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# Rain Reign (Ala Notable Children's Books. Middle Readers)



## Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller! Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different – not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father. When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search. Hearts will break and spirits will soar for this powerful story, brilliantly told from Rose's point of view.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720L (What's this?)

Series: Ala Notable Children's Books. Middle Readers

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Feiwel & Friends (October 7, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312643004

ISBN-13: 978-0312643003

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 277 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,366 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets #34 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #90 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 • Rose is different from the other children in her class in many ways. She struggles to control the obsessions and outbursts that are symptomatic of her high-functioning autism. She is fascinated by homophones, or homonyms, as most people know them, and prime numbers. Rose uses patterns and habits to gain some control over her days. Her mother left when Rose was two, so she lives with her father, and is also cared for by her Uncle Weldon, who lives

nearby, and who often shows Rose the most understanding and compassion. When her father brings home a lost dog, Rose names her Rain, since she was found in the rain, and "rain" is a homonym (with "reign"). During a superstorm, her father lets Rain out, and Rose's beloved companion is lost. Rose and her uncle finally find Rain after a long and difficult search, but they learn that Rain is actually Olivia, the pet of a family who lost everything in the storm. Told through Rose's voice, the story gives readers the perspective of someone who sees life in black-and-white, and who struggles when rules are broken, or routines are changed. The characters around Rose develop incrementally as readers witness their reactions to her obsessions and her struggles. Though Rose's story is often heartbreaking, her matter-of-fact narration provides moments of humor. Readers will empathize with Rose, who finds strength and empowerment through her unique way of looking at the world. A first purchase. — MaryAnn Karre, West Middle School, Binghamton, NY

— "Rose is a character we root for every step of the way. She is resilient, honest, and, in her own odd way, very perceptive; a most reliable narrator. — The Horn Book, starred review — "Though Rose's story is often heartbreaking, her matter-of-fact narration provides moments of humor. Readers will empathize with Rose, who finds strength and empowerment through her unique way of looking at the world. — School Library Journal, starred review — "Simplicity, clarity, and emotional resonance are hallmarks of Rose's first-person narrative, which offers an unflinching view of her world from her perspective . . . A strong story told in a nuanced, highly accessible way. — Booklist, starred review — "Martin has penned a riveting, seamless narrative in which each word sings and each scene counts. — Kirkus Reviews, starred review — "Newbery Honor author Martin (A Corner of the Universe) is extremely successful in capturing Rose's perspective and personality... — Publishers Weekly, starred review

(Originally posted on Michelle & Leslie's Book Picks book blog.) Rain Reign was amazing, powerful, emotional and I really related to it. I'm giving it 5/5 stars. To tell you guys the truth, when I was contacted to review\*\* Rain Reign I didn't quite know what to expect, especially because it's described as a "powerful story" and "brilliantly told." I mean, I devoured all of Ms. Martin's Babysitter's Club books I could get my hands on when I was in the fourth and fifth grade, but it's been years and years since I read a book by her. I can name all of the BSC members but I wouldn't call the books in the series "powerful." The BSC books were fun but, you know, ultimately

forgettable. Yeah. Rain Reign is something else. Rain Reign will stay with me for a long time. It's right up there with Wonder (Palacio), Love That Dog (Creech) and Three Times Lucky (Turnage), which are some of my all-time favorite middle grade novels. I am going to be pushing this book to my sisters, my fellow teachers (especially those who teach fourth grade and up--I'd push it on my own students too, but I teach second grade and they're too young), our school librarian and basically everyone. Yep, it's that good. Fifth grade Rose Howard is a high functioning autistic obsessed with homophones, rules and numbers (especially prime numbers). She lives alone with her father, who divides his time working as a mechanic and going to The Luck of the Irish bar drinking beer. One rainy night he comes home with a dog for Rose--basically, it was the best thing he ever did for his daughter. Rose named the dog Rain (Rein, Reign--a special homonym trio!) and she became Rose's companion and best friend. When a really bad hurricane hits their small town, Rain goes missing. Now, Rose must find her dog. But in her search she discovered that Rain's original owners were also looking for him. I love Rose. I love her voice as she told the story--it's authentic and it really pulls you in. She really resonated with me because I see my brother (he has a learning disability) in her, as well as former students I've had and students I see at my school presently. Reading the parts where her classmates were giving her a hard time and bullying her was painful because my brother went through that. I rejoiced when she finally made a connection with one of the girls in her class. And the way her dad treated her... my God! Good thing she had her uncle. I was so happy with how things turned out for her family by the end of the novel--Rose really, really needed that. I cannot count the times I teared up while reading Rain Reign. There were so many feels in this book. My heart broke for Rose so many times, especially after she lost Rain. She already had so little in her life and to lose the one thing that made home life bearable... just thinking about it now while I'm writing this review is making me tear up. But Rain Reign was not all misery and sadness, there were some funny moments and uplifting moments that makes you cheer for Rose. And I read the last page with a smile on my face. Rain Reign is a beautiful, brilliantly written novel with a wonderful heroine who will grab your heart. Like I said, I'm going to be pushing this novel to everyone I know. It's very readable (I actually read it in one sitting) and can be easily read and enjoyed by upper elementary and older students. I urge you to pick up Rain Reign today or tomorrow or whenever, but do not let this novel pass you by.\*\*I received this book from the publisher for this review.

This book was marketed to me by as a book to read next. I didn't realize it was a children's book (since I don't typically buy or read them anymore) until I started reading it. Nevertheless, from that

perspective it was a good story about a young girl with "high functioning" autism, told from her perspective (more about that in a bit) that included a touching story of a difficult life with a single father and her beloved dog Rain. This is a very good story for kids (or adults) to put their life in perspective and to try to learn the lesson of doing the right thing at the cost of your own interests. As for the voice of the book, it was a bit distracting since it is narrated by a child on the autism spectrum who obsesses, in this case, about prime numbers and, most of all, homophones. Once you get used to it, then it becomes less distracting and more educational about how the mind of a child with Asperger's might think.

We read the first chapter at a training last week. It was so intriguing that I had to read the rest. It is written from the perspective of an autistic girl in an abusive home. It's written using language that simulates her obsessive fixation on homonyms, prime numbers and rules. Rain refers to her dog, a stray that her father brings home one night. It is generally believed that autistic children can't form connections and show empathy for others. This book says otherwise.

This book is a good insight into a highly functioning autistic child's mind. It includes all the struggles; the intolerance/impatience, the people who can connect, and the people who try to help Rose cope. At the center of all these themes is a dog named Rain.

Rose Howard is a twelve-year-old girl who is in fifth grade. She is a highly functioning autistic obsessed with homonyms, rules, and prime numbers. She lives in a small town with her father, who spends more time at the local bar than home with Rose, and her dog Rain Reign (homonym!). All Rose knows of her mother is a box of trinkets she occasionally goes through when she has nothing else to do. Rose and Rain have a pretty good life, except for when Rose loses control of herself and gets in trouble at school or tests her father's patience too much. They stick to their schedule, keeping order in Rose's world, and have the good fortune to have Uncle Weldon in their lives. When Hurricane Susan hits, Rose is worried about the storm and all the talking on television, but after the storm she has much more to worry about. Rain is missing, and it is Rose's father's fault because he let her out during the storm. After Rose's initial shock, she formulates a plan to find Rain. Rain is found, alive and well, but Rose discovers that Rain is micro-chipped and has another family somewhere else. Being a stickler for rules, Rose knows she must find Rain's family and return her even though it will break Rose's heart. It is this journey to find Rain's family that is heartwarming, heart breaking, and displays the meaning of true courage in the face of hardship. You'll need a

tissue or two to get through it if you are tender-hearted, but the end result and Rose's growth and hopeful future will ultimately leave a smile on your face. Highly recommended for grades 4 through 6 and for anyone looking for a story about a hero who's only weapon is her heart.

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