

THE SNOWY DAY

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By Ezra Jack Keats (Viking)

Theme: Winter

Grade Level: Pre-K-1

Running Time: 6 minutes, animated

SUMMARY

This story involves a young boy's experience on a very snowy day. The magic and wonder of a lovely snowfall, as seen through the eyes of a child, is conveyed as we watch young Peter explore and enjoy the snow. As the day progresses, we find Peter finding new ways to enjoy the snow that has piled up all over the city streets.

Toward the end of the story, we find Peter saddened because the snowball he brought home in his pocket has disappeared. However, when Peter awakes the next morning, he discovers that the snow outdoors has now disappeared, and he calls to his friend across the hall to join him for another day of fun in the snow.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore the look and feel of a snowy day.
- Children will investigate the many ways snow can be enjoyed.
- Children will develop a basic understanding of the ways heat transforms objects.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book *THE SNOWY DAY* with children.

Talk with children about the kinds of things they enjoy

doing outdoors on a snowy day. (If you live in an area where children may not have experienced snow, share illustrations and photographs of snow-covered landscapes, people skiing, and children playing in the snow.)

Explain to children that the film they are about to see takes place on a very snowy day. Encourage children to think about the way snow must feel to Peter as he walks and plays in it as they enjoy the film.

Try a foot painting activity with children. Spread long sheets of craft paper against the classroom floor. Have children remove their shoes and socks, dip their feet into paint, and walk across the paper. Later, let children dip other objects, such as small sponges, eraser, bottle caps, etc. into the paint and press them onto the paper beside the footprints.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Provide children with cotton balls, pieces of black construction paper, glue, pieces of white construction paper, and scissors. Have children use the materials to create their own snowy day scenes. Later, provide white chalk that children can use to add figures and other objects to their snowy day pictures. Encourage children to share their creations with their classmates.

Talk with children about what happened to the snowball in Peter's pocket. Ask:

- What do you think happened to Peter's snowball?
- Why did the snowball melt?

Then try the following simple experiments to help children see how heat can change the form objects take:

- Melt a stick of butter and have children watch how the heat transforms the butter.
- Leave a popsicle on the windowsill in the sunlight and have children check the popsicle frequently for changes.
- Make a bowl of Jello with children. Have them watch carefully to see what happens to the powder when it is mixed with boiling water.

After each experiment, help children identify the heat source and talk about the changes that took place.

Help children compose some wonderful winter poetry. Encourage children to describe how cold, snowy days feel. (Ask children who have not experienced snow to describe how they imagine snowy days would feel). Print children's descriptions exactly as they tell them to you. Read children's descriptions of that snowy feeling back to them. Later, encourage children to illustrate their snowy day poetry. Display children's work on a classroom wall.

Other videos and films about winter available from Weston Woods include:

BRAVE IRENE by William Steig

OWL MOON by Jane Yolen & illustrated by John Schoenherr

THE SNOWMAN by Raymond Briggs

THE TOMTEN written by Astrid Lindgren & illustrated by Harald Wiberg

ZLATEH THE GOAT written by Isaac Bashevis Singer & illustrated by Maurice Sendak

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