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# First Snow



## Synopsis

First Snow is the newest picture book from acclaimed Caldecott Honor-winning author-illustrator Peter McCarty, which extends the winning world of animal characters established in *Chloe*, a Kids' Indie Next List Pick and Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book, and *Henry in Love*, a New York Times Best Illustrated Book. It's a day of firsts for Pedro . . . First snowfall. First snow angel. First taste of a snowflake. First sled run. First snowball fight! All the joy, magic, and wonder of a child's first experiences are captured in this breathtaking picture book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD310L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Balzer + Bray (January 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062189964

ISBN-13: 978-0062189967

Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #867,455 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports](#) #1090 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills](#) #1707 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 1 — Pedro, a young anthropomorphic dog, has traveled from far away, and his cousins Sancho, Bella, Lola, Ava, and Maria are eager to introduce him to snow — something he's never before experienced. Though Pedro is initially reluctant, the cousins, joined by a host of other animals — bunnies, owls, chickens, and more — show him how to make snow angels, taste snowflakes, and sled down a hill, until he finally warms to the day's activities.

Employing ink and watercolors rendered in a muted, beige-heavy palette, McCarty relies upon the sweetly old-fashioned style readers will fondly remember from titles such as *Henry in Love* (2009) and *Chloe* (2012, both HarperCollins) — Chloe the rabbit even makes an appearance. The

animals are an enchanting bunch, striking such dynamic poses as they cavort that Pedro and readers alike will be hard-pressed to resist. McCarty sustains a gentle but upbeat tone through charming, dialogue-heavy text ("Put on your boots! Put on your coat! Put on your hat and mittens!"), as the cousins eventually win Pedro over, encouraging him cheerfully but never forcefully. Through it all, a message emphasizing the importance of trying new things is unobtrusively folded in, but most of all, readers will come away with a genuine sense of fun and the joy of family and friends. A delightful winter excursion. —Mahnaz Dar, School Library Journal

McCarty's characteristic, ever-so-delicate shading gives the faces of his roly-poly creatures substance and softness. His sly, Dick-and-Jane prose ("It is cold," Pedro keeps saying) makes this a rewarding readaloud. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) "A message emphasizing the importance of trying new things is unobtrusively folded in, but most of all, readers will come away with a genuine sense of fun and the joy of family and friends. A delightful winter excursion." (School Library Journal (starred review))

Wonderful story !!!! My 4 year old grandson adored this story .

My Great Nephew really enjoyed it.

It is brisk outside today, and while the current now is not quite ripe for snow it is coming so I'm glad to have it on mind as I plan our book stacks. We have a few favorites on snow as well as some classics, but it is always good to add a few more. A new one for this year, perfect for the newest readers, is First Snow. I had the privilege of reading an advanced reader copy. I'm always excited to get my hands on books from past award winners, and this one is from Caldecott Honor winning Peter McCarty. While I haven't had the opportunity to read the honorable Hondo & Fabian, I'm pleased with First Snow. With a Spanish flair, early readers will enjoy reading about Pedro, Sancho and his sisters and the new experience of a first snow. There is excitement and uncertainty and new lessons learned as Pedro gets to become a bit adventurous. (On a sidenote: this is a great one for those with large families too!) When you're little new experiences can be scary and full of uncertainty as I've witnessed with a K5, Toddler 3 and newborn learning newness everyday. They take cues from those around them and while we often think of cold as a bitterness to bare, the magical first snow and those to follow are a memory to treasure. This is a neat little book. While I'm undecided if these are bunnies, dogs, beavers or a little of all in between. These little creatures have a delightful

experience on the page to bring out the excitement of a child. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this one for personal shelves, classrooms, and libraries as well for that first experience! Again, I read an advanced copy, but I believe the final thing will be an excellent jacketed hardcover great for the shelf. I received this product free for the purpose of reviewing it. I received no other compensation for this review. The opinions expressed in this review are my personal, honest opinions. Your experience may vary. Please read my full disclosure policy for more details. As the temperature goes down and the mercury recedes filling your bookshelf with the themes of snow and snuggling up after a mug of warm cider or chocolate reads are a perfect thing. Other first snow experiences that you might enjoy include *A Perfect Day* by Carin Berger and *Snowman Magic* by Katherine Tegen. And I plan to have a good round up post in the near future with more!

*First Snow* is all about "first" experiences for little ones, which most of us know can be a scary thing for some children. In this story little Pedro comes from a place where he has never seen snow, but is visiting his cousins who live in snow country. Pedro views the snow as new and strange, but the other little ones, bunnies, chickens, and other animals, keep encouraging him to try new things like sledding and making snow angels. I thought this book's appeal was more about the adorable illustrations than the story itself. The animals, the way they are dressed and their facial expressions are terrific. The gorgeous illustrations are done in ink and water colors. The author/illustrator is a Caldecott award winner, and his artistic talent shows through in this book once again.

Though hesitant at first, when Pedro experiences his first snowstorm, he learns to love the snow as much as his cousins and friends. Young readers, ages 2-5, will want to rediscover the magic of snow, while reading this snowy picture book.

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First Grade Us History: The First Americans: First Grade Books (Children's American History Books)  
First Grade US History: The First President: 1st Grade Books (Children's US Presidents & First Ladies)  
The Snow Geese: Picador Classic  
The Snow Geese  
Snow Crystals (Dover Pictorial Archive)  
Unbound: A Story of Snow and Self-Discovery  
360 Book  
Snow White - Yusuke Oono (English and Japanese Edition)  
Have Board, Will Travel: The Definitive History of Surf, Skate, and Snow  
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DK Readers L4: Snow

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