

“GEORGE’S SECRET KEY TO THE UNIVERSE”

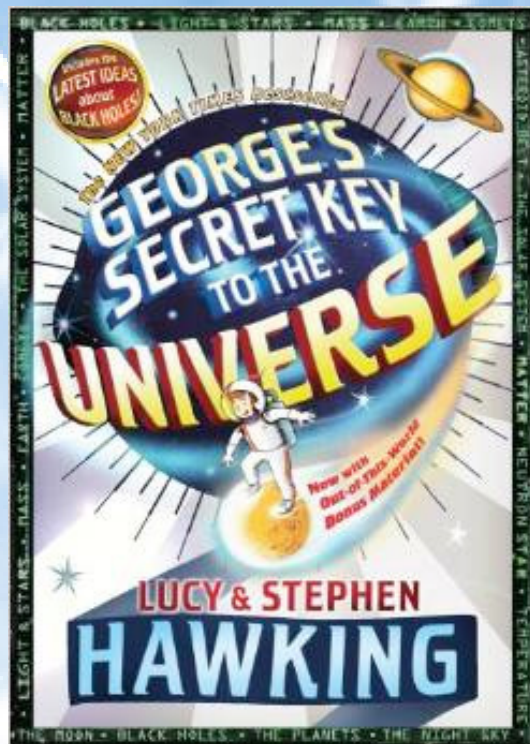
by Stephen Hawking e Lucy Hawking
Garry Parsons illustrator
Simon & Schuster, reprint edition
2009

A review by Pamela Pergolini

The famous British theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking co-wrote with his daughter Lucy the children’s book “George’s Secret Key to the Universe” (the Italian translation “La chiave segreta per l’universo” is published by Mondadori), a charming story about the mysteries of Time and Space, featuring crosshatch illustrations by Garry Parsons.

George lives with his domestic pig Freddy and what he really wants above all things in the universe is a computer, but his parents hate technology. When Freddy ends up by accident in the next garden he meets up Greg, a scientist, his daughter Annie and Cosmos, the world’s most powerful computer that not only speaks but can also empower approved users to travel across space-time.

In the middle of the living room, Cosmos can open a door on the vast darkness of Space. George and An-



nie will travel through time and space on a comet and so begin their adventures, on which George encounters black holes across four billion years. Lately Hawking has rethought his theories about black holes by saying that they are not so “blacks” because light and matter can exit. But this is another story.