



# Come On, Rain!

By Karen Hesse

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Through exquisite language and acute observation, Newbery medalist Karen Hesse recreates the glorious experience of a quenching rainstorm on a sweltering summer day. Jon J Muth's masterful and lyrical watercolors perfectly reflect the spirit of the text.

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## **Come On, Rain! By Karen Hesse Bibliography**

- Rank: #23507 in Books
- Brand: Scholastic Press
- Published on: 1999-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.75" h x 9.50" w x .50" l, .88 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 32 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

In this quietly affecting story, award-winning author Karen Hesse and artist Jon J. Muth deftly capture the magnificence of a sudden rainstorm on a swelteringly hot day. Much more than a simple tale of weather, *Come On, Rain!* also portrays the tenderness of mother-daughter relations, the rhythms of urban society, and the power of nature to transform and reinvigorate all forms of life.

The book's collaborators, more like alchemists, work wonders. Muth's sunbaked watercolors perfectly convey the washed-out, drought-stricken world, while Hesse's gripping narrative--a detailed prose poem written in the voice of the watchful, pigtailed Tessie--conveys undaunted hope and anticipation. Like a long-limbed little bird--all twiggy arms and legs--Tessie moves through the neighborhood, observing her Mamma, her friends, the skies, even the streets:

Up and down the block,  
cats pant,  
heat wavers off tar patches in the broiling alleyway....

I stare out over rooftops,  
past chimneys, into the way off distance.  
And that's when I see it coming,  
clouds rolling in,  
gray clouds, bunched and bulging under a purple sky.

A creeper of hope circles round my bones.  
"Come on, rain!" I whisper.

As the downpour approaches, Tessie gathers her neighborhood friends for a romp in the raindrops. Their eager anticipation is matched by a rain shower so gigantic, it even makes their mothers run into the street. It's literally the stuff that dreams are made of--my own daughter dreamed of the delicious downpour the night we first read the book. (Click to see a sample spread. Text ©1999 by Karen Hesse. Illustrations ©1999 by Jon J. Muth. Reproduced with permission of Scholastic, Inc.) (Ages 5 and older) --*Jean Lenihan*

### From Publishers Weekly

"Up and down the block,/ cats pant,/ heat wavers off tar patches in the broiling alleyway./ Miz Grace and Miz Vera bend, tending beds of drooping lupines," as a whole neighborhood waits for rain. The narrator, Tessie, is the first one to see the "clouds rolling in,/ gray clouds, bunched and bulging under a purple sky," and she engineers a joyful rain dance with her three friends, Jackie-Joyce, Liz and Rosemary. The long-sought rain "freckles our feet, glazes our toes./ We turn in circles,/ glistening in our rain skin." According to Hesse's bio on the jacket flap, this text contains her initial exploration of motifs used first in her Newbery Medal-winning novel, *Out of the Dust*. With poetic and immediate language, she again captures the cleansing experience of rainfall after a long dry spell. In an auspicious debut, Muth's illustrations showcase an impressive range of perspectives, from the opening urban skyline to the subtle indication of the oncoming storm in the ruffling of a curtain to the girls' view looking up at their mothers from where they're dancing in the street. His inventive design sense and use of watercolors?smudges

of shadow, glistening sidewalks and foggy city-scapes?are remarkable. This is an impressive tribute to those experiences that leave us "purely soothed,/ fresh as dew,/ turning toward the first sweet rays of the sun." Ages 4-8.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 2-It's summer in the city and a three-week drought has made the heat nearly unbearable. Skinny little Tessie whispers her prayer, "Come on, rain!" longing for the shower that will break the heat and bring her mother's parched garden back to life. Seeking relief, the girl asks permission to wear her bathing suit, but an "Absolutely not" from Mamma keeps her looking for something to do. Like a blessing, she spies clouds off in the distance. Knowing that her mother will be easier to convince with help from a friend, Tessie runs off to her pal Jackie-Joyce's. "It's going to rain," she whispers. "Put on your suit and come straight over." Tessie returns home to fix her mother a much-needed iced tea, and with the perfect timing of a well-laid plan, Jackie-Joyce arrives along with the rain. As hoped, Mamma changes her mind about the suit and the girls run off to join two friends for a romp in the deliciously refreshing summer rain. To their daughters' delight, all four "...barelegged mammas dance down the steps..." and join in a spontaneous dance of relief and celebration. Muth's deceptively simple, muted watercolors capture the stifling city summer heat as well as a young girl's determination to keep it from ruining all her fun. Hesse's poetically crafted, perceptive text skips delightfully along with its own perfect rhythm. Lyrically written and lovingly illustrated, this is one you'll want to share over and over again.

*Alicia Eames, New York City Public Schools*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Joseph Woodruff:**

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They may be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is definitely reading a book. What about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book after they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will need this Come On, Rain!.

#### **Debbie Jones:**

With other case, little folks like to read book Come On, Rain!. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. So long as we know about how is important some sort of book Come On, Rain!. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, because from book you can know everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple thing until wonderful thing you can know that. In this era, we can open a book or perhaps searching by internet product. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel bored stiff to go to the library. Let's go through.

**Jerrod Spicher:**

Typically the book *Come On, Rain!* has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This article's author makes some research just before writing this book. This specific book is very easy to read; you can find the point easily after reading this article book.

**Sandra Leggett:**

*Come On, Rain!* can be one of your starter books that are a good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, is easy to understand, is a bit entertaining but still delivers the information. The article writer gives his/her effort to put every word into a pleasant arrangement in writing *Come On, Rain!* however doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can easily draw you into a completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

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