



## Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold

*Joyce Sidman, Rick Allen (Illustrator)*

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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.

## **Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold Details**

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Author : Joyce Sidman , Rick Allen (Illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold for online ebook**

### **Laura Harrison says**

Loved it. I have been a fan of Joyce Sidman's for years. She is just incredible.

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### **Holly Mueller says**

The cover of this beautiful, informative book captured my interest right away. It's gorgeous! The rest of the book doesn't disappoint. Sidman's wonderful poetry and Rick Allen's absolutely captivating illustrations combine to make this a must-have for the classroom library. Informational paragraphs follow up each poem, teaching us about tundra swans, snowflakes, honeybees, voles, chickadees, and more. I'm looking forward to sharing this with my students in December when I do a winter unit on figurative language and sensory details using short texts.

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### **Fats says**

Joyce Sidman has a way with words. Lyrical verses and gorgeous illustrations fill the pages of this book. It also provides an insight on how plants and animals cope with the cold, winter months. Overall, "Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold" is an excellent poetry collection for the young and old alike.

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### **Nicole Santiago says**

Joyce Sidman uses imagery-saturated verse alongside nonfiction prose to celebrate the Michigan winter survival of animals and plants like moose, bees, and trees. The piece spans twelve poems and prose, beginning in winter and ending in spring and focusing on some creatures that are not commonly known- like skunk cabbage.

“Snowflake Wakes” is poem about snowfall and the form of the piece has short lines so that they appear to be falling down the center of the page. The rhyme of the “Big Brown Moose” gives us the sense of the moose’s “kicking” and “prancing.” In “Brother Raven, Sister Wolf,” there is a dual-voiced verse where the raven and wolf go back and forth about the their teamwork- or lack thereof- during the hunt.

On the right of each of the poems, there is factual prose to learn more about the poem’s subject and a glossary included for all of the content-specific words. Rick Allen’s illustrations hug the poems and prose and are composed of multimedia: nearly two hundred cut, inked, and hand-colored linoleum blocks that are digitally scanned and layered. The illustrations are vivid, textured depictions of the natural world.

Students that love science, art, and are accustomed to the northern winters will be naturally drawn to this piece. Students that are not from the wintery north, will appreciate this artistic window into the wintery world. The combination of poetry and nonfiction prose as well as the inclusion of a glossary makes this

subject accessible for first grade readers and will hold the attention of students as old as fifth grade. Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold would function as a dynamic read aloud to celebrate the musicality of each of the poems. The title has won the 2015 Claudia Lewis Poetry Award and the ALSC Notable Children's Book Award.

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### **TaylorG says**

One of the things that I have always thought about in the winter is how animals survive and what they do. Winter Bees Other Poems of the Cold answers this question that I have had. This is written by a Newberry Award Winning poet and was a great read. I think that this book is great because it answers questions that so many children have. They want to know about animals and how they live. This picture book does just that, while using the beautiful poetic form.

I think that this book would be great in the classroom for students to use to discuss animals and what they think their lives are like. They would be able to write their own poem about themselves and how they spend their winter days. I think that students would really like this book and would connect with the animals and what they do during the winter months.

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### **Claire says**

First, the text by Joyce Sidman is superb. Her poems eloquently capture the voices of a young moose with his mother, a bevy of tundra swans, falling snowflakes, trees, honeybees and more. Along with the poems are informational paragraphs—filled with fascinating details but still very readable—about each creature or element of nature.

Second, the illustrations by Rick Allen are gorgeous. According to a blurb on the copyright page, he created nearly 200 linocut prints of the individual elements, then digitally layered them to create the finished illustrations.

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### **Calista says**

First thing: there is a fox on the cover and a fox on each page and yet there is not a poem to a fox; why? OK, the poems are about animals surviving the cold winter in nature. They are good poems. Then on the side they give a block of text on how the animals actually survive the cold with facts. My niece loves the facts and found this book interesting. She had lots of questions.

I enjoyed the art and the poems. This is not a story really. It is a collection of poems about surviving the cold.

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### **Jana says**

Here's something to help beat the heat of summer! This beautiful picture book uses poetry, informational

text, and stunning artwork to tell readers the ways that different animals deal with winter. I love the mix of poetry with factual information. This is an awesome mentor text for both types of writing! According to the title page, "The images for this book were made through the unlikely marriage of some very old and almost new art mediums. The individual elements of each picture (the animals, trees, snowflakes, etc.) were cut, inked, and printed from linoleum blocks (nearly two hundred of them), and then hand-colored. Those prints were then digitally scanned, composed, and layered to create the illustrations for the poems. The somewhat surprising (and oddly pleasing) result was learning that the slow and backwards art of relief printmaking could bring modern technology down to its level, making everything even more complex and time-consuming." I'm really glad that I have this book to share with my students.

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### **Becky B says**

A collection of poems about animal activities during winter.

I loved the illustrations in this book. I found the poems so-so. They didn't quite sing to me. I did like the notes on the critters on the side of each page. Overall a good pick if you're studying animal hibernation or seasons, but I'd pick a different collection for poetry units as most of these are free verse.

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### **Autumn says**

I really wanted to like this book. It contains poetry, nature, winter, and best of all, bees. There were things about it that annoyed me. Who would name a book after the fifth poem in it? Does that make sense to everyone but me? That is the first problem that I have with it and it goes downhill from there.

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### **Kristine Hansen says**

I'm giving a lot of 5-star reviews today, and poetry seems to be especially inclined toward good ratings. But I do truly love picture books that introduce real poetry to children in a beautiful way, using words they can understand that still sing on the page. I loved the bits of information on the sides of the pages, though I could have done without seeing the massive snarl of snakes or trying to picture a brumate of 20,000 snakes. Ick!

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### **Melki says**

I honestly didn't care for Sidman's poems; many were just too cutesy for my taste. HOWEVER . . . on the opposite page is a description of the featured creature, and the ways it survives the winter, and those bits were FASCINATING. I even learned of a critter I didn't know existed - **springtails**, aka "snow fleas." The other thing that makes this book a winner is Rick Allen's stunning artwork.

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### **Jenny says**

Joyce Sidman never fails to delight and spark curiosity. The illustrations are simply breathtaking...just as a snowy winter day can be. Her expert combination of poetry and informational text give insights into how a variety of animals (as well as a few plants) survive the winter. Particular favorites of mine were What Do the Trees Know?, Big Brown Moose, Winter Bees and Brother Raven, Sister Wolf. I also love that Sidman uses a variety of poetry forms. Well worth reading and savoring.

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### **Alyssa Becker says**

Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold; written by: Joyce Sidman, illustrated by: Rick Allen; Copyright 2014, 31 pages

\*Poetry #1 (NCTE Noteable Poetry Books)\*

This book is a collection of 12 poems about various living things in the wilderness during the season of winter. Briefly, they cover snakes, trees, voles, beavers, and many more animals. These poems of a variety of styles tell how animals survive in the winter, and really what they do with their time while they wait for spring to return again.

My favorite poem in the book was titled "Brother Raven, Sister Wolf". this poem showed the beautiful symbiotic relationship between a raven and a wolf in the forest.

You might have noticed that I rated this book a three. While I like the additional informational pieces of information on the side of each page, I wish that the poems were a little more creative. I do not know that I would recommend this book, but I would take out the poem I mentioned earlier to share with my class. I would recommend this book for 3rd-5th grade.

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### **Cassandra says**

One of ALA's 2015 Children's Notable Books--

This collection of poems written about tundra wildlife in the winter is beautifully written and illustrated with intricately detailed linoleum prints. I very much enjoy the way each poem is accompanied by an informational "aside" text block/blurb, offering factual information about the animal or plant that each poem is about. There is also a glossary of terms at the end of the book to describe larger words that may be unfamiliar to young readers.

I think that this book would work really well in a classroom setting and lends itself to creative lesson planning, mixing poetry and non fiction, but the density of the text and complexity of the illustrations may not be as engaging to young readers on their own.

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