

The Weather *by Heather*

by Diana Perry

Illustrated by
Cody Sims

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cody Sims". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style, with the first name "Cody" and the last name "Sims" clearly legible.

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These mere words cannot express
The way to say “Thank You!” best
Kids everywhere will bond with Heather
And learn many facts about the weather.
Explaining weather was my mission to do;
But this wouldn’t have been, without wonderful you!

and to.....

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To all the above and you out there reading this book....

Keep Looking Up.....there's weather out there!

CHAPTER ONE

"I'll never understand weather!" 8-year-old Heather exclaimed as she handed her list of weather topics to Miss Martin, the head librarian. "Third grade is really hard."

Miss Martin looked over the list. "Rain. Clouds. Snow. Well, there are a lot of topics in your homework assignment, but I know you can do this, Heather. Come with me." She led Heather to a corner table between the shelves. One by one, Miss Martin collected the books that Heather would need, stacking them into a tall pile in the center of the table. "Would you like me to help you?"



Heather sighed, "No, thank you. My teacher said we're big kids now and we need to try to do this by ourselves."

"All right," Miss Martin smiled as she started walking back to her desk. "If you get stuck, you know where to find me."

Heather glanced through the first three books and made some notes, but none of it made much sense to her. It wasn't long before she realized she needed help after all. Tearing off her notes, she tossed them into the trash can in the corner and, as she stood up to get Miss Martin, she noticed two of her classmates just opening the library door. "Oh, no. It's Julia and Karina," she said to herself. "I've got to get to Miss Martin before they do or she won't have time to help me." She leaped out of her chair and ran straight ahead, hoping she could beat them to Miss Martin when suddenly someone stepped out in her path. She had to grab onto the shelf to keep from slamming into the person just in front of her. "Ooohhh!"



Quickly she turned left as she raced in between the first and second shelf, turning the corner at lightning speed without looking first. “Uumph!” She slammed hard into someone and fell backwards to the floor. “Ow! Ow!” Heather held up her arms trying to block the hard books that were raining down on her head.

“My goodness,” A man said as he held out his hand to help her up. “Are you alright? What's your hurry anyway?”



Heather took his hand as he pulled her to her feet and glanced back toward Miss Martin. “Oh, no. It's too late. Julia and Karina got to Miss Martin first. Now I'll never get help with my science project.”

“Well, since I got in your way, perhaps I should help you,” the man offered. “I've been known to be very good at science.”

Heather walked back toward her table, thinking that this man's voice sounded familiar. “Thanks, anyway, but my homework is on....” She recognized his voice as she turned around to face him. “...weather! It's you! You're Mr. Beedy! My parents watch you every day on TV.”

He smiled back. “I am indeedy. What's your name?”

“I'm Heather.” she answered as she led the way back to her corner table. “Here is my list of weather topics that I have to learn.”



Mr. Beedy looked over her list, then folded it and put it in his pocket. “Now, Heather, take good notes as we go and I’ll try to make learning about weather fun. Let’s start with fronts. A front is a bunch of air of the same temperature and is made up of tiny pieces called molecules. Just like all third graders stay together in the same room and all fourth graders stay in their room, molecules stay in their own ‘classes’ called fronts. Molecules come in two fronts; a warm front and a cool front and they never mix with each other. **1** Let’s say this pile of books is a mountain. Put your arm out like mine and slowly come closer until our fingers touch. You be the warm front. I’ll be the cool front.” Slowly they moved their hands toward each other until their fingers touched.



“What happens when our fingers, I mean – fronts touch?” she asked.

He grabbed her wrist with his free hand, pulling it up over the books mountain. “Warm air molecules spread out having more air in between so they are lighter than cool air. Cool molecules huddle together to get warmer, just like we do when we’re cold. They’re packed in tightly and this makes the cool front get heavier. When the two fronts bump, the lighter warm front gets pushed up and rises up high over the mountain while the heavier cool front stays down low to the ground.”

Heather made notes in her notebook as she repeated, “warm molecules are lighter so they rise up in the air and cool molecules are heavier so they stay low to the ground.”

"I know someone who can help me teach you about weather," said Mr. Beedy as he led the way down the hall past the big round table where the Children's librarian was reading a story to smaller kids and into the room marked 'New Science Room'.

"You're Mr. Waite!" Heather called out to a man behind a tall desk with words on it. "I watch you on TV every Saturday."

"Why thank you," Mr. Waite answered. "This is where we film 'Waite For It'. Hi Dave."

"Good morning, Bill," Mr. Beedy said. "This is Heather. She has a homework assignment on the science of weather. I'm helping her to understand it and I thought your room would be the best place to show her many types of weather."



"Right you are," answered Mr. Waite. "Look around the room and see what you can use."

Mr. Beedy saw the helium balloons on the wall behind Mr. Waite and walked over to untie one. Walking back to Heather, he held it out to show her. "Ever wonder what makes balloons stay up? They're filled with Helium. Helium is a gas and gases tend to be warmer than air and what have we learned about cool air and warm air?"

"I remember," she answered. "Warm air is lighter so it rises."



"You're learning," Mr. Beedy said proudly. ² "Let me show you air pressure. It's a big part of the weather. Hold out your hand, palm up. Air pressure is when you can 'feel' but not necessarily 'see' air." Pinching the end, he squeezed it tight allowing only a little bit of air to escape onto her palm.

"I feel the air pressure," Heather said, "even though I can't see it." Suddenly the balloon started making a squealing sound, getting louder and louder. "Make it stop, Mr. Beedy."

Mr. Beedy pinched it harder but that only made the squealing sound louder.

A voice was heard outside the door as the Children's librarian called out, "Who's making that noise?"