COME ON, RAIN!

by Karen Hesse, illustrated by Jon J. Muth
(Scholastic Press)
Themes: Families, Growth and Change,
Multiculturalism, Nature and Seasons, Neighbors
Grade Level: K–3  (ages 5–8)
Running Time: 8 minutes

SUMMARY
This book recounts the natural drama of a summer rainstorm, beginning with "endless heat," building in suspense as clouds roll in, and exploding in relief when the raindrops finally fall. The story is set in a city neighborhood and is told from the viewpoint of a young African-American girl who can't wait to play in the rain. The words and pictures appeal to all the senses and draw the viewers into the suspense. When the rain finally comes, the children's joy infects the adults as everyone dances to welcome the shower.

OBJECTIVES
• Children will watch and listen to a story about the coming of rain.
• Children will identify words and pictures that describe the senses of touch, sight, sound, hearing, and taste.
• Children will describe the progression of events in a summer rainstorm.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Present the title to the students and ask them to describe occasions on which they have really wanted it to rain. Encourage them to remember details (such as temperature and wind) that precede a rainstorm. Ask them to keep their own experiences in mind as they view the program.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Discuss the title again, in light of what children saw and heard in the story. Ask them to recall the feelings of the characters at various points in the story and to compare the feelings of the girls and their mothers. Why did they look forward to rain? Why were they so happy when the rain came? How did they feel after the rain passed? Go back over the program, pointing out the words and pictures that expressed the people's feelings.

Continue the "before, during, and after" theme as you connect the story to science. Make a chalkboard list of how the environment changes during the course of the story. Then introduce the water cycle of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. Have students do simple science experiments that illustrate these principles.

Other related videos and films available from Weston Woods include:
THE SNOWY DAY, by Ezra Jack Keats
TIME OF WONDER, by Robert McCloskey

CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!
This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction