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Activity Guide

800-788-1121

The Snowy Day

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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 are experienced by young Peter during one snowy day in the city.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Both popular and prolific Ezra Jack Keats one of America's best-known creators of children's books. Peter, the little boy in this story was first introduced in *The Snowy Day* a Caldecott Medal Book, and appears in several of Mt Keats' other books.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children the following questions and discuss their answers: "Do you ever play in the snow? What are some things you like to do? Some people have never seen snow. How would you describe it to them?" Then tell the children that this book is about Peter, who woke up one morning and discovered that snow had fallen during the night. *The Snowy Day* tells about Peter's adventures.

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 the dream come true?"

Vocabulary

List the following words from the story on the chalkboard. Point out to the children that the words all have the letter combination ou somewhere in their spelling. Pronounce each word and ask the children to listen and decide which words have the sound like ou in out.

mountain	could	round	house
thought	found	enough	about

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art: *Imagining a Story*

At the end of the book, Peter and his friend from across the hall go out together into the deep, deep snow. Ask children to imagine some things they might do and draw them on paper. Have each child tell their story through pictures to the class.

Language Arts: *Snow Words*

Before Peter went outside, he put on his snowsuit. Explain to the group that snow and suit combine to make the word snowsuit. A ball of snow is called a snowball. Have the children play a guessing game to make other words by giving them these clues:

- "It comes down from the sky when it is very cold. No two are alike. What is it?(a snowflake)
- "You attach these to your feet so you won't sink when you walk through the snow. What are they?" (snowshoes)
- "It is like a car which can travel in the snow. What is it?" (a snowmobile)
- "You put them on the wheels of automobiles when you drive in the snow. What are they?" (snowtires)

Science: *Let it Snow...*

Have children work together in groups to discover how snow is formed. Provide encyclopedias or other reference materials for them to look up information. Each group can then report their findings to the class.

Language Arts: *Match Game*

Print the following words on small cards. Put the cards in a small container, shake them up. Each child can pick a card. Have children make compound words by finding the classmate holding the card that matches.

out	side
break	fast
in	to
some	thing
every	where

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.

Predicting Snow

Have children use the keyword weather to find websites that predict weather or provide forecasts. They can gather information about weather conditions, instruments used to predict weather, and how meteorologists track snow and other storms. As a class, they can work together to create their own weather report using the information they collect.



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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)	frío (cold)
sol (sun)	calor (heat)
hielo (ice)	ventisquero (snowdrift)
nube (cloud)	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.