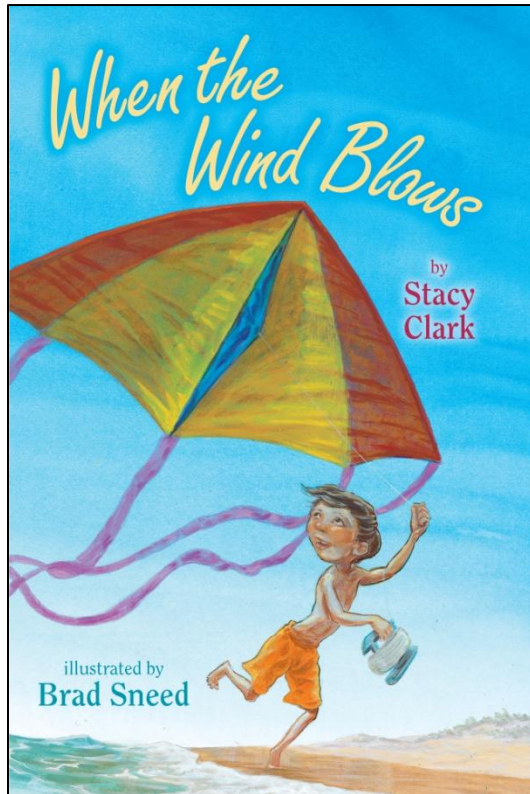


When the Wind Blows



Ages 4-8 • \$16.95 • 978-0-8234-3069-7 • E-book available

A conversation with author Stacy Clark

With a poetic text and sweeping landscape paintings, this picture book explores the many facets of the wind and shows how blowing wind generates power as it introduces very young children to basic physics and engineering concepts.

Stacy, please tell us about your new book, WHEN THE WIND BLOWS.

Illustrated expertly by Brad Sneed, this lyrical science seashore adventure invites readers to frolic along the beach, where the wind moves colorful balls and balloons, waves, sailboats and clouds. Aerial views of the water reveal the simple, elegant sequence of connected windmill components, all synchronized to the rhythmic movement of windmill rotors. Housed atop the windmill towers are spinning magnets and copper coils that convert ocean breezes into clean electricity to power nearby homes, harbors, hillsides and highways.

Tell us about the research you did for the book. What did you find most surprising?

I began my research on Danish wind energy. As I began to break it all down, I realized that there were details I needed to understand better. So I called friends who are scientists and engineers and asked them if they would teach me what I needed to know. I drew pictures as they spoke, and when I was sure that I understood exactly how windmills

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work to make clean electricity, I began translating the science into rhyme. What surprised me in the end is just how simple and uncomplicated wind power is.

What made you decide to become an author?

Growing up, my son would always ask me at least one hundred questions a day. Answering them was the most fun I've ever had because my answers inevitably led to more of his amazing questions! Reading together included more inquiries about the world and more conversations about how things work. But there was one time of the day when we both preferred to just read the words of a book and marvel at the pictures. These tales signaled bedtime by slowing down the pace of the text with rhythmic stanzas and big, persuasive illustrations that pulled us deeper into the story. Inevitably, by the last page of one of these bedtime pleasers, Dylan's eyes would close as he turned to fall fast asleep, comforted and calmed that his world – our world – was safe and secure. I recognized the magic in those lyrical stanzas and wanted to create them myself.

What advice would you give to young authors?

Whatever young writers have experienced so far in their lives is what they should begin writing about. Another good piece of advice I have followed from a scientist friend of mine is to read your writing and ask yourself whether every word says exactly what you want it to say. If it doesn't ring true, it needs to be edited until it sounds like your voice and is as clear and unambiguous as it can possibly be. The final piece of advice I would share is that when I don't know where to begin, I just write down the words I would speak if I were having a conversation with a friend. That's a great way to get over the hurdle of beginning to write, whether it's a journal entry, an essay, an article, a newsletter or a book manuscript. Just talk to a friend.



STACY CLARK is a preschool teacher, writer and environmental geologist who lives in Dallas, Texas. *When the Wind Blows* is her first book.