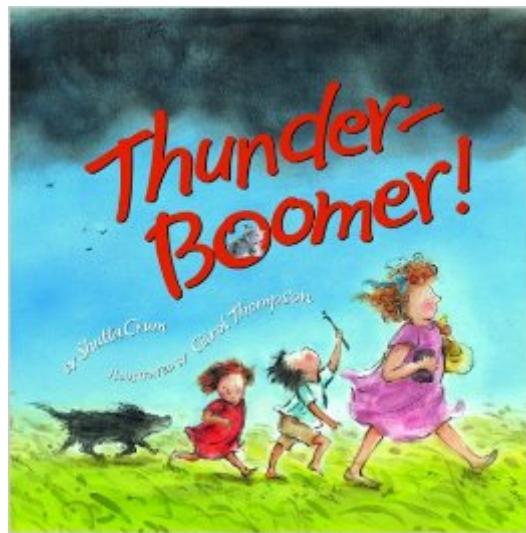


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# Thunder-Boomer!



## **Synopsis**

A summer storm brings relief from the heatâ "and a surpriseâ "to a farm family. It's a hot day on the farm, and a little girl, her brother, and their mother are trying to cool off by the pond. Suddenly, dark clouds roll in. A thunder-boomer is on the way! The storm brings pounding rain and hailâ "and an unexpected visitor: a soggy wet stray kitten. Colorful descriptions of the storm are accompanied by lots of playful sound effects, making this free-verse poem perfect for reading aloud. Charming watercolor illustrations capture all the drama, humor, and tenderness of the text.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD490L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; 1 edition (June 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618618651

ISBN-13: 978-0618618651

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 10.2 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #166,913 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Sounds #253 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life #378 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Poetry

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

The heat was giving everyone that "I don't want to do anything" feeling. Even Scooter just lay on the ground "with his tongue hanging out . . . huh, huh, huh." Dad plowed the field while Mother fanned herself with her hat, Tom dipped his toes in the pond and his sister sprawled under a tree dreamily looking up at the sky. Mother ("swish, swish, swish") declared, "We need a thunder-boomer." Of course every country boy and girl knows they can be dangerous, but they can also cool the air like an ice cream cools a tongue and a tummy. The leaves began to turn upward and the air began to chill. "It's time to head on back. A storm is on the way." Everyone began to move quickly. The tractor went into the barn, the chickens were cooped, the laundry was yanked from the line and the sky

began to come alive. "ZZZZT!" A flash of lightning cracked and the thunder talked to them. "Rumble-brum-brum." Maizy, the little girl's favorite chicken, needed to be rescued. "Run, Dad, run!" The chicken pecked at Dad and she wondered what was wrong. "ZZZZT! ZZZZT! Cr-a-a-ck! Rumble-brum-brum . . . " The storm was in full force, and the children saw something whip past the window. "Dad's underwear!" The hail started to ping on the roof. When the storm began to die down, Maizy and Scooter wanted out "right now!" Did they know that the thunder boomer brought something very special to the little country family? Anyone who is in thunder boomer country can relate to this wonderfully told tale. The humidity and the heat always brings with it the desire for quick relief. A thunder boomer can be a welcome, but sometimes scary and exciting event. Many children are very frightened of storms, but reading and discussing a book like this might just allay some of the fear they feel. Sometimes those scary thunder boomers can leave some very unusual things behind! "ZZZZT! ZZZZT! Cr-a-a-ck! Rumble-brum-brum . . . "

Drawn by the colorful, spirited cover with its amusing title, I picked up Thunder-Boomer from a teacher's desk. When I saw that Shutta Crum was its author, I looked forward to a well-told story. I was not disappointed. What a delightful book! Crum knows Midwestern thunder storms, she knows farm life--its corn and chickens, its delights and hazards--and she writes about it beautifully. Carol Thompson's illustrations add another dimension to the book by portraying the perceptive narrator and her older brother with contrasting reactions to the noise and power of the "thunder-boomer." Scooter, the family dog, and Maizey, the narrator's favorite chicken, add some light-hearted humor that simultaneously emphasizes and relieves the tension of the storm. And Maizey herself, after stalking and sulking around the house, supplies a pleasing, unexpected twist to the story's ending. Crum's prose is subtly rhythmic, and her details are evocative and apt. After the storm, the family goes outside "to a world that's wet and deeply green. The puddles in the yard are full of floating hail and leaves." Thompson's details show that she, too, knows farms--from the newspapers spread to "sop up" the drips from Dad's "draggled hat" to the boards and bucket next to the satisfactorily-leaning shed. If I still had small children at home, I would put this book on an upper shelf of their bookcase to be brought out for special reads on stormy days. Since I haven't, sending the book to my granddaughter to read to my great-grandsons will give me equal pleasure. Thank you, Clarion, for another delightful picture book worthy of repeated readings.

This story is as tickly, touchy and intriguing as a feather that caresses the cheek, picked up by the wind before an oncoming storm. It's a bit long for storytime, but extremely well-suited for a one on

one read, particularly on a brutally hot summer's day. The ink and watercolor illustrations will have readers ooh-ing and ah-ing at their cuteness. There's lots of onomatopoeia tucked into the pictures that definitely will give early readers the revelation of what's to come with learning how to read -Ping! Pang! Zzzzt!.

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