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Come On, Rain!



Synopsis

"Come on, rain!" Tess pleads to the sky as listless vines and parched plants droop in the endless heat. Up and down the block, cats pant while heat wavers off tar patches in the broiling alleyway. More than anything, Tess hopes for rain. And when it comes, she and her friends are ready for a surprising joyous celebration....Through exquisite language and acute observation, Newbery medalist Karen Hesse recreates the glorious experience of a quenching rainstorm on a sweltering summer day. Jon J Muth's masterful and lyrical watercolors perfectly reflect the spirit of the text.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

In this quietly affecting story, award-winning author Karen Hesse and artist Jon J. Muth deftly capture the magnificence of a sudden rainstorm on a swelteringly hot day. Much more than a simple tale of weather, *Come On, Rain!* also portrays the tenderness of mother-daughter relations, the rhythms of urban society, and the power of nature to transform and reinvigorate all forms of life. The book's collaborators, more like alchemists, work wonders. Muth's sunbaked watercolors perfectly convey the washed-out, drought-stricken world, while Hesse's gripping narrative--a detailed prose poem written in the voice of the watchful, pigtailed Tessie--conveys undaunted hope and anticipation. Like a long-limbed little bird--all twiggy arms and legs--Tessie moves through the

neighborhood, observing her Mamma, her friends, the skies, even the streets: Up and down the block, cats pant, heat wavers off tar patches in the broiling alleyway.... I stare out over rooftops, past chimneys, into the way off distance. And that's when I see it coming, clouds rolling in, gray clouds, bunched and bulging under a purple sky. A creeper of hope circles round my bones. "Come on, rain!" I whisper. As the downpour approaches, Tessie gathers her neighborhood friends for a romp in the raindrops. Their eager anticipation is matched by a rain shower so gigantic, it even makes their mothers run into the street. It's literally the stuff that dreams are made of--my own daughter dreamed of the delicious downpour the night we first read the book. (Click to see a sample spread. Text ©1999 by Karen Hesse. Illustrations ©1999 by Jon J. Muth. Reproduced with permission of Scholastic, Inc.) (Ages 5 and older) --Jean Lenihan

"Up and down the block,/ cats pant,/ heat wavers off tar patches in the broiling alleyway./ Miz Grace and Miz Vera bend, tending beds of drooping lupines," as a whole neighborhood waits for rain. The narrator, Tessie, is the first one to see the "clouds rolling in,/ gray clouds, bunched and bulging under a purple sky," and she engineers a joyful rain dance with her three friends, Jackie-Joyce, Liz and Rosemary. The long-sought rain "freckles our feet, glazes our toes./ We turn in circles,/ glistening in our rain skin." According to Hesse's bio on the jacket flap, this text contains her initial exploration of motifs used first in her Newbery Medal-winning novel, *Out of the Dust*. With poetic and immediate language, she again captures the cleansing experience of rainfall after a long dry spell. In an auspicious debut, Muth's illustrations showcase an impressive range of perspectives, from the opening urban skyline to the subtle indication of the oncoming storm in the ruffling of a curtain to the girls' view looking up at their mothers from where they're dancing in the street. His inventive design sense and use of watercolors?smudges of shadow, glistening sidewalks and foggy city-scapes?are remarkable. This is an impressive tribute to those experiences that leave us "purely soothed,/ fresh as dew,/ turning toward the first sweet rays of the sun." Ages 4-8. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Great book used with or without guided reading programs. Colorful illustrations.

I love the simple story. It has a special way of drawing you into it. Certainly reminds me of hot summer days and praying for rain.

My kids have really enjoyed this book. The art work is just superb and beautifully done. The story is

also entertaining. I have also shared this book at school and the teachers have enjoyed the story. Hope Karen Hesse puts out some more wonderful books and art.

One of the most poetic, elegant children's book we've ever come across. The paintings by Jon Muth are incredible and the creativity of it all is inspiring. A timeless classic that we've been reading for years.

The illustrator and author work hand and hand to create a feel of the city in a heat wave and the families who live there. The pictures are full of the feel of the heat, the heavy clouds in the sky and the sense of anticipation of the rain. The words are poetic and the language sensuous. What is lovely to me is the joy and dignity with which the little girls and their mothers are presented.

Beautiful illustrations...

Loved this book... Nice pace, beautiful illustrations. Author took a simple subject, created an entire narrative w/great anticipation and illustration. My young daughters were captivated...

Great product. I purchased the book online to use in a reading lesson with my students. I only wish there was a way to enlarge the words on the screen.

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