



Activity Sheet

Snowman's Story

Written and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand

Snowman's Story is a wordless picture book that allows children to tell their own version of the story. One wintry day, a hat lands on the head of a newly made snowman and brings him to life. Hiding inside the hat is a rabbit, who listens to the snowman read a story to some animal friends. When the snowman falls asleep, the rabbit hops away with the book. But the snowman isn't about to let his story — or the mischievous rabbit — get away. The chase is on!

Tips to prepare for reading: Tell children you will be sharing a very special book. Show them the book and some of the book's pages. Ask them if they notice anything different about this book compared to the other books you have shared. Point out that there are no words and that they get to create the story using their own words! Explain that some authors create wordless books, or books that use only pictures to tell the story.

Ideas on reading the book: Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book's title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story. Take a "picture walk" through the pages of the book. Enjoy the illustrations, which are full of detail. Look carefully at the expressions on characters' faces, the setting and the use of color. Talk about what you see. Point out a few things, but don't worry too much about telling a story yet. Ask children why pictures are important to a story. Go back through the book a second time, leading children to tell the story together. Have fun! Have characters use different voices, add sound

effects and use interesting words in your version of the book.

Activities and ideas to use after you read the book:

Encourage children to use the pictures and their imaginations to tell the story. Point out that each person's story may be different; however the story should match the pictures. Help children to share their story by encouraging them to add information from the illustration's details. One way to encourage more details is by asking "W" questions: Who? Where? When? Why? Finish by asking a few questions: What pictures helped you tell the story? What was your favorite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in *Snowman's Story*?

Try this at home: Take a "picture walk" through the pages of the book. Look at the illustrations, which are full of detail. Ask your child to tell you a story using the pictures in the book. Then tell your child a story using the pictures! If there's snow outside, go build a snowman!

More from PBS KIDS: Play Sesame Street Seasons Spinner. <http://pbskids.org/sesame/games/seasons-spinner/>
Make Ice Cream Snowmen. <http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/cafe/icecreamsnowman.html>

Additional books to read: *Down by the Barn*, by Will Hillenbrand; and *Good Night, Gorilla*, by Peggy Rathmann.

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