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Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Un Día De Nieve

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ABOUT THE STORY

The fun of a snowball fight, the joy of making snow angels, the thrill of sliding down a snowbank, the wonder of falling snow – all these are experienced by young Peter during one snowy day in the city.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

The Snowy Day, which won Ezra Jack Keats the Caldecott Medal, is just one of the many books he wrote and illustrated. Peter, who first appeared in *The Snowy Day*, can be found in several of Mr. Keats' other books, including *Whistle for Willie* (available as a Live Oak Readalong), *Hi, Cat!* and *Peter's Chair*.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they ever play in the snow. Have volunteers describe some snowy day activities they enjoy. Then explain that the book they will read is about a boy named Peter who wakes up one morning to discover snow has fallen during the night.

(NOTE: Exercises devoted to vocabulary include words in both Spanish and English, enabling you to present them according to the needs of the group and the goals of your lesson.)

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "When Peter went out into the snow, what were some of the things he did to have fun?"
- "What happened to the snowball he put in his pocket to save for the next day?"
- "When he went to sleep, what did Peter dream?"
- "Did Peter's dream come true?"
- "Does Peter like the snow? Explain your answer." (Draw conclusions)

Vocabulary

Duplicate and distribute the following lists of words. Explain that for each word in the first column, there is a word in the second column that has an opposite meaning. Tell children that such a word is called an antonym. Have each child draw a line from each word in the first column to its antonym in the second column. Encourage the use of a dictionary if needed.

invierno (winter)
noche (night)
mañana (tomorrow)
pies (feet)
angeles (angels)
abajo (down)
todo (all)
frente (front)

arriba (up)
diablos (devils)
ninguno (none)
atras (back)
verano (summer)
día (day)
ayer (yesterday)
manos (hands)

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Weather Words

Point out the seasons primavera (spring), verano (summer), otoño (fall), and invierno (winter). Ask children to write these words under the season in which each might appear. Some words might appear in more than one season.

nieve (snow)
sol (sun)
hielo (ice)
nube (cloud)

frío (cold)
calor (heat)
ventisquero (snowdrift)
lluvia (rain)

If children can think of other words to go with each season, have them write the words.

Art: Your Snowy Day

Have children paint pictures showing their favorite activity on a snowy day. Activities can range from skating, sledding, or skiing to staying indoors by a fire or sipping hot cocoa. Hang completed paintings around the room.

Health: Cold Weather Rules

Have children work in groups to make posters showing safety rules for behavior in cold and snowy weather. Encourage them to think of as many safety rules as possible. Children can illustrate their safety posters.

Language Arts: Describe the Snow

Some people have never seen snow. Ask children to write a description of snow for someone who has never seen it before. Encourage them to use words that appeal to all the senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Children can write their descriptions as poems, if they want.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

It's Snowing Around the World

Have the children use the keyword *weather* to find international weather sites on the Internet. Ask them to locate one place in the world where it has snowed or is predicted to snow. When each child has found a place where snow is falling, locate the places on a globe.