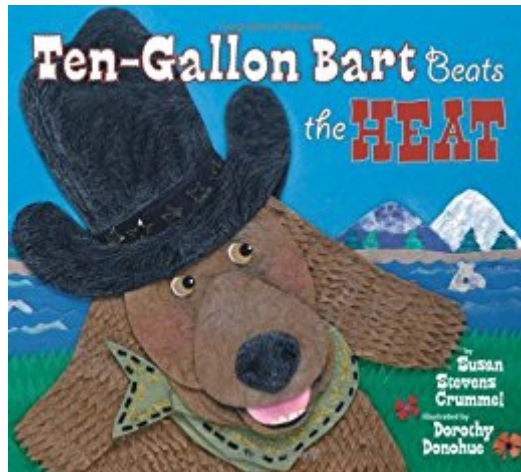




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Ten-Gallon Bart Beats The Heat



Synopsis

It's tongue-hanging-out hot, hot, hot in Dog City and Ten-Gallon Bart is downright miserable . . . until he sees an advertisement for chilly Alaska in Barker's Weekly . He decides to head north, even if it means saying good-bye to his friends and taking a train, stagecoach, and boat to get there! When Bart finally arrives, he's ready to fish, sled, and dig up some gold. But Alaska is COLD, and Bart gets in over his head when the worst storm of the century buries all but his ten-gallon hat. All is not lost when Bart's pals follow his trail and rescue their favorite dog. Paired with the wonderful text are Dorothy Donohue's detailed cut-paper illustrations, making this wild, wacky vacation romp the perfect package!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My daughter and 7-yr old nephew love this book. Some of Bart's language is in "western dialect" with the ends of the words dropped off and apostrophes in their place (such as "sleddin'" in place of "sledding"), and I was wondering how my nephew would deal with that, since he's kind of a rule-follower -- but he thought it was cool and he did just fine. We also liked the paper cut images

instead of drawings. They sparked some conversation and gave some artistic ideas to my 10-yr old daughter, who's more of the creative type. Although the story puts a few unrealistic timelines in place, the overarching themes are quite healthy. One is the that looking for greener pastures isn't always going to turn out like you think, and that "home" is often quite fine if we would just consider it. Another nice theme is that true friends look out for each other and making sacrifices for friendship is a good thing.

It is very strange seeing a Susan Stevens Crummel book without her sister Janet Stevens illustrations, but there are three Ten-Gallon Bart books, all illustrated by Dorothy Donohue. Bart is a dog who gets too hot in Dog City. It was so hot the chickens were laying fried eggs, but he discovers the coolest place on Earth, Alaska. Cool is not all he discovered in Alaska, he found bears, dog sleds, lots of snow and more snow. Meanwhile back in Dog City Bart's friends were worried. Bart discovers that home may be the best place after all. Picture books need to have interesting language that children will want to read and re-read. Ten-Gallon Bart Beats the Heat has great language like this, "A grin spread over his face like syrup on pancakes." Picture books need to have illustrations that match the texts. Donohue's illustrations are cut illustrated paper. They appear simplistic at first glance, but a study shows the detail in each character and scene. My favorite illustration is Miss Pixie, one of the chickens, running around "like a chicken with her head cut off" Lastly, a picture book needs to be fun to read and re-read. This book has characters with great names, Wyatt Burp and Wild Bill Hiccup. The fun characters, language and bright pictures all add up to a fun book. I don't like it as well as I like the team of sisters, Susan and Janet, but Susan's books are always fun.

I got this book for my three-year-old son, who loves to sit on our laps while we read books to him. He's content to sit still like this for quite some time, so even though this book is lengthy, he enjoys listening to it. However, children whose attention spans are shorter might find this one a little much to take. It also doesn't make for the best bedtime story because of its length. That aside, it's a fun book. The story itself flows nicely, and encourages the use of some fun regional accents and sound effects. (The bears go "grr", the train Bart travels on goes CHUGGA-CHUGGA, etc.) At its heart, the story is simple: Bart lives in an unpleasantly hot climate and decides to cool off by heading for the frozen north, but he doesn't anticipate what he'll find there. I like that the book has some subliminal messages about unintended consequences and being grateful for the things you have, but it's very lighthearted and not at all preachy. There are also some nice messages in it about friendship. All of these themes are beautifully woven into the fun story. The mixed media art is a lot of fun too. Bart

looks like he's made out of textured paper set against the colorful backdrops of the book. When he travels north, there's a fun antique-style map that depicts his journey. The cow has curls that look like they're made of clay, and the chickens are made from what looks like an embossed white fabric. All of these elements add up to give the book a very tactile feel, even though the paper of the book itself is flat. It's as enjoyable to look at the textures of the pictures as it is to read the story. This is a very well-made children's book, where both the text and the art have been crafted with the same amount of care and attention to detail. It's a fun book for both parents and children.

Ten Gallon Bart has a problem, Dog City is waaaaay too hot, and Ten Gallon Bart has had enough! After seeing an advertisement in a magazine Ten Gallon Bart decides to give up Dog City and move to the cool confines of Alaska! While Alaska proves to be a much cooler option than Dog City it also brings new dangers. Now Ten Gallon Bart must contend with angry bears and a moose that wants him to pull his dog sled. It turns out that Dog City wasn't so bad overall. "Ten Gallon Bart Beats the Heat" is a very cute story that will kids will find very engaging. It also teaches them about Alaska (the weather.... and how far away it is from the American West) and that the grass is not always greener on the other side. For Bart... the heat of Dog City was inconvenient but he learned that things could certainly be worse! We also enjoyed by the writing and illustration of "Ten-Gallon Bart Beats the Heat". Both are non-typical - the narration is a bit colloquial and folksy. The illustration is, again, non-traditional. The characters are drawn as paper cut-outs with the backgrounds have a chalk-esque look.... pretty cool stuff. Final Verdict - "Ten Gallon Bart Beats the Heat" is sure to bring a smile to any child ages 2-9. Due to the writing style, I wouldn't consider it a "reader" book for kids learning to read however it still would make a fine gift for any child. 5 Stars

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