Children’s book reviews
Reviewed By Joshua Talib

100 Things you should know about Weather

- Front Cover = The front cover of the book, I though was tacky with unrealistic images and poor graphics of different weathers. The illustrators had tried to attract children with interesting images of a wild variety of weather aspects including rainbows and thunderstorms. However I believe that they have failed and it makes the book look boring and that the weather facts in the book are fake and boring. The image has made the viewer believe that the author has concentrated more about the graphics than the actual weather.

- Contents Page = My first impressions of the contents page is that there is a key variety of titles ranging from fun alliterations to serious common terms. This made some titles more appealing than others. The contents however did advertise that the book looked at a variety of weather that can be interesting for everyone.

- Main Text = The main text of the book is friendly and welcoming to children at a variety of ages. However some of the vocabulary used doesn’t suit the knowledge of younger children, (e.g. troposphere). This would suggest that an adult at a higher level of knowledge would have to explain some of the key phrases so the child can understand. This can stop children actually learning facts and waste time with adults telling them what key words are. Basically, there needs to be a glossary. There is not one real photo in the book which can make the book seem boring and unrealistic. The book can seem that it has no character of actual history with weather. The cartoons, however, are appealing to children at a variety of ages. The writing and layout is shown in a comically and humorous way that adds individuality to the book and makes you have trust in the facts you read. The layout is interesting and interactive for children to read and look at.

- Overall, I will give this book a 4/10 because of it lack of interesting photos and lack of simple statements that young children can understand. The book in my opinion is for young children in Key Stage Two that like finding out and telling people about unusual and strange fact.

Water

- Front Cover = The front cover is welcoming to a child perspective and gives a blue colour which suits the topic of the book. The front cover is simple but is done in an imaginative way that it catches the reader’s eye. The spine, however is the plain and boring and doesn’t tempt the reader to pick up this book at the library or in a book shop, which is a shame as
this book is very good for a whole range of children. The blurb gives a good impression of the book and persuades people that this is an interesting book by using questions which most people won’t know. The way the cover is laid out makes you feel that the content will be simple and will explain these questions in a friendly and interesting way.

- **Contents** = The contents contains different variety of topics which are all related to the lexis of water. The titles of each section aren’t persuasive though and can sound boring and unappealing to the reader. The images are realistic and are actual photos which can add a sense of trust into the book and a sense of quality. There is a good ratio of cartoons and images making every page different and creative for a child’s eyes. The different page layout makes the child wonder what is on the next page and the facts are diverse and can grab a child’s attention and want to read on.

- **Overall** = Water is a creative, well thought out book which is good for the younger generation of the community. It adds a sense of childish play with water but also tells you serious facts. I would give this book a 9/10!

**Guide to Weather**

- **Front Cover** = The title sums up the whole book very well, however the front cover can seem plain and boring to an enthusiastic Key Stage Four student who wants to learn about weather processes.

- **Images** = Across the whole book there are fantastic labels and features which attract the viewer. It explains weather processes in detail and is a very interesting book.

- **Chapters** = The chapters are done nicely with key features of the weather being split up.

- **Narration** = The narrator of the book makes the reader feel that he/she is learning about the weather in an interesting and lively way. The charts and images add a sense of three dimensions to the whole weather experience.

- **Good Points** = The author has referred to historic events which can make the book seem more personal and more realistic and that these events actually happen. The use of a glossary is very useful as it explains to people who are unaware what words mean in meteorology and it means that you can start with no knowledge at all.

- **Bad Points** = This book encourages people who are in interested in weather and doesn’t persuade people who aren’t interested in weather to become a meteorologist or learn some facts about weather.

- **Overall** = This book is interesting to the older students of school but can really benefit people when you look at weather at a whole. The pages however can be seen very plain and boring with no enthusiasm. I’ll give it an 8/10.