



Snowflake Bentley

By Jacqueline Briggs Martin



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"Of all the forms of water the tiny six-pointed crystals of ice called snow are incomparably the most beautiful and varied." -- Wilson Bentley (1865-1931)

From the time he was a small boy in Vermont, Wilson Bentley saw snowflakes as small miracles. And he determined that one day his camera would capture for others the wonder of the tiny crystal. Bentley's enthusiasm for photographing snowflakes was often misunderstood in his time, but his patience and determination revealed two important truths: no two snowflakes are alike; and each one is startlingly beautiful. His story is gracefully told and brought to life in lovely woodcuts, giving children insight into a soul who had not only a scientist's vision and perseverance but a clear passion for the wonders of nature. *Snowflake Bentley* won the 1999 Caldecott Medal.



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Snowflake Bentley By Jacqueline Briggs Martin Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Most children are captivated by snow, but how many go on to make it their lifework? This beautiful biography, winner of the 1999 Caldecott Medal, tells the true story of a Vermont farm boy who was mesmerized by snowflakes. Wilson Bentley was fascinated by the six-sided frozen phenomena, and once he acquired a microscope with a camera, his childhood preoccupation took on a more scientific leaning. Bentley spent his life taking countless exquisite photographs (many that are still used in nature photography today), examining the tiny crystals and their delicate, mathematical structures. Jacqueline Briggs Martin tells this tale with simple, graceful prose that will engage children's imaginations. Edifying and snowflake-scattered sidebars offer more information about Bentley's methods and snowflake science. The artwork of Mary Azarian, whose 19th-century hand-press illustrations decorate the charming *Barn Cat*, shines once again in *Snowflake Bentley*, with woodcuts that reveal an appreciation for detail as well as for the man who loved snow. The lovely illustrations and equally fresh text will inspire and comfort youngsters (and grownups too) who wish they could capture snowflakes all year long. (Ages 4 to 8) --*Brangien Davis*

From Publishers Weekly

Azarian's (A Farmer's Alphabet) handsome woodcuts provide a homespun backdrop to Martin's (Grandmother Bryant's Pocket) brief biography of a farmboy born in 1865 on the Vermont snowbelt who never lost his fascination with snowflakes. Wilson A. Bentley spent 50 years pioneering the scientific study of ice crystals, and developed a technique of microphotography that allowed him to capture the hexagonal shapes and prove that no two snowflakes are alike. Martin conveys Bentley's passion in lyrical language ("snow was as beautiful as butterflies, or apple blossoms"), and punctuates her text with frequent sidebars packed with intriguing tidbits of information (though readers may be confused by the two that explain Bentley's solution of how to photograph the snowflakes). Hand-tinted with watercolors and firmly anchored in the rural 19th century, Azarian's woodcuts evoke an era of sleighs and woodstoves, front porches and barn doors, and their bold black lines provide visual contrast to the delicate snowflakes that float airily in the sidebars. A trio of Bentley's ground-breaking black-and-white photographs of snowflakes, along with a picture and quote from him about his love for his work, is the icing that tops off this attractive volume. Ages 4-8.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3-This picture-book biography beautifully captures the essence of the life and passion of Wilson A. Bentley (1865-1931), known to many as "The Snowflake Man." A plaque in his hometown honors the work of this simple farmer who labored for 50 years to develop a technique of microphotography in an attempt to capture "...the grandeur and mystery of the snowflake." The story of this self-taught scientist begins with his early interest in the beauty of snow and his determination to find a way of sharing that beauty with others. At 16, his parents spent their life's savings on a special camera with its own microscope so he could make a permanent record of individual snowflakes. After two years of work, he perfected a technique for making acceptable pictures. He spent the rest of his life photographing ice crystals and sharing them with neighbors and interested scientists and artists around the world. Azarian's woodblock illustrations, hand tinted with watercolors, blend perfectly with the text and recall the rural Vermont of Bentley's time. The inclusion of a photograph of the scientist at work and three of his remarkable photographs adds authenticity. Two articles about his work, one written by Bentley himself, are listed on the CIP page. The story of this man's life is written with graceful simplicity. Sidebars decorated with snowflakes on every page add facts for those who want more details. An inspiring selection.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Betty Epperson:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world may share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their particular reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the guides. But also they write about the ability about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write for their book. One of them is this Snowflake Bentley.

Guadalupe Eggleston:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled Snowflake Bentley can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Roderick Olin:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book than can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because this time you only find guide that need more time to be learn. Snowflake Bentley can be your answer as it can be read by you actually who have those short spare time problems.

Nicole Norris:

This Snowflake Bentley is brand-new way for you who has curiosity to look for some information as it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having bit of digest in reading this Snowflake Bentley can be the light food for you because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books acquire itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book application form. People who think that in publication form make them feel tired even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there is no in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book variety for your better life as well as knowledge.

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