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The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder

Megan Harris

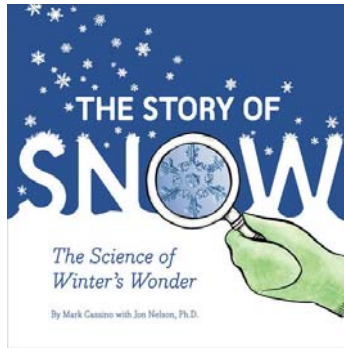
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Cassino, Mark and John Nelson. *The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder*. Illustrated by Nora Aoyagi. Chronicle Books, 2009. ISBN 9780811868662. \$11.55. 33 p.

Reviewer: Megan Harris
Reading Level: Preschool, Primary
Rating: Outstanding
Genre: Informational books;
Subject: Snowflakes; Books--Reviews;

The Story of Snow uses bright language and illustrations to follow a vibrant life story from birth to death. It, however, is not a fairytale. This nonfiction book follows the growth, formation, and eventual demise of frozen ice crystals. Using watercolor, ink, and highly magnified photographs, Cassino works with Nelson, a professor of meteorology, to bring the enchanting, and very scientific, world of snow to an elementary school audience. Beginning with cold, gray clouds, continuing through various possible formations, and ending with a slowly melting flake on a mitten, the paintings and photographs grab the attention of the reader. The print is large, and sparse, considering the depth of material covered. Thankfully, Cassino and Nelson allow their finely-detailed photographs to speak for themselves.

The large images and crisp design of the book should appeal to elementary school children of all ages. *The Story of Snow* can be a valuable tool for teachers in explaining the water cycle, the formation of elements, weather, crystal formation, or even the value of nonfiction. This book stands out amongst other nonfiction of its type due to its informative nature, coupled with a format and illustrations as appealing as a fairytale.

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