



***Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin**

Beautifully Illustrated in woodcuts that are hand-tinted in watercolor by Mary Azarian

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32 pages

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A Caldecott Award Winner

***Snowflake Bentley* is a biography about Wilson Bentley (1865-1931) who would, from his childhood on a farm in Vermont (which can have an annual snowfall of 120 inches!), become a world-famous, self-taught scientist who explored the wonder of individual snowflakes with microscopy and photography.**

- There are interesting sidebars throughout the book with more facts from his life
- The story shows that he was strongly supported in his passion by his parents. He enjoyed studying nature in general during the other seasons, and learned all he could
- He was the first person to closely study snowflakes, and pursued his interest through trials and errors with the technology of the day. He is an example of a Meteorologist
- Though not fully appreciated in his lifetime, the historical society in his hometown of Jericho has a permanent exhibit dedicated to his life and interests
- “Willie” Bentley’s work is the origin of the saying that it is highly unlikely that any two snowflakes are truly alike
- There is also a lovely book of Bentley’s photos and authored by Bentley from Dover Publishing called “Ice Crystals”.

There are a huge number of resources attached to this book online, from readings and videos to lesson plans, including educational standards.

The Ag in the Classroom program, through the South Carolina Farm Bureau, has excellent lesson plans that include vocabulary and experiments with ELA and Science standards for 2nd-5th grades.

(Note: add to Ag in the Classroom vocabulary list “transpiration: The process by which plants exhale 95% of their water though their stomata or pores)