

Weather Literature For Children

Fiction

Arnold, Marsha Diane. *Illustrated by Brad Sneed. The Bravest of Us All*. Dial, 2000. ISBN 0803724098. In this story of times past, Velma Jean has earned her reputation as the bravest of the seven siblings. She goes barefoot through the sandbar patch, swims in the horse tank said to be full of biting fish and faces down the bull. Then comes a tornado and little sister Ruby Jane finds out Velma Jean's secret fear.

Barrett, Judith. **Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs**. Athenaeum Children's Books, 1978. ISBN 978-0689707490. A delightfully silly book about a land where food is delivered by the weather. *Early reader*

Demas, Corinne. *Illustrated by Lenice Strohmeier. Hurricane!*. Marshall Cavendish, 2000. ISBN 0761450521. We watch the arrival and departure of Hurricane Bob through the eyes of a little girl whose parents, while making careful preparations for the storm, show that they have things under control. This simple story with very good, very realistic illustrations connects well with McCloskey's classic **Time of Wonder**.

Hoban, Julia. **Amy Loves the Wind**. Harper Collins, 1988. ISBN 978-0060224035 A simple story about how the wind works. Also, 'Amy Loves the Rain' and 'Amy Loves the Sun' by the same author. *Early reader*

Hesse, Karen. **Come On, Rain!** Illustrated by Jon J. Muth. (Scholastic, 1999. ISBN 0590331256. Most picture books that deal with drought and rain are set in the country but this is set in the city. Our narrator, Tessie, is a young African American child living with her mother. Tessie watches the sky for signs of cooling rain while her mother frets over some thirsty plants in their tiny garden. When Tessie spots some clouds in the distance, she starts getting ready. She and a friend don their bathing suits. Others arrive just in time for the cooling rain. It's too much for the mothers watching from the balconies and soon the whole neighborhood, adults and children alike are frolicking in the rain.

Keats, Ezra Jack. **The Snowy Day**. Viking Press, 1962. ISBN 0670654000 *The Snowy Day*, a 1963 Caldecott Medal winner, is the simple tale of a boy waking up to discover that snow has fallen during the night. Keats's illustrations, using cut-outs, watercolors, and collage, are strikingly beautiful in their understated color and composition. The tranquil story mirrors the calm presence of the paintings, and both exude the silence of a freshly snow-covered landscape. The little boy celebrates the snow-draped city with a day of humble adventures--experimenting

with footprints, knocking snow from a tree, creating snow angels, and trying to save a snowball for the next day. *Pre-reader*

Koscielniak, Bruce Geoffrey. **Groundhog Predicts the Weather.** (Houghton, 1998. ISBN 0395883989. There aren't many books about Groundhog's Day but this is a good one. It's also a bit of a satire about the ridiculous use of media hype in our culture. You may have wondered how the whole thing started. It seems that this groundhog by the name of Geoffrey woke up one February second, didn't see his shadow and walked to the local newspaper to report that spring would come soon. When indeed it did, the media seized on it with the result that by the next year there were so many lights and cameras, Geoffrey couldn't tell whether he saw his shadow or not.

Laser, Michael ; Ill. by Jeffrey Greene **The Rain.** Simon & Schuster, 1997. ISBN 0689805063. Five different people experience rain: an elderly man, a man on a train, a woman at home and two children in the woods. Each experience is different and so is each reaction.

Locker, Thomas. **Cloud Dance.** Voyager Books, 2003. ISBN 978-0152045968. As the reader turns the pages of this book, they encounter numerous types of clouds. The first illustration shows the many different sizes and shapes clouds can assume, from the light and wispy cirrus cloud to the puffy cumulus cloud. With each turn of the page, clouds are seen in different seasons and times of day, under various weather conditions. The illustrations are eye appealing oil paintings. As you view each picture, it is like you are standing on the ground and seeing the vast sky with the clouds creating a mosaic of lights, shapes, and colors. You can almost feel the rain hitting your face when you look at the painting depicting clouds in a rain storm. *All ages*

Locker, Thomas. **Water Dance.** Voyager Books, 2003. ISBN 978-0152163969 The author teaches us the story of water, or more specifically, the water cycle. He does this with simple, lyrical prose and combines this with some wonderful, original art. *Elementary*

Locker, Thomas. **Where the River Begins.** Puffin, 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0140545951. This book is about a grandfather who takes his grandsons on a trip to find where the river begins. A good supplement to water cycle study.

Lyon, George Ella; Ill. by Stephen Gammell. **Comes a Tide.** Orchard, 1993. ISBN 0531070360. You don't generally associate a tide with Kentucky but the old folks there know that heavy rains are coming and coping with it takes a community effort. Apparently the flooding is a yearly occurrence and one small child is fearful.

However Grandma faces the challenge with gusto and soon everybody is "making friends with a shovel" to clean up the mess.

McCloskey, Robert **Time of Wonder** Puffin Books, 1989. ISBN 978 -0140502015. Life in Maine with beautiful illustrations showing mist, storms, and the coast. *Early readers.*

McKinney, Barbara. **A Drop Around the World.** Dawn Publications, 1989. ISBN 978-1883220723. Through pictures and relatively simple text, it expands children's awareness of the water cycle. Because it illustrates water's cycle "around the world", it gives the reader a sense of the interconnectedness of humanity with one of its greatest resources - water. *All ages*

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Illustrated by Jim LaMarche.* **Albert** Silver Whistle, 2001. ISBN 0152015728. Albert's hand leaves his apartment every day as Albert sticks it out of the window to determine the weather. Each day Albert decides it's too cold, too hot, too something to go outside and so he stays inside and lonely. Then, one day a cardinal quickly builds a nest in Albert's outstretched hand. Eggs are laid and hatched and Albert changes with the birds.

Peters, Lisa Westberg. **Water's Way.** Macmillan, 1993. ISBN 978-0021794850. Snug indoors during winter, Tony hopes for snow. While he waits, climatic changes mirror changes inside his house. Steam from a pot of soup hits a cool window pane and clouds the glass; moist sea air rises, cools and forms clouds. Finally, the air turns cold: a fogged window becomes covered with frost, and water in the clouds freezes into ice crystals. Tony wakes to greet a white world.

Polacco, Patricia. **Thunder Cake.** Paper Star, 1997. ISBN 0698115813. A Russian grandmother helps her young charge overcome the fear of thunder by preparing the title recipe during a storm. While gathering the ingredients, they measure the proximity of the storm because the cake must be in the oven by the time the storm hits.

Seuss, Dr. **Bartholomew and the Oobleck** Random House, 1970. ISBN 0394800753. Seuss's zany story tells about a selfish king who's bored with the usual weather. He commands his magicians to create a new substance to fall from the sky. Havoc results.

Spier, Peter. **Peter Spier's Rain** Yearling, 1997. ISBN 0440413478. In this delightful wordless book, two children are playing in the yard on a summer day. Also in the yard are a dog, cat and a woman. A sudden storm sends everyone and everything scurrying. The children put on rain gear and go out to experience the

rain. Vignettes on several pages show many aspects of the rain and many different creatures reacting to it.

Tresselt, Alvin. **Rain Drop Splash.** Harper Trophy, 1990. ISBN 978-0688093525
Young readers can follow the course of a heavy rain as it drenches people and animals and changes the landscape below. With its poetic text and lovely, detailed illustrations. *Pre-reader*

Tresselt, Alvin. **Hide and Seek Fog** (Bound to Stay Bound, 1999. ISBN 0833547534. There aren't many picture books that deal with fog but this one does so magnificently. The fog rolls in along the eastern coast. The sailors and lobstermen are less ecstatic than the kids in this poetic and lovely book. *Pre-reader*

Also by Tresselt: White Snow, Bright Snow

Wiesner, David. **Sector 7.** Clarion Books, 1999. ISBN 978-0395746561. Sector 7 needs no words to be understood. All you have to do is read the pictures, and let your imagination do the rest. A great vocabulary builder for literacy. *All ages*

Non-Fiction

Asch, Frank. **Water.** Scholastic Books, 1995. **ISBN-13:** 978-0152023485. Simple statements about water are good, but repetitive style is not. Good for beginning readers, not researchers. *Primary reader*

Branley, Franklyn. **Flash, Crash, Rumble and Roll.** Harper Trophy, Rev. 1999. ISBN 978-0064451796. Did you know that lightning bolts can be over a mile long? Or that they may come from clouds that are ten miles high? Storms can be scary, but not if you know what causes them. Before the next thunderstorm, grab this book. *Primary readers 2*

Branley, Franklyn. **Hurricane Watch.** Crowell, 1985. ISBN 978-0064450621
Kindergarten-Grade 3 Basic information about hurricanes in a brief, heavily illustrated format well-suited to early elementary school children. Branley describes hurricane formation, paths and destructive power using short sentences and colorful vocabulary. *Primary readers*

More by Branley:

Branley, Franklyn. **Tornado Alert.** Harper Collins, 1988.

Branley, Franklyn. **Its Raining Cats and Dogs: All Kids of Weather and Why We Have It.** Houghton Mifflin, 1987.

Breen, Mark and Freistad, Kathleen. **The Kid's Book of Weather Forecasting: Build a Weather Station, 'Read the Sky' & Make Predictions!.** Williamson Publishing, 2000. ISBN 978-1885593399. Meteorologist Mark Breen offers insights into the complex subject of weather forecasting, explaining the science that lies behind these useful predictions. Hands-on projects include making a barometer, a rain gauge, and a "tornado" from a spinning column of water in two-liter plastic bottles taped together. *Upper elementary*

DePaola, Tomi. **The Cloud Book.** Holiday House, 1984. ISBN 978-0823405312 "The Cloud Book" is a good, first introduction to the science behind clouds while at the same time entertaining the children. *Early reader*

Dickinson, Terence. **Exploring the Sky by Day: The Equinox Guide to Weather and the Atmosphere.** Firefly Books, 1988. ISBN 978-0920656716. This basic book begins by describing the ten kinds of clouds and the weather that they produce. Other atmospheric phenomena such as haloes, sun dogs, sunsets, and rainbows are also included. Some conditions are discussed or illustrated in great detail. Award winner. *Upper elementary/ teacher resource*

Dorros, Arthur. **Feel the Wind.** Harper Trophy, 1990. ISBN 978-0064450959 "Feel the Wind" is a great tool for teaching children about the wind and the weather. Arthur Dorros defines wind and its uses in a way that children can easily understand. The book includes the causes of wind, ways wind is used by man and nature, and easy directions for making a weather vane. This book is a must for any young meteorologist. *Primary readers 2*

Douglas, Paul. **Restless Skies: The Ultimate Weather Book.** Sterling, 2007. ISBN 978-1402752230. Douglas devotes a good portion of the text to the technology on which forecasting relies, explaining the collection of data from radar and satellites, and their crunching by computer models. Packaged with copious imagery, Douglas' advice is a comforting source for readers wanting to prepare for the next thunderstorm, tornado, or hurricane. *Teacher resource/background*

Gibbons, Gail. **Weather Words and What They Mean.** Holiday, 1990. ISBN 978-0823409525. Gibbons' easily identifiable artistic style works well with her explanations of sometimes misunderstood weather-related terms. Drawings are appealing, attractively arranged, and closely matched to the textual information.

Temperature, air pressure, moisture, and wind are broadly defined and illustrated. Each of the four areas is then broken down further: moisture is illustrated as rain, drizzle, hail, snow, etc. *Primary readers 1-3*

Gibbons, Gail. **Weather Forecasting**. Aladdin Books, 1993. ISBN 978-0689716836. Gibbons again makes a complex subject understandable to young children. Starting with the change of seasons, she discusses the weather typical of each season and how it develops, and then shows how the weather forecasters arrive at their short and long-range forecasts. *Primary Gr. 2-4*

Hiscock, Bruce. **The Big Storm**. Atheneum, 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0689317705. While describing the various stages of the storm, the author smoothly weaves clear descriptions of concepts such as cold fronts and atmospheric pressure into the text. The storm is traced over seven days, so readers are able to see how all of the stages fit together and affect one another. *Elementary Gr. 3-5*

Kramer, Stephen. **Eye of the Storm: Chasing Storms with Warren Faidley** Putnam, 1997. ISBN 0399230297. Stunning color photographs add drama to the story of how a storm chaser goes about his business.

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. **Snowflake Bentley** Illustrated by Mary Azarian. (Houghton, 1998. ISBN 0395861624. This Caldecott Award winner celebrates the life and dedication of Wilson Bentley, a man so fascinated by snowflakes that he devoted his life to the study and photography of the crystals. Martin tells the tale with obvious delight and admiration. Sidebars add information about snow and snowflakes and Azarian's woodcuts are just the right addition.

McMillan, Bruce. **The Weather Sky**. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 1990. ISBN 978-0374482664. Avid weather watchers will enjoy this discussion of the different cloud types, the weather patterns with which they are associated, and the climactic conditions they bring. After an explanation of air masses and the various kinds of fronts, McMillan devotes the remainder of the book to pictures of the clouds produced by different combinations of air masses throughout the year. *Upper elementary*

Maestro, Betsy and Giulio. **Temperature and You**. MacMillan/McGraw Hill, 1990. ISBN 0022749144. Great kids book about how temperature is measured and how it impacts our lives. *Gr. 2-4*

Pinder, Eric. **Life at the Top** Downeast Books, 1997. ISBN 0-89272-396-3. This is one of the few books written about Mt. Washington specifically and the Mt. Washington Observatory in general. The first half of the book is easy to read,

informative, and filled with great stories of life at the OBS. The second half of the book is recipes – your choice!

Simon, Seymour. **Lightning** (HarperTrophy, 1999. ISBN 0688167063.

Storms (HarperTrophy, 1992. ISBN 0688117082.

Weather (Harpercollins, 2000. ISBN 068817521X.

Tornadoes (Harpercollins, 1999. ISBN 0688146465.

Hurricanes (Harpercollins, 2003. ISBN 0688162924.

Simon's books are wonderful! The photographs he uses are stunning and would be worthy of your time even if they weren't accompanied by Simon's text. He finds the most amazing facts about each subject and uses comparisons within the child's experience to share his obvious wonder and delight.

Wick, Walter **A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder**. (Scholastic, 1997. ISBN 0590221973. Stop action photography dominates these pages that are both stunning and amazing. The text is clear and the information conveyed by the combination of text and photographs explores the properties of water in such a way as to interest kids from kindergarten on up. Don't miss this one.

Rev. 2/11/2008