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Children and Young Adult Book Review *Elementary to Middle School* **Rain, Reign**

Student Reviewer: Riley McLaughlin
Educator Reviewer: Laura Beck



Martin, A. (2014). *Rain, reign*. New York, NY: Feiwel & Friends.

ISBN: 978-0312643003

Pages: 240

Student Review:

Rain, Reign is a touching story about a young girl named Rose who has an obsession with homonyms. She also has an extreme passion for her dog. Rose is satisfied with her name because it is a homonym. Because she likes homonyms so much her dog's name is also one: Rain. As the story goes along, it becomes more intense and it will continuously get harder to put your book down. This story will stay with you long after you finish it.

One thing I loved about this novel is there is a very diverse group of characters who weave through this interconnected story and who all have very dynamic personalities. My favorite character was definitely Uncle Weldon because, to me, he was more like the father figure of the story. He accepted Rose for who she was; he knew that he was not going to be able to change her so he embraced her true personality. Also, I like the descriptive language that is used in the book. In my Language Arts class, we have been working on sensory details and there were lots of places in this book that were good examples of what our writing needs to look like.

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I would have liked to see a little more plot development in some parts of the story. Near the end of the book, I found myself with some questions that were never answered. I would have liked to have an epilogue to know what happened to Rose and Rain and the outcomes of another character or two. Other than this, I felt like the story was very well developed.

I would recommend this book to people who like adventures and stories that are unique. This is an emotional story in some places, so I would not suggest it to someone who likes more humorous books. I would also recommend it to people who come into contact with people with special needs. Even if you do not typically like this kind of book, you should still check it out to see if the story and characters interest you. Anyone who reads this book will not forget this amazing and inspirational story.

Riley McLaughlin
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7th Grade

Educator Review:

The protagonist, Rose, has high-functioning autism. One of Rose's unique traits is her love of homonyms. Rose finds them everywhere, and keeps them recorded on an alphabetical list. Rose lives alone with her father, who we find out has a drinking problem, and her dog, Rain. During a hurricane, Rose loses Rain and must rely on her Uncle Weldon to track Rain down. Eventually, Rose and Uncle Weldon find the dog, but Rose is left with a tough decision about her future with Rain. The characters in *Rain, Reign* are authentic and believable. Rose offers the readers a glimpse into the life and thoughts of a child with autism in a very real and inviting way.

Few young adult books discuss Autism from a protagonist's perspective. *Rain, Reign* does an excellent job of portraying the everyday life and struggles of a girl with high-functioning Autism. In addition, the book tackles the topic of loss, single parents, and alcoholism. Children of various backgrounds and abilities would relate to this book because there is a little bit of everything.

It might be worth having a conversation about children who are a little bit different from others in the class, discussing the right and wrong ways to interact and treat those students. In addition, the topic of abuse could come up as Rose and her father struggle with their relationship with each other. Educators may want to consider their students in their classroom, because students with learning abilities or single parent homes may

benefit more from this story. The younger the students, the more these topics may need to be explained, while the older the students, the more discussion about these topics could occur.

Laura Beck

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