why they are now under threat.

### DR. STEPHANIE HELBER

The marine biologist shares her fascination with the underwater world with kids in this book..



Each title: 48 pp, 22.3 x 29 cm, HC, 8+



## Deep Sea – Survival in the Dark



Only five per cent of the Deep Sea has been explored. The authors take us into this dark, cold world full of fascinating creatures. We accompany frogfish and sperm whales as they hunt, explore cold-water corals and dive to the wreck of the Titanic. With impressive underwater footage and ideas for protecting this unique world.

ULI KUNZ /  
DR. FLORIAN HUBER

For the two research divers and science TV presenters, the deep sea is the most important habitat on our planet!



Photo Uli Kunz: © Florian Huber, Photo Dr. Florian Huber: © Uli Kunz

Photo Dr. Manfred Baur: © Julia Furch

## Dinosaurs – Super Lizards from Prehistoric Times



Kids love dinosaurs! WAS IST WAS Dinosaurs is the most successful title in the series and has sold more than a million copies since its first edition. We're continuing the success story with our brand-new concept. With cool facts and pictures, kids find themselves immersed in the life of these superlizards.

DR. MANFRED BAUR

Dr. Manfred Baur has been fascinated by prehistoric animals since childhood. Nobody knows dinosaurs better than him.



## Democracy – Your Vote Counts



It's one of the most important topics of our time. People protest to make their voices heard, they vote to participate, and we are all invited to express our opinions and discuss issues with each other. We want to share the values of democracy with all children – and encourage them to take an active part in shaping their world.

ANDREA WELLER-ESSERS

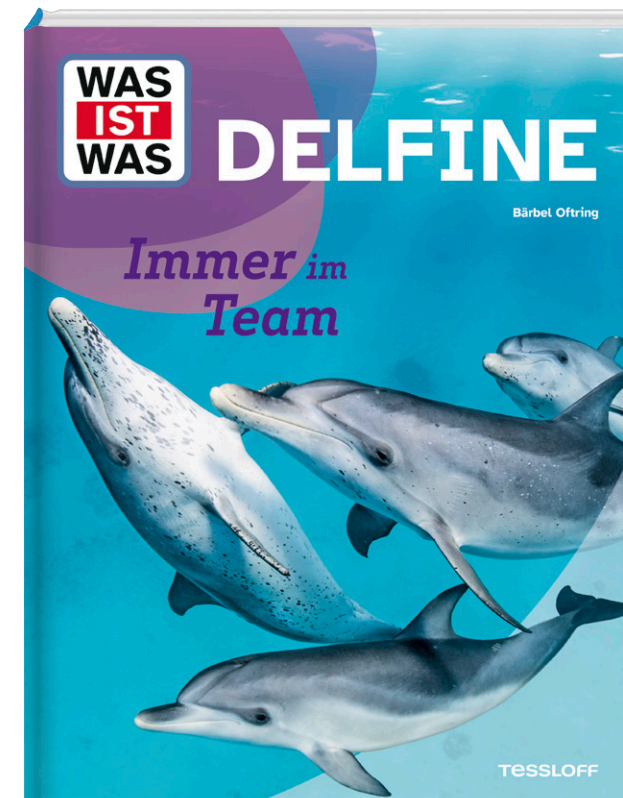
Passing on the values of our democracy to kids is close to Andrea Weller-Essers' heart.



Photo Andrea Weller-Essers: © Silke Reents

Photo Bärbel Oftring: © Private

## Dolphins – Always in a team



They are smart, agile and have some amazing tricks up their sleeves: Dolphins can talk to each other, organise themselves into groups and even use tools. We go hunting with these marvellous animals, surf the waves with them and experience the upbringing of their young. With lots of specialised knowledge for future marine researchers.

BÄRBEL OFTRING

Even as a child, she was fascinated by nature. The biologist loves watching dolphins and dreams of traveling the seas with these wonderful animals.



Each title: 48 pp, 22.3 x 29 cm, HC, 8+



## The Earth – Our Unique Planet



The Earth is our home and the only known planet that can support life. Throughout its history, continents have formed, mountains have risen, deep ocean trenches have opened up, and volcanoes have erupted. What else makes it special? And how is it being changed by us? An exciting book about our planet and the urgent need to protect it.

### KAROLIN KÜNTZEL

She wants to share her fascination for animals, plants and nature with curious children and motivate them to protect the Earth.



Photo Karolin Kuntzel: © Franziska Nettel

Photo Andrea Weller-Essers: © Silke Reents

## Germany – Where and How We Live



Germany is more than the sum of its federal states. There is much to discover here: animals, plants and the traces of an eventful history. We paint a lively, diverse picture of Germany that invites children to join in. In sport, climate protection or democracy.

### ANDREA WELLER-ESSERS

For her, the best thing about Germany is the many dialects and that the German language sounds completely different depending on the region.



## Firefighters – Full Commitment



To save lives, you have to work as a team. Our author is a passionate firefighter and tells us all about his work at the fire station, exciting operations and how even kids can get involved. Featuring lots of insider know-how and state-of-the-art technology.

### JÖRG NIESSEN

He has been a fireman for 25 years and has never regretted a single day of it!



Photo Jörg Nießen: © Private

Photo Dr. Frank Frick: © Dirk Gornickel

## Green Energy – Power for the Future



Generating energy without harming the Earth and its climate? It's a monumental task, with huge social implications. This book helps children understand what green energy is, and how it can be produced using the power of the sun, wind and water. It is full of amazing infographics and helpful tips on how to protect the environment.

### DR. FRANK FRICK

He has been a scientific author and expert on new energy technologies for many years.



Each title: 48 pp, 22.3 x 29 cm, HC, 8+



## Horses – Friends, Freedom, Adventure



They used to be just livestock, now they are many children's favourite animal. We discover horses' habitats and take the children along to see a wild Konik herd, a farrier's glowing forge, and the stables where it smells like hay and horses. How do horses perceive the world? What do they like to eat? And why does every horse need a herd?

### DELA KIENLE

Journalist Dela Kienle writes articles and non-fiction books for children and of course she has a special bond with horses.



Photo Dela Kienle: © Odile Hain

## Inventions – How Ideas Change the World



How will we communicate in the future? How will we protect our environment? Brilliant inventions and creative minds are more in demand than ever before. We showcase groundbreaking (and sometimes completely accidental!) discoveries – and encourage children to come up with their own ideas.

### ANDREA WELLER-ESSERS

She loves getting kids excited about knowledge, because knowledge empowers.



Photo Andrea Weller-Essers: © Silke Reents

## Jellyfish – Is It All Just Goo?



They live without blood, brains or hearts. They even survived the dinosaurs, and some can kill up to 250 people with their venom. Jellyfish are breaking records everywhere, and they are a trend-animal through and through. In this unrivalled volume, we provide insights into the secret life of these gelatinous creatures.

### ULI KUNZ /

### DR. FLORIAN HUBER

Research divers Uli Kunz and Dr. Florian Huber are eager to finally show jellyfish in the right light.



Photo Uli Kunz: © Florian Huber; Photo Dr. Florian Huber: © Uli Kunz

## Knights and Castles – Let's Go To The Middle Ages!



Were knights really so immobile in their armour? How did tournaments work? And how were huge castles built without machines? We dive into the world of the Middle Ages and dispel some misconceptions. For example, the knights often didn't live in the castle at all. And between all their adventures, they were sometimes bored ...

### DR. ANDREA SCHALLER

Castles have fascinated her from an early age. During her studies, she specialised in medieval themes.



Photo Dr. Andrea Schaller: © Private

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## Lizards – Little Dragons Up Close



Seemingly effortlessly, they can walk on water, change colour or hang upside down from the ceiling: Lizards are true super animals. Time to dedicate a separate volume to their amazing abilities. Here, our readers can discover the whole variety of lizards - from the native sand lizard to the chameleon and the giant Komodo dragon.

### MARIO LUDWIG

He is one of Germany's best-known animal book authors. The biologist has also become well-known through his numerous appearances on television and radio.



Photo Mario Ludwig: © Kirsten\_Bohlig

Photo Tanja Brandt: © Private

## Owls – Hunters with Super Senses



We can't hear them. We rarely see them. But they see us – with their big, glowing eyes. Only a few small clues let us know that they might be nearby. Our author knows these clues – she has lived among owls for years, even raising them. Together with her, we reveal their most exciting secrets.

### TANJA BRANDT

Tanja Brandt is a falconer and an award-winning photographer. She has cared for and bred owls for many years now, and is involved in owl protection programmes.



## Mission Control Centre – Contact to Space



The Space Operations Centre is the control centre of space travel: From here, the team controls weather and navigation satellites, space probes and space telescopes, and plans and carries out manned and unmanned missions. For the first time, WAS IST WAS is devoting a volume to this exciting topic - with unique and never-before-read insights!

### DR. THOMAS UHLIG

The physicist works at the German Space Operations Centre. He is the project manager for the LUNA facility and part of the team responsible for the future Human Exploration Control Centre.



Photo Dr. Thomas Uhlig: © German Zöschinger DLR

Photo Dr. Manfred Baur: © Julia Furch

## Planets – Our Distant Neighbours



The vastness of the universe, the Milky Way and the planets have always fascinated us humans. In this book we immerse ourselves in this mysterious world and travel to the edge of our solar system. We see stars being born, explore giant volcanoes, and visit strange moons. Let's go!

### DR. MANFRED BAUR

Already as a teenager, Dr. Manfred Baur looked through a telescope and saw the rings of Saturn, the storms on Jupiter, and the ice caps on Mars.



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## Police – On Duty For You



They are on duty for us around the clock – in the control center, on the streets, at major events. The police solves criminal cases and tries to prevent them. But behind every blue uniform there is always a person. We accompany police officers, take a look behind the scenes and learn about the many different professions within the police force.

### ANDY NEUMANN

He is a full-time federal police officer and a bestselling author. He wants to get children interested in the subject and show them how important and varied it is.



Photo Andy Neumann: © Stephan Wirwalski

Photo Dr. Bernd Flessner: © Andreas Riedel

## Robots – Helpers with Superpowers



Robots explore the deep sea and Mars, milk cows and build cars. But what exactly is a robot? In which areas are they already being used and how can they help to make our lives easier in the future?

### DR. BERND FLESSNER

He is an enthusiastic futurologist who is interested in everything to do with technology and space travel. His favourite robot is Ameca, because you can talk to it thanks to AI.



## Rainforest – Wild Green World



Rainforests are among the most fascinating habitats on earth: from sloths and howler monkeys to leaf-cutter ants - nowhere else are there so many different species. Animals and plants have developed amazing strategies to protect themselves from their enemies. But only we humans can do something about their greatest threat - the destruction of the rainforest.

### ALEXANDRA WERDES

She is a freelance author and works full-time in nature conservation. She has travelled to several rainforests around the world and found them all extremely fascinating.



Photo Alexandra Werdes: © Jo Larsson

Photo Dr. Manfred Baur: © Julia Furch

## Slime – Gross? No, Genius!



Sometimes it's green, often slippery, but always brilliant! Slime is almost everywhere in nature. Without slime, there would be no life. Animals in the oceans use it, it can be found in the desert, on our doorstep, in the garden and in rivers. It is one of nature's best inventions! In this book you can discover why it is so useful and irreplaceable.

### DR. MANFRED BAUR

The successful WAS IST WAS author is always curious about everything that surrounds him – including slime!



Each title: 48 pp, 22.3 x 29 cm, HC, 8+



## Spiders – Eight-Legged Acrobats



Watch out! Robber spiders, pelican spiders and vampire spiders are just a few of the estimated 50 000 species in the world. Spiders can be found (almost) everywhere – except in Antarctica. They frighten and fascinate us, but they're also vital to the ecosystem. With their superpowers, they keep everything in balance!

### INGA MARIE RAMCKE

Her favourite neighbours are house spiders. In the bedroom, they keep mosquitoes away with their sticky webs.



Photo Inga Marie Ramcke: © Annette Schrader

Photo Dr. Manfred Baur: © Julia Furch

## Volcanoes – Pretty Hot!



They can be threatening and dangerous, but without volcanoes there would be no life on earth. How do mountains of fire form? Where does their enormous energy come from? And how can an impending eruption be recognised at an early stage? In impressive pictures and graphics, we explain what it means for us humans to be at home on a volcanic planet.

### DR. MANFRED BAUR

The documentary filmmaker and natural scientist is fascinated by the power of volcanoes and is glad that they exist: Because without them, humans would almost certainly never have come to exist.



## Trains – All Aboard!



Get in, close the doors ... off you go on a spectacular journey from the beginnings of the steam locomotive to the ultra-modern high-speed train. What does the world look like from the driver's cabin? How are railway tunnels built? And how will we travel in the future? With fascinating technical details - and guaranteed on time.

### CHRISTIAN HOLST

He is a freelance journalist and author. His topics range from black holes to the T-Rex and from great white sharks to trains.



Photo Christian Holst: © Private

Photo Dr. Johanna Klement: © Private

## Your Body – Everything you're made of



Stomach acid can dissolve metal, saliva contains a painkiller, and if you lined up all the blood vessels in your body end-to-end, they would stretch around the entire world. The human body is a miracle. The only way to keep it healthy is to understand it – therefore in this volume we travel to the inside of an eye along a ray of light, and swim with blood cells along vessels.

### DR. JOHANNA KLEMENT

As a scientist and doctor, Dr. Johanna Klement loves the challenge of writing about medical topics while including lots of humour for kids.



Each title: 48 pp, 22.3 x 29 cm, HC, 8+





*Stay up to date on **WAS IST WAS** –  
the leading international knowledge  
brand for kids and young people – and  
our large variety of children's books.*



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