

SUMMER BLUE TRUDIE TREWIN AND MARJORIE CROSBY-FAIRALL



F	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			✓	✓	✓	✓				

Writing	
Ideas	✓
Organisation	✓
Voice	
Word Choice	✓
Sentence Fluency	✓
Conventions	✓
Presentation	



Reading	
Determining Importance	
Inferring	✓
Making Connections	✓
Predicting	✓
Questioning	
Summarising & Synthesising	
Visualising	

Summer Blue, written by Trudie Trewin, illustrated by Marjorie Crosby-Fairall, is a beautifully written book sharing the tale of two siblings who are waiting for rain after a searing Australian summer.

Writing

IDEAS: The idea for this book is incredibly simple- it follows the daily activities of two bored kids, waiting for the rain to come. This is a great example of a normal, everyday experience being turned into a narrative (no three-headed dragons or zombies necessary). The absolute standout of this book is the stunning **WORD CHOICE**. Strong verbs abound: smothered, hushed, flutter, dissolved, swiped, evaporated, sweltered, gazed, oozed, rustled, tumbled. This would be an excellent mentor text for studying the way the author shows the passing of time- they don't just say 'the next day,' (as our students write) Trewin uses cleverly crafted sentences such as 'Tuesday dissolved into Wednesday.' When it comes to the author's use of descriptive writing, you can't go past the accuracy of word choice used to detail the sounds of rain on the roof: 'fat raindrops galloped from roof to roof.' How does the author create a strong visual in your mind as you read?

Reading

INFERRING: Unpack the meaning of the verbs in this text. How is 'gazed' different to 'looked'? What's the difference between being *surrounded* by hot air and being *smothered* by it? What does it mean to be 'heavy with heat'? Engage in a semantic gradient activity to help students understand the nuances of each verb. Brainstorm as many words as you can associated with rain: hailed, bucketed, pelted, dropped, fell, pin-dropped etc and order these to show loudest to quietest rain or heaviest to lightest rain. Examine how the characters' moods change throughout the text. What mood are they in at the start? What is your evidence? How does their mood change? What's your evidence?