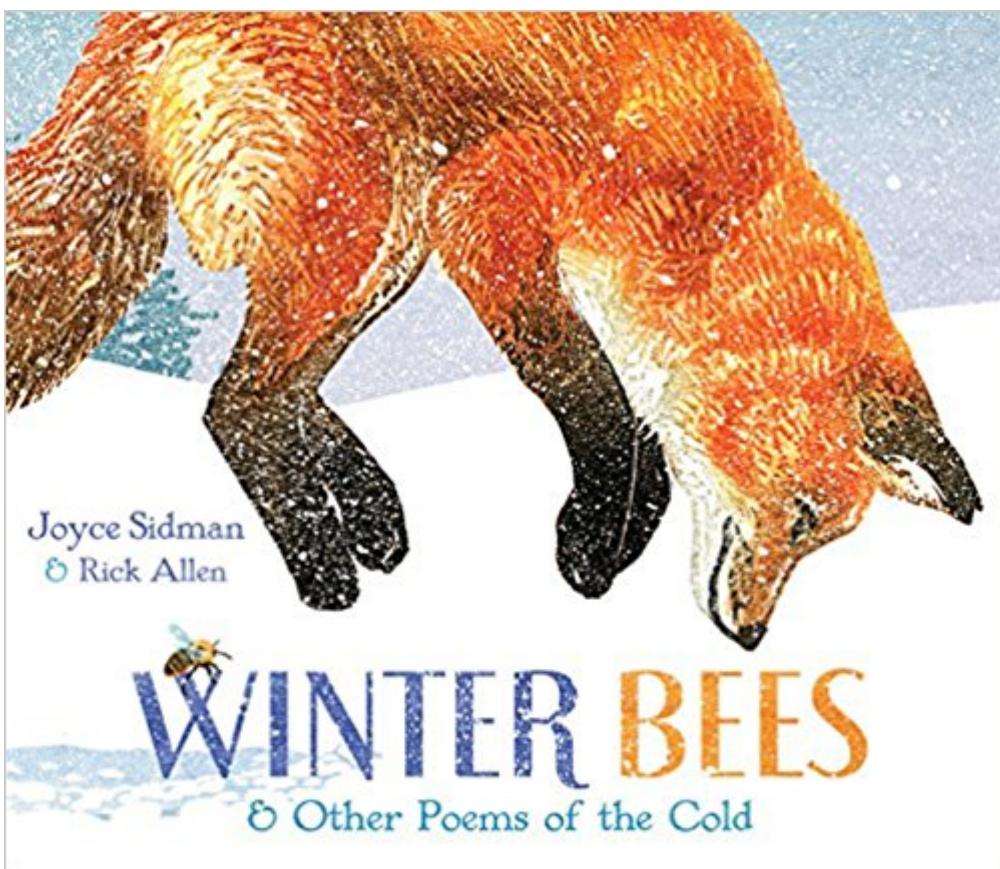


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Winter Bees & Other Poems Of The Cold (Junior Library Guild Selection)



Synopsis

In this outstanding picture book collection of poems by Newbery Honor-winning poet, Joyce Sidman (Song of the Water Boatman, Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night), discover how animals stay alive in the wintertime and learn about their secret lives happening under the snow. Paired with stunning linoleum print illustrations by Rick Allen, that celebrate nature's beauty and power.

Book Information

Series: Junior Library Guild Selection

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (November 4, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547906501

ISBN-13: 978-0547906508

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #206,565 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #159 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Environment & Ecology #194 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather #290 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Diseases

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Behind the Scenes of Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold Illustrator Rick Allen gives us a peek into his creative process

Our shop in the quiet of a winter evening. Rick works at night when the commotion of the day is over and he can focus without distraction. Our shop assistant Janelle at the press. First rough sketch for Snake's Lullaby. Obviously, Rick likes to begin with a very rough idea!

A few of the linoleum blocks (there were several) Rick cut for Snake's Lullaby; in the corner you can see some closer sketches. Once the individual blocks are printed, Rick does

some hand coloring with gouache. Here you can see two versions of the brumating "snake ball" — one with bluer snakes on the right to show how torpid they become in the winter. The Big Brown Moose in various stages of printing and proofing, including the original linoleum block.

K-Gr 4 • The 12 selections in this collection offer a winter wonderland of deftly crafted poetry, fascinating science facts, an amazingly rich vocabulary, and stunning illustrations. In the title poem, the bees are lyrically described, "Born with eyelash legs/and tinsel wings/we are nothing on our own./Together, we are One." Deep in the winter hive,/we burn like a golden sun." In "Big Brown Moose," the animal humorously chants, "I'm a big brown moose,/I'm a rascally moose,/I'm a moose with a tough shaggy hide." Science facts about the animals' lives in harsh winter climates appear in sidebars on each spread. Sidman explores the safe places that allow for survival, such as in the underwater beaver lodge, "In the dim oval room,/they groom, snack, kiss;/strong brown bullets that dive/in the under-ice world." The poet also includes the role of plant species in the process, such as the skunk cabbage that signals spring's arrival as the first plant to sprout through the snow and its importance as it attracts insect pollinators. Readers come to understand that the seemingly barren winter is actually teaming with the hidden activity of plant and animal life. Allen's intricately detailed, hand-colored, linoleum prints jump off the page, wrap around the words, and breathe life into the foxes, voles, swans, wolves, and more. This combination provides a magnificent celebration of winter that delights and informs. A comprehensive glossary of specialized words is included. Douglas Florian's *Winter Eyes* (Greenwillow, 1999), Barbara Rogasky's *Winter Poems* (Scholastic, 1995), and Anna Grossnickle Hines's *Winter Lights* (Greenwillow, 1995) also celebrate the season but cover a wide range of events. *Winter Bees* distinguishes itself with a focus on the science of animal survival, coupled with superlative illustrations. Readers young and old will enjoy this winter journey and marvel at the wonders of nature. • Carole Phillips, Greenacres Elementary School, Scarsdale, NY

* "Each poem brings a sense of humor, respect, or wonder to its subject." • Publishers Weekly, starred review * "Concluded with a glossary of big but fascinating words, this is equally suited to curricular units and cozy reads in front of a fire." • Booklist, starred review * "A work to be savored by young artists and scientists." • Kirkus, starred review * "Winter Bees distinguishes itself with a focus on the science of animal survival, coupled with superlative illustrations. Readers young and old will enjoy this winter journey and marvel at the wonders of

nature." •School Library Journal, starred review "A handsome, persuasive, and authentic ambassador for creatures in their natural state." •Horn Book Magazine "A collection that's as crisp as the first snowfall, Winter Bees is the perfect way to pass a chilly afternoon." •Bookpage "This author-artist duo makes winter wonder-filled." •Shelf Awareness * "Sidman is a master at retaining overall momentum while giving the individual poems their own form and style." •Bulletin, starred review

I've long been a fan of the printmaking style of illustrations and this book reminded me once again why that is the case. These illustrations are absolutely gorgeous. Whether it's a picture of a fox pouncing, as on the cover, or a hive of bees sequestered for the winter or the beavers in their lodge, Allen has created beautiful artwork that is sure to stand the test of time. And the poems are just as amazing. There are poems highlighting tundra swans, garter snakes, moose, snowflakes, bees, beavers, and more. In addition to the wonderful poetry, the author also includes a short explanation of the facts behind the poems. A beautiful book all the way around and I would be surprised if it doesn't get some award love. This is definitely one of my favorite picture books of the year.

We donated this to a 1-3 grade classroom. After reading the moose and raven/wolf poem at circle, the kids commented most about beautiful/amazing/fun illustrations, and how the wolf and raven work together. The snake page was popular. I enjoyed the poems, but particularly like that there is a science facts paragraph or two next to the artistic poem. The word choices in the science fact section are a bit advanced for 6 year olds, but strong readers will appreciate the challenge. This book appeals to a wide range of interests and abilities.

Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold by Joyce Sidman and Rick Allen is a favorite winter book. The book combines poems, illustrations, and science depicting how animals, birds, and insects survive the winter. The combination of poetry and science is a delightful blending to intrigue and educate readers of all ages. The illustrations catch the magic of winter and the survival actions of each animal. This is a great book for children as it tells, and shows, that even when the landscape is blanketed with snow, animals, birds, rodents, and bees are still active staying alive, each their own special way.

Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold by Joyce Sidman is a lovely book which takes a look at animals, reptiles, birds, and insects in winter or in cold climates. Illustrations are outstanding and the

book will probably win more awards. The poems on the left page combine with the pictures and the scientific information on the right for an amazingly, artistically beautiful double-page spread. I got this for my daughter's classroom but it would perfect in all homes as a very highly designed art book which includes poetry and information. Curl up with the youngsters in your family and share this book. It will be one which will go through many generations. It's timeless!

The illustrations are entertaining enough in this book. The poems are great for adult and children as they are enjoyable, easy to follow and understand. My kids (and I) especially love the information about winter animals on each page. We have learned a lot as they are not just typical hibernation stories. One of the best children's books I have bought in awhile.

Joyce Sidman has long been one of my favorite authors of poetry inspired by nature. Her masterful wording simply bring me joy! I can read the poems over and over again. As you can tell from the cover, the illustration are gorgeous. I love that she provides the non-fiction information as well for each page. Well worth the money for the hardcover!

Was looking for something about the behavior of bees in winter to read to a multi-age group, and happened upon this book. Bought it based on all the great reviews and a 'peek' inside, and was rewarded with beautiful illustrations, lovely poetry and a write-up of just the facts I wanted to share. A huge success, now permanently in our library.

This is a must have book. Both the poems and illustrations are extraordinary. It caught my eye in an airport bookstore and quickly became part of my collection.

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