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# When Spring Comes



## Synopsis

The award-winning, bestselling husband-and-wife team of Kevin Henkes and Laura Dronzek collaborate for the first time since their acclaimed picture book *Birds*. Before spring comes, the trees are dark sticks, the grass is brown, and the ground is covered in snow. But if you wait, leaves unfurl and flowers blossom, the grass turns green, and the mounds of snow shrink and shrink. Spring brings baby birds, sprouting seeds, rain and mud, and puddles. You can feel it and smell it and hear it—and you can read it! Kevin Henkes uses striking imagery, repetition, and alliteration to introduce basic concepts of language and the changing of the seasons. And Laura Dronzek's gorgeous, lush paintings show the transformation from quiet, cold winter to the joyful newborn spring. Watch the world transform when spring comes!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 500 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books (February 9, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062331396

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Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.2 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #72,492 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather #116 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Environment #1319 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

When Spring Comes makes the change of seasons feel magical, the way it does to a child. In the transition from winter to spring, bare trees grow candy-colored blossoms, a snowman flattens in five stages, and a blue egg miraculously produces a chirping bird. Kevin Henkes's text is rich with alliteration and internal rhyme, enumerating the signifiers of spring: buds, bees, boots, and bubbles; worms, wings, wind, and wheels. What must children do to luxuriate in such wonders? Merely wait

for spring to come" and Laura Dronzek's exquisite images represent their reward for waiting. Her vision of spring is a peaceable kingdom of mice, puppies, butterflies, and bunnies. Children romp amid nature's bounty, and three curious kittens explore a world made new by pussy willows, ladybugs, and a red wheelbarrow in the green green grass. After spring firmly establishes itself in the penultimate spread, Dronzek gives young readers a whole other color palette to look forward to: the yellow skies, yellow corn, and yellow sunflowers of summer.

Summary: Waiting for spring can be hard. There's rain, mud, and sometimes, a brief return of winter. But if you're patient, you'll see flowers blooming and eggs hatching, and you'll feel the warm sun. You'll know it's really spring when there are buds and bees and boots and bubbles; worms and wings and wind and wheels. But you're not done waiting, because then it's time to wait for summer! 40 pages; ages 3-8. Pros: The husband and wife team of Kevin Henkes and Laura Dronzek has created a book that perfectly captures the slow unfolding of spring from winter. The soft, brightly-colored illustrations perfectly complement the brief, but descriptive, text. The spring endpapers at the beginning and summer ones at the end encapsulate the movement from one season to the next. Cons: Don't read this book until at least late March, or you'll be depressed when you look out your window.

What a perfectly timed book, as we are currently in the awkward stage before Spring starts. You know, when the novelty of winter has worn off and each new forecast of snow brings feelings of dread instead of excitement. This book is about waiting for spring to come- and some encouragement for when it feels like winter will never end. Waiting seems to be a theme right now for Mr. Henkes, (see *Waiting* (ALA Notable Children's Books. Younger Readers (Awards))) and it is an interesting shift from the mouse books I knew and loved growing up (*Chrysanthemum* and *Chester's Way* were always my favorite. Well, so was *Jessica*- though not a mouse book). I do love that in *When Spring Comes*, there is that same theme of embracing change and growth as a part of life that Henkes writes about so well. This book is written poetically and though there is a story, it is more of capturing the contrast between "winter" and "spring" rather than a story with a narrative. I say winter, but it really is more of a "pre-spring", since the focus is on the less exciting parts of winter- such as half melted snowmen, brown grass, and barren trees. Overall, this is a nice poetic tribute to this time of year and the transformation that takes place and is paired beautifully with the bright acrylic illustrations by Laura Dronzek.

Living in Michigan the countdown to spring starts in December. This is such a beautiful example of what happens when spring finally does arrive. Simple but perfect story and gorgeous illustrations. This has already been added to my school library and will be a gift for my mom who loves spring.

Purchased for my 3 year old granddaughter. The artwork is adorable. The text is perfect for reinforcing our discussions of what Spring is all about. Except for melting snow, she is experiencing the other events of Spring and is very interested and excited to watch it all develop. This book is just right. Highly recommend.

My baby loves this book, the illustrations are so pretty, bright and colorful, she babbled and squealed as I read her the book and we turned the pages. The story explains what changes/happens during Spring, and is a lovely picture book. I bet kids through first grade would enjoy it. The pages were regular paper weight, and can be easily torn - baby won't be exploring this one independently.

This is the perfect book for spring! The pictures are adorable and so colorful!

This is pretty much picture book perfection. The spare--but fun and wonderful--text captures something essential, and breathtaking art brings it to life. What more could you ask for?

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