

THE SNOWY DAY

by Ezra Jack Keats

Caldecott Medal Winner (1963). A classic picture book about the adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *If you live in the city, where do you go sledding when it snows?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why this little boy is looking at his tracks?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Snowy Day*

- smacking: to hit quickly
- heaping: large and overflowing

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What do you wear when you want to go outside and play in the snow?
- When it snows in the city, the streets have to be cleaned off. What happens to the snow that was in the street when the trucks push it out of the way?
- Have you ever looked at animal tracks in the snow?
- What happened when Peter smacked the tree with the stick?
- Many people in the city live in apartments and don't have a yard. Where could they go to play in the snow?
- What happened to the snowball that Peter put in his pocket?
- What could Peter have done with that snowball so it would have stayed a snowball?

Do

Snowball Throw

Children love to throw snowballs. Set up a target outside for children to throw at. You can also move this activity indoors and use bean bags or whiffle balls.

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