



A Seed in Need: A first look at the plant cycle; The Drop Goes Plop: A first look at the water cycle

Books Reviewed:

[A Seed in Need: A first look at the plant cycle](#) [1]

Books Reviewed:

[The Drop Goes Plop: A first look at the water cycle](#) [2]

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Reviewer:

[Margaret Mallett](#) [4]

Editorial Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

Some of the children in a class I was working with recently described information narratives like these books 'information stories'. The question is do books which seem to cross the boundaries between genres confuse children just when they are trying to gain control over different kinds of writing? Once I got used to the snail and ladybird in **A Seed in Need**, who looked as if they had escaped from a storybook, I found the text a clear account of the life cycle of a sunflower. The Mama and baby seagull following the epic journey of a drop of water in **The Drop Goes Plop** are easily coped with as they are just like a parent and child in the way that questions are asked and answered. The mother's utterances are quite a good introduction to information book writing - 'When the cloud gets heavy, the drops fall out as rain. If it's really cold, the drops freeze and fall as snow or hail.' The concept of how the water cycle works and the dynamic nature of the process comes through well. A sense of movement is achieved by making some of the text travel along with the flow of water!

The diagrams of the sunflower and the water cycle at the end of each book communicate structures and processes well.

I think many young children will be entertained by the talking animals and that these books might be a good transition between story books and the more conventional kind of information book.

Running Order:

44

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Links:

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[2] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/the-drop-goes-plop-a-first-look-at-the-water-cycle>

[3] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/113>

[4] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/margaret-mallett>