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Blown Away

Robyn Lee

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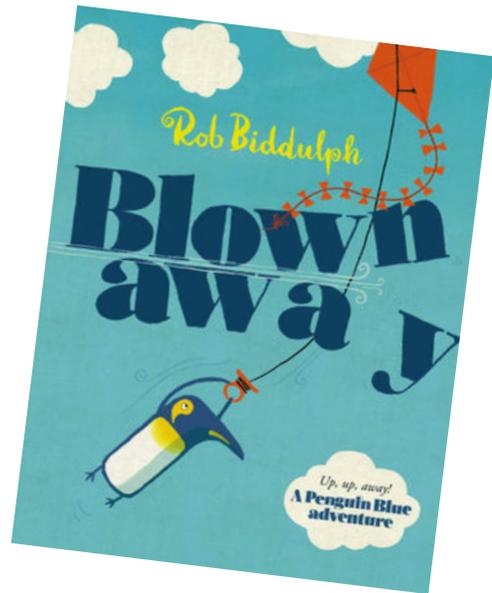
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Book Review

Title: Blown Away
Author: Rob Biddulph
Reviewer: Robyn Lee
Publisher: HarperCollins
Publication Year: 2015
ISBN: 9780062367242
Number of Pages: 15
Interest Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary
Rating: Outstanding



Review

This picture book follows Penguin Blue as he takes a surprise and accidental flight on the end of a kite string. As he is blown away across familiar landscapes he picks up some other cold weather friends along the way. After flying across the ocean, the five friends decide to finally let go of the kite when they see the soft green tree-tops of a tropical island. The group takes time to wonder at the warm temperature and beautiful green landscape, but soon realize they miss home. Penguin Blue finds a creative solution to get them home—with an extra stow-away! Once safe and sound in his own home on the ice, Penguin Blue reflects on his eventful day and decides that he is meant to stay right there on the ice.

Rob Biddulph does a great job melting illustrations, humor, and rhythm together to create a picture book that is enjoyable for many age ranges. Playing on the idea that penguins are flightless birds, Biddulph explores what could happen if a penguin did find a way to fly away to somewhere new, allowing children to engage their imaginations. The bright and fun illustrations support the story, but also provide a side story of a tropical stow-away for older children who are willing to pay attention. Parents and teachers of all ages can use *Blown Away* as a fun way to grab readers' attention and enjoy time in an engaging story.