Erna Osland: *WHEN IT RAINS IN AFRICA*

The author’s storyline:

"If you want to think about climate, you must think of the world as a whole. We share the same atmosphere, and when our planet is out of sorts, it changes everyone’s life conditions. Therefore, when it rains in Africa it concerns the whole world - north and south, east and west. In this book you have facts from all parts of the world. Only the little narrative about Stryk (Robus), is about Northern Europe and Africa. Africa is chosen because the climate changes there are in stark contrast to the changes in the north. The north has become milder and wetter. The south has to wait longer for the rain, just like the story about Stryk and his Grandma illustrates.

The book is a collection of small educational articles on various weather phenomena. The story about Stryk is fiction. But it could have been true, as it is based on meteorology. The story is incorporated as a teaching aid. It is an allegory about climate changes. Younger readers can think about Stryk and his Grandma, and in this way remember and understand climate changes.

Moreover, the story makes it also accessible for small children. The adult reader - or teacher - can use the short articles as a basis for discussion and explanation. And finally one must not forget that the story is there to become engrossed in. Understanding the climate with both our heart and head is vital if we want to achieve change.

Obviously, the book uses Norwegian weather measurements in consideration of Norwegian readers. These should not be difficult to "convert," as all countries have their own measurements. Climate is complicated, but one can approach knowledge playfully, as done in Norwegian schools. The children enact rain and wind through play and dance. The schools have developed a teaching program with dance and song for the book, *Dance the Weather!* Vestlandske Teatersenter (Westcoust Theatre Centre) in Bergen have begun and are planning to educate new dancers and singers that shall create workshops for school classes whereby the goal is to produce a performance about the weather and climate! “