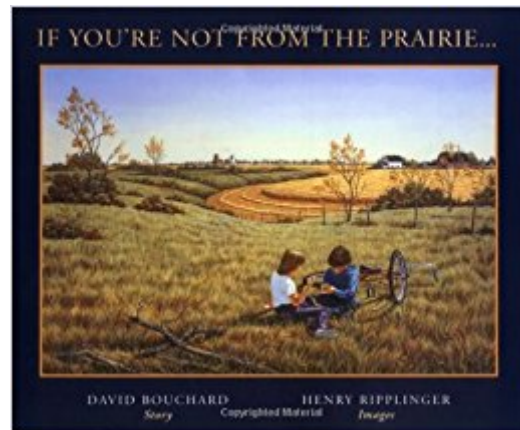




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# If You're Not From The Prairie



## Synopsis

A boy provides a look at life on the prairies of North America and describes the effects of the climate on the people in the heartland of the continent.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Raincoast Books; Fourth Impression edition (May 6, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1895714664

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 10 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #936,173 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #103 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada #3156 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-6?Blazing skies in bright blues bounce from the full-page acrylic illustrations that face every page of poetic text in this piece about modern-day life on the prairie. Ripplinger's paintings are done in a realistic style somewhat similar to Andrew Wyeth's. In them, a young boy and his dog play through every season on farmlands, prairie fields, and country roads. He and his friends have a snowball fight in front of a large country house and board the school bus in a winter blizzard. The child walks in a creek bed in solitude and down the road beside his dad. For the most part, the accompanying verse is well written. The dialogue style works well rhythmically and makes for a possible story hour or program read-aloud. Adults would also enjoy this nostalgic piece that ends with the boy a grown farmer: "You see, my hair's mostly wind,/My eyes filled with grit,/My skin's red or brown,/My lips chapped and split." With its attractive format, this will make a nice additional purchase for poetry collections, though in prairie areas it might be a "must."?Susannah Price, Boise Public Library, IDCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Gr. 3<sup>^</sup>-5, younger for reading aloud. The initial premise of the poem--if you're not from the prairie, you can't understand wind, cold, grasses, and such--mellows out by the end as "you" and "I" agree to understand each other because we share the same sun. The colorful acrylic paintings, however, draw you in immediately rather than insist that you can't understand. Ripplinger's images catch the vastness of prairie living, with a strong sense of the flat expanses of the horizon, and the vastness of the sky. This is a world of children on the prairie, physically lying on the land, playing in the mud, walking through the snow. The book affectionately shows farm life on flatland, wherever the land is. Mary Harris Veeder --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

I heard about this picture book from a teacher at my high school who uses it to talk about identity and how we get to know other people and their cultures. He also has students write their own poems/books and they kids love it. I like that the book is a poem, there is repetitive structure on each page so it's easy for kids to follow/copy the style, and the author really shows the reader what is important from his culture, where he comes from.

This is a gorgeous book. The story rings true and the illustrations are beautiful! I found it first at a local independent bookstore and bought it for my husband. He is from the Oklahoma prairie and we have raised our family in California. When I read the book to him, his eyes sparkled and he had a big smile on his face ... it was the prairie he remembered even though the one in the book was Canadian. The little boy pictured in the front of the book even had red hair as did my husband of 47 years when he was little. So we decided to purchase four more for our children from so they would understand a bit more what growing up on the Oklahoma prairie was like. In addition, he is writing his own story for them. We think it will be a wonderful Christmas present for our children and their families.

A Texas Panhandle native- the prairie is my home and not matter where I go- it always feels that way. This book brought me to tears- loved it just as I love the Texas Plains

If you are from the Prairies, you will love this book because it reminds you so beautifully of home. If you are not from the Prairies, you will love this book because it takes you to a beautiful place and it often overlooked. The short rhymes are brought to life by amazing illustrations.

Loved the book - Beautiful Prose - Beautifully illustrated. Also gave one as a gift and they also were

very touched by it.

Very cute poem. I actually use this in my classroom for creative writing. It works well with discussing the individual views we have on places.

This is another from a great Native Canadian speaker and author. For children ages six to 96.

I just loved the pictures in this book and how beautiful they are. I'm NOT from the prairie, but it's a good companion if you're teaching about the Midwest, or "Sarah, Plain and Tall."

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