



THE SNOWY DAY

AUTHOR: EZRA JACK KEATS

ILLUSTRATOR: EZRA JACK KEATS

See a video of the book read aloud here: [The Snowy Day](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

In this Caldecott Award-winning book, a small boy named Peter experiences the joy of a snowy day. First published in 1962, this now-classic book broke the color barrier in mainstream children's publishing. The vivid and ageless illustrations and text, beloved by several generations of readers, have earned a place in the pantheon of great American children's literature.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

In 1934 Keats won a national student competition run by Scholastic for the painting Sahntytown. He studied painting in Paris and had a career as an illustrator for books, magazines and advertising. He has illustrated some 85 books throughout his career and in 1954 he illustrated his first children's book. Keats wrote and illustrated a total of 22 published children's books. Keats was instrumental in breaking the color barrier in children's books, beginning with *The Snowy Day*.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- (cover) Do you notice something interesting on the ground? I wonder what it could be?
- Can you guess the season?
- Thumbs-up if you think winter in San Diego looks the same as the picture on the cover!
Thumbs-down if you think it looks different!

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

(the page number begins with the first reading page)

- Raise your hand if you've ever seen snow! Where?
- Let's all stand and pretend to walk like Peter and make the "Crunch, crunch, crunch" sound as we walk!
- Let's all drag our feet S-L-O-W-L-Y to make pretend tracks!
- (p.7) I wonder what he found in the snow! What do you think it could be?
- I wonder what will happen to the snowball he put in his pocket!

THE SNOWY DAY

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Creative play
- Feelings
- Discovery

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- Which snow activity did you like most from the story?
- What would be your favorite thing to do if you got to play in the snow with your friends?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- On the count of three, show me what you would do if you were playing in the snow right now!

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Turn to a partner and share your favorite adventure story!

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- What are some ways you are like Peter?
- Can you imagine waking up and seeing snow outside your window? How would you react? What would you do?
- How would YOU have saved the snowball?
- What do you wonder about when you look outside the window?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Write, "Snow is..." and have students fill in the blank!

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- What do you do in San Diego during the winter vacation?

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Provide materials for students to recreate a snowy scene:
Click [HERE](#) for more activities!