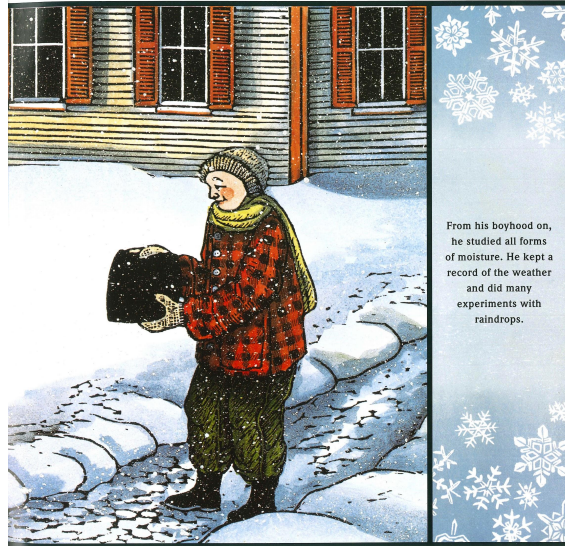
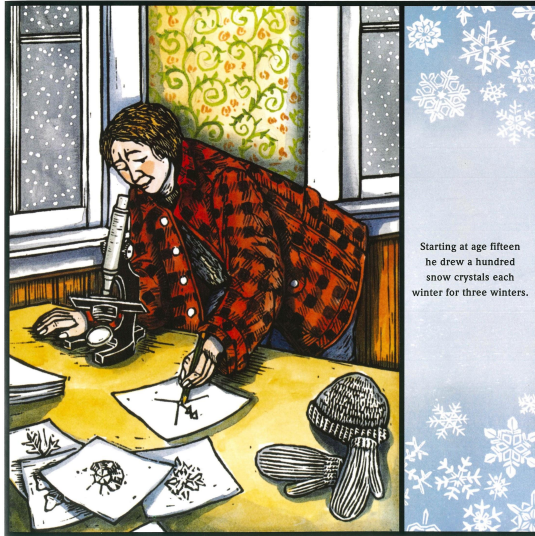


Snowflake Bentley record of events strips

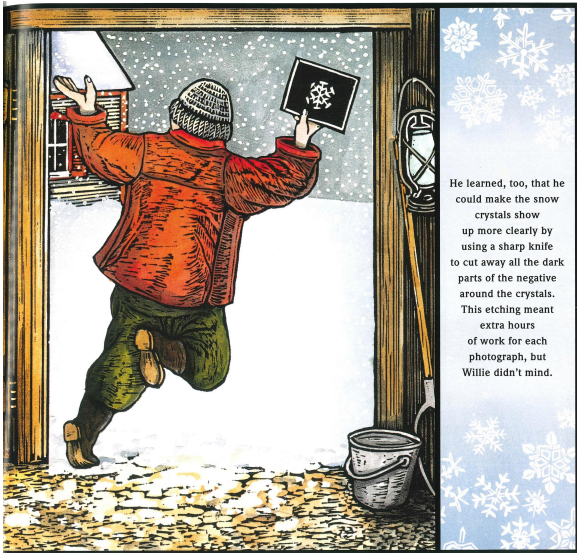


Wilson Bentley looked at snow with a microscope. He also recorded the weather and experimented with raindrops.



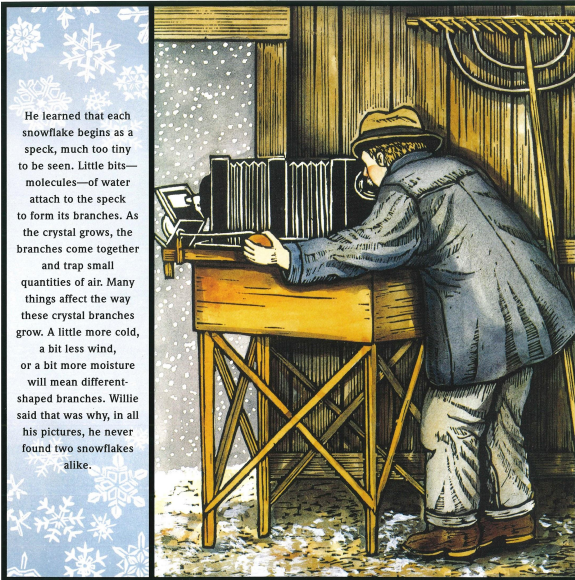
Starting at age fifteen he drew a hundred snow crystals each winter for three winters.

He drew 100 snow crystals each winter for three winters.



He learned, too, that he could make the snow crystals show up more clearly by using a sharp knife to cut away all the dark parts of the negative around the crystals. This etching meant extra hours of work for each photograph, but Willie didn't mind.

Wilson Bentley took photographs of snowflakes.



He learned that each snowflake begins as a speck, much too tiny to be seen. Little bits—molecules—of water attach to the speck to form its branches. As the crystal grows, the branches come together and trap small quantities of air. Many things affect the way these crystal branches grow. A little more cold, a bit less wind, or a bit more moisture will mean different-shaped branches. Willie said that was why, in all his pictures, he never found two snowflakes alike.

He studied snowflakes and learned about them.



By 1926 he had spent \$15,000 on his work and received \$4,000 from the sale of photographs and slides.

Wilson Bentley shared his work. He gave away and sold his photographs, wrote about snow, published his pictures in magazines, and gave speeches.



He died of pneumonia after walking home in a blizzard.