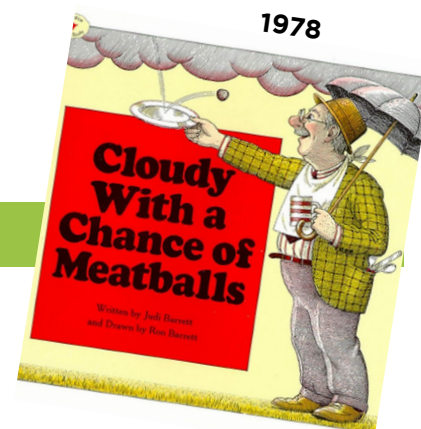




Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs

READ ALOUD

Themes: Adapting to change; Community and Cooperation; Facing what you cannot control; Imagination and Storytelling

Book Brief: In the town of Chewandswallow, the weather comes as food three times a day, until the meals grow so large and dangerous that the townspeople must abandon their home. The story is framed as a grandfather's tall-tale bedtime story.

Author(s):

Judi Barrett

Illustrator(s):

Ron Barrett

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about what they see falling from the sky.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and Point out that the illustrations show far more detail than the words say. Ask students to predict what the "food weather" will look like.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Describe a real weather report. What words do forecasters use?"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [vocabulary guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read today, let's pay attention to the illustrations and their details to notice how the pictures show more than the words tell us."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What clues in the picture show how people get their food?
- What do you see in the picture that the words do not tell you?
- How do the pictures show that the food weather has become a problem? What details did the illustrator add?
- What are their boats made of? What clues in the picture show how the people feel?
- What do they think they see at the top of the hill? Why is that funny?



Think Aloud: "I notice the pictures tell me things the words leave out. The words just say lunch brought fifteen-inch drifts of sandwiches, but the picture shows giant sandwiches burying the whole town. The illustrator is telling part of the story on his own."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How do the illustrations you understand the story? Name one thing the pictures showed that the words did not.

Extending Our Thinking: Have students use [RIF's Use this Concept Map](#) before, during, and after reading to deepen students' understanding of a concept, make connections, and build comprehension.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more titles by Judi Barrett:
 - [Pickles To Pittsburgh: The Sequel To Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs](#) (1997)