Rice without Rain

By: Karly Behl

The book Rice without Rain is about the people of a town in Thailand that a girl named Jinda lives in with her family, and friends. Usually the town of Maekung has a lot of good luck with their rice harvest and they have a good amount to feed the people. But lately, Maekung has been having a lot of dry seasons, and a lot of poor harvests. In the book, they have to pay rent on their fields by paying with two-third of their harvest. The whole town tries to stand up to the rent collector by only paying one-third of their harvest. The town succeeds. Another big thing in this book is that since they are having poor harvests, the people are becoming unhealthy. So Jinda’s friend is using her medical abilities to try to heal practically the whole town. Then some students from a nearby college come around to Jinda’s town. Jinda and the other members of the town have to learn to trust the students while they are studying their town. Jinda has to try to be herself, while her whole community and life is constantly changing.

I kind of liked this book, but also kind of didn’t like this book. I didn’t really like the book because it was a slow moving book at the beginning with not a lot of action involved until the middle and end of the book. It was really boring in the first one third of the book. If you need a lot of action throughout your whole book to get into it, with a fast pace, you will more than likely not be able to get into this book. I think that the book could have moved faster to get more of the story and way more detail in the book, and have a bit bigger conflicts to solve. Also, the book was not long enough and had no actual point to it. The story also did not have enough detail. I think that they could have explained the book and what they were doing a little bit more. The thing I actually enjoyed about this book is reading about how the people lived in the times of the book. If you enjoy reading about history, like I do, I think you will enjoy this book, and find it interesting. The time frame in the book is around 1945, if you like reading about that time period, you would enjoy this. This book shows how bad some people have it in Thailand, and it shows you how easy some other places like the United States have it, so if you like learning about how other people’s everyday lives are in different countries, I also think you would like reading this book.