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What Is Mass? What are Atoms? Solids, Liquids, and Gases?, and What Is Velocity? are four books in the Rookie Read-about Science series, part of a larger group about physical science topics published by Scholastic Books. Each book, by a different author, is 32 pages long. All are chock full of large, colorful pictures that illustrate and reinforce the short descriptive text on the pages. In the book about atoms, only some of the pictures have captions. These children-friendly volumes are full of photos showing kids of all kinds doing what kids do and looking at very familiar objects. The text is the most impressive aspect of the books. The science is concisely and correctly stated and is not overly simplified. In the book about velocity, the author introduces the concept of speed and then explains how it differs from velocity. The volume about atoms talks about how atoms in solids, liquids, and gases differ and introduces (very briefly) protons, neutrons, and electrons both in text and with a labeled diagram. A section titled "Words You Know" appears in the last two pages of each of the books. The important words are listed there, and each has a picture associated with it, not a definition. On the last page of each volume is a short index of terms.

The four books from this series are impressive. They appear to be appropriate for kindergarten through third grade, for children who are read to and children who can read. They could also be used as introductory texts for upper elementary school students. The information is well presented, and the photos illustrate what the author is trying to say. These books will encourage young children to become more interested in science.