

Snow Friends

by M. Christina Butler and Tina Macnaughton

A little bear decides to build a friend and encounters some more after waking from his winter slumber. This sparkling glitter book features brightly colored illustrations.



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, *What ways can you help others and begin to build a friendship?* 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 where the animals will find the things needed to make a snowman?

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 *Snow Friends*:

- deep: a vast extent, as of space or time
- gasped: struggled for breath with the mouth open
- skidding: to slide along without rotating
- hillside: the slide or slope of a hill
- branches: a division or subdivision of the stem of a tree, shrub or other plant
- stomped: to strike or beat with a forcible, downward thrust of the foot
- footprints: a mark left by the foot, as in earth or sand
- echo: a repetition of sound produced by the reflection of sound waves off a surface
- snowdrift: a mound or bank of snow driven together by the wind
- muffled: deadened sound by wrapping or other means
- underneath: below the surface or level of; directly or vertically beneath
- creaked: made a sharp, harsh, grating or squeaking sound
- burrow: a hole or a tunnel in the ground made by a rabbit, fox or other animal
- crossly: in a cross or angry manner
- exploring: traversing or walking over a region or area for the purpose of discovery
- twinkling: the act of shining with intermittent gleams of light
- moonlight: the light of the moon
- lonely: feeling of being alone; lonesome

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How long did Little Bear usually sleep?
- What did Little Bear do to make a tiny white snow storm?
- What did Little Bear yell that echoed in the mountains?
- Why did Little Bear build a snowman?
- Who swam across the lake?
- How did Otter help Little Bear?
- Whose voice did Otter and Little Bear hear coming from under the snow?
- Why did Rabbit think the snowman was funny looking?
- What did Otter, Little Bear and Rabbit bring from their homes to add to the snowman?
- What did the three friends do to keep Snowman from getting lonely?



Do

Kid-Sized Snowmen

You will need: butcher paper, markers, colors, construction paper

Have the children pair up. Tape a long piece of white butcher paper at the children's height. Using teamwork, have the children take turns tracing each other on the paper. Using the markers, colors, construction paper, etc., decorate each of the shapes into various snowmen to be hung up in the hallway.