

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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Snowman - Cold = Puddle: Spring Equations.

By Laura Purdie Salas. Illus. by Micha Archer

Feb. 2019. 32p. Charlesbridge, \$16.99 (9781580897983). PreS–Gr. 3. 508.2

From Salas' point of view, "science + poetry = surprise!" Celebrating the natural world as winter turns to spring, this unusual volume offers a poetic equation on each page, accompanied by a vivid illustration and several short sentences of related text. A snowy scene depicting a downy woodpecker on a maple tree illustrates the statement "bark + beak = drum," while a short paragraph comments that this bird is hammering at the tree to find bugs, though it might use faster drumming in the spring to assert its territory or attract a mate. Sometimes the writing takes a more lyrical tone, as in the "frogs + night = symphony" page, where the text likens a chorus of different frog species to an orchestra and ends with "Bullfrogs honk low and loud on their watery trombones." Created with a variety of traditional media and digitally arranged, Archer's detailed, vibrant collages reflect a sense of wonder, while clarifying the literal meaning of each equation and its commentary. A handsome, original book for reading aloud each spring.

— *Carolyn Phelan*