

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Ten Ways To Hear Snow

Written by Cathy Camper
Illustrated by Kenard Pak

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Snow has fallen and it is so quiet! Lina walks to her grandmother's house to make yummy stuffed grape leaves called warak enab. Lina's grandmother is losing her eyesight but can hear just fine. Together they listen to the quiet snow.

Genre: Picture book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Ten Ways To Hear Snow* to introduce in your classroom:

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| muffled | squinted |
| radiator | hushed |

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight. Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D (*Emotions*), Item E
(*Building relationships with
adults*)

Language, Literacy and
Communication
Item N (*Phonological
awareness*)

Mathematics Item S
(*Numbers and counting*)

Reading Tips

While reading to the children, use excited as well as hushed tones as Lina walks to Sitti's apartment. After reading the sound effects, ask the children questions like, "What sound do you hear when you hear shoveling?" and, "What does a snowball sound like when it hits you on your coat?" Whisper as you read the quiet parts. Take a moment to talk about Lina and her grandmother's relationship. Ask, "I wonder why Lina is so eager to visit her grandmother. It's snowy- she could just stay home." Ask the children what they think and take time for children to share stories.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Use *hushed* tones and have children **transition** as if they are walking in deep snow.

Have a paper-ball or sock-ball “snowball fight” for part of **Large Group Time**. End by having everyone toss their ‘snowball’ in a basket and “trudge” to the next part of the routine.

Start a chart at **Greeting Time** for children to offer sounds they hear. Add where they heard it and what they think it is. Review and add to this daily.

Around the Room

Highlight the book’s content and build on the children’s excitement in a variety of locations.

Add instruments and fabrics to the **Music Area** for children to explore and experiment with *muffling* instruments to hear the difference in sounds.

Place small shovels and car scrapers in the **House Area** for pretend snow removal.

Create a sound effects “exploration kit” for the **Toy Area**. Place small objects into containers for children to shake and guess what made the sound.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one “right” answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Ten Ways to Hear Snow*:

What is your favorite part about walking in the snow?

Have you heard snow? Can you tell us about it?

Do you help or watch people cook? What’s your favorite?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Ten Ways to Hear Snow* with their child. Here’s a sample message you can send:

While reading *Ten Ways to Hear Snow* with your child, stop often to talk about the pictures and sounds. Offer, “Lina must really want to see her grandmother if she is willing to walk the whole way. Why do you think she wants to go?” Take time to talk about whatever your child is getting from the story. They might be most interested in the people playing in the snow, stomping boots or helping cook. Linger on any page your child likes and ask them, “What do you see?” Go for a short walk to quietly listen. Talk about the sounds you hear and compare them to what Lina hears in the story.