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# Rain Reign



## Synopsis

Rose Howard has OCD, Asperger's syndrome, and an obsession with homonyms (even her name is a homonym). She gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Rain was a lost dog Rose's father brought home.

Rose and Rain are practically inseparable. And they are often home alone, as Rose's father spends most evenings at a bar, and doesn't have much patience for his special-needs daughter. Just as a storm hits town, 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. Rose will find Rain, but so will Rain's original owners. Hearts will break and spirits will soar for this powerful story, brilliantly told from Rose's point of view.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

(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.

This book gave me so many feelsâ "I love Rose. And I love Rain. These two together make for a strong story that will stay with readers long after the book is done. First, let me say that Martin is a genius in this story. She brings to life Rose, a high-functioning Aspergerâ™s child in first person. I cannot imagine the research and constant concentration to pull this off so flawlessly. And it is flawless. I could tell very quickly that Rose was Aspergerâ™s; Iâ™ve taught teens with Aspergerâ™s. The classroom interaction between teacher and Rose, classmates and Roseâ spot on. Now, let me first deal with the plot. This is not a story about an Aspergerâ™s child. This is the story about a girl and her dog. The special bond these two have. The challenges of growing up without a mom. A father who is frustrated with himself. And an uncle who loves his niece. The above elements are all of the things that made me love this book. The pacing of the novel will keep readers engaged. There is a nice balance between Rose and Rain, her life at school, her life at home. All elements that young readers can connect with in their own way. The bond between Rose and Rain is unmistakable. They count on one another. There is a natural camaraderie, and for those who own dogs and treat them as family, you know what I mean. Martinâ™s interaction with these two on the page is natural, and it makes me want to hug the book. Then there is the challenge of growing up without a mom. Readers are unclear of what has happened to Roseâ™s mom; all we know is that she left. The absence of the mom figure is felt on just about every pageâ "and this contributes to the love I have for Rose as a character. This is not something she dwells on.

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