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## Review: Stranger in the Woods

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**Sams, Carl R. II and Jean Stoick. *Stranger in the Woods*. Carl R. Sams II Photography, Inc., 2000. ISBN:0967174805**

**Description:**

When a stranger shows up at the edge of the woods, the animals are filled with curiosity. Deer, birds, squirrels, rabbits, and even mice volunteer to investigate this intrusion into their territory. A young buck goes first, followed closely by a cardinal and some chickadees. The birds find seeds they can eat in the stranger's hat; the buck finds corn buried in the snow; and a young doe decides to eat the carrot forming the stranger's nose. Nearby, a young boy and girl watch as the snowman they have built is stripped of its edible features. Happy that their gifts have been found, they make plans to continue feeding their animal friends until the snow melts.

**Critique:**

Designing their story around a snowman built at the edge of the woods, the authors populate their book with familiar animals of the forest. Basing the tale on their own experience of befriending wild animals, they set an example of studying and caring for the animals around them. The excellent photography captures the animals in their natural habitat giving opportunity for science discussions. The creative placement of words and pictures on the pages add to the impact and set this book apart.

**Awards:** ABA Book Sense Book of the Year Finalist, Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Children's Picture Book, Early Childhood News Director's Choice & Judge's Award, International Reading Association Children's Book Award, National Christian Schools Children's Crown Gallery Classic Award, NAPRA Nautilus Award Finalist, National Humane Society KIND Award,

**Related Subjects:** Animals, Birds, Deer, Ecology, Nature, Snowmen, Winter, Woods

**Character Themes:** Caring, **Knowledge**, Thoughtfulness