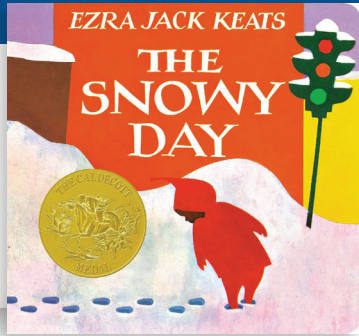


THE SNOWY DAY by Ezra Jack Keats



About the author!

Ezra Jack Keats (1916-1983) is the Caldecott Medal winning author of *The Snowy Day*, which broke ground in 1962 as one of the first picture books for young children to portray a realistic, multi-cultural urban setting. Since its initial publication, *The Snowy Day* has come to be regarded as both a children’s classic and one of the most important picture books ever written/illustrated. Visit the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation online at www.ezra-jack-keats.org.

»» BEFORE READING

TALK ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

- › Ezra Jack Keats was born in 1916 in Brooklyn New York
- › He enjoyed painting and drawing as a child
- › When he was 8, he was paid \$0.25 to paint a sign
- › He won a medal for drawing in junior high
- › Characters in his books look like some of people who lived in his neighborhood

LOOK AT THE COVER: What is the little boy doing? What season does the book take place, judging by the cover?

»» READ THE STORY

Read the story out loud. During the story, point out the tracks that Peter makes in the story. Make note of his snow outfit and the colors in each picture. After reading about bath time and bed time, point out the routines and talk about how they might be similar to routines of the children.

»» AFTER READING QUESTIONS

- › What do you do on snowy days?
- › Do you get a special breakfast on snow days?
- › What did Peter like to do in the snow?
- › What happened to the snow in Peter’s pocket?
- › How did Peter feel about not getting to play with the big boys?
- › If you got to have a snow day with a lot of snow, what would you want to make?

»» ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY ONE: SNOWY DAY PICTURE

Supplies needed: Construction Paper, Cotton Balls, School Glue, Scissors

- › Children will use their imagination, scissors, glue and cotton to make their own ‘Snowy Day’ picture.

ACTIVITY TWO: FOLLOW PETER

- › Take children outside and play ‘Follow the Leader’...or ‘Follow Peter’. Choose a child to



begin being 'Peter' and have the other children line up behind. 'Peter' will reenact some of the ways Peter walked: toes pointed out or toes pointed in. The other children will follow in the recreation of Peter's steps. Let each child have a chance to be 'Peter' the leader.

ACTIVITY THREE: PAINT THE SNOW

Supplies Needed: 5 Spray Bottles, 5 Colors of Food Coloring, Water, A Snowy Day

- › Mix food coloring and water in the spray bottles.
- › Take children outside after a snowy day and spray the snow. See if they can make a picture in the snow.
- › Mix the colors together and see if they can make a new color.

ACTIVITY FOUR: MELTING SNOW

Supplies Needed: Snow (the real stuff), Bowl

- › Take the kids outside and have them all make a snowball. Bring the snowballs back inside and have them all place them in the bowl.
- › Watch what happens to the snow. What is the snow doing? Why do you think the snow melted?
 - › Relate this back to the story of Peter putting his snowball in his pocket.
 - › How did Peter feel when it disappeared?
- › Reference science to talk about the snow moving from a liquid to a solid state.

ACTIVITY FOUR: SNOWBALL FIGHT!

Supplies Needed: White Socks, White Paper (can be scrap paper, Cotton Balls

- › Roll the socks up, scrunch up the paper, and dump the cotton balls out of the bag. You will split all the 'snowballs' up into two equal piles.
- › Divide the kids into two sides of the room - they are going to have an indoor snowball fight!
- › Each team gets a pile of snowballs!
- › GO! Throw the snowballs across the room at each

other for 5 minutes!

- › When time is up, have each team gather all of the snowballs from their side of the room.
- › Count the total number of snowballs. Then count each type of snowball and write the numbers down. Compare how many snowballs each team has and determine the winner!

›› FURTHER RESOURCES

- › See more activities for pre-k through 2nd grade here: www.ezra-jack-keats.org/lesson-plan/a-flurry-of-activities
- › Watch The Snowy Day animated storybook read aloud here: www.ezra-jack-keats.org/read-aloud/the-snowy-day

›› THANKS TO OUR CREATORS:



- › Betty Jo Huff and Cary A Thrall