

Chubby Little Snowman (action rhyme)

A chubby little snowman,
(Hold hands out to demonstrate
"chubby.")
Had a carrot nose.
(Point to nose.)
Along came a bunny,
(Hop like a bunny.)
And what do you suppose?
(Shrug shoulders; hold out
hands, as if to question.)
That hungry little bunny,
(Rub stomach.)
Looking for his lunch.
(Hold hand above eyes, as if
searching for something.)
Ate that snowman's carrot nose,
(Pretend to eat.)
Nibble. nibble. crunch!!

Don't Cover the Pictures!

By Julie Williams

In their early delight with books, kids love to boast, "I can read that page! Look at me!"

It often turns out that something quite different is happening: they're sneaking looks at the pictures to fill in words, jumping back and forth between text and illustration. To worried parents, this looks like cheating.

But primary reading teachers have some reassuring advice: relax! This is a normal, important, and useful stage in learning to read - and for emerging readers, parents should encourage it.

True, as they advance, young readers will need to learn to get meaning from text alone. But a wealth of research shows that this is a multilayered process for children. It's a big jump. They're moving from concrete, realistic images - like those brightly colored pictures - to abstract letter codes. When new readers peek at a picture in the midst of stumbling with a word, they're not cheating. They're using important

"context clues" to check the meanings they aren't sure about.

Think of the pictures as visual training wheels. As they move forward, children will need them less and less, and will be able to rely on "sounding out" and other ways of cracking the code of letters. Even so, "context" remains a very important tool for all fluent readers. When you come across a long word you don't recognize, chances are you make sense of it by looking at where it falls in the sentence, and what the rest of the paragraph is saying. You're doing, as an adult, what your child is doing with pictures - and it's a solid, valuable skill.

So what can parents do when a child "reads" with pictures? Well, jump right in! Enjoy the splashy art on the pages, and encourage your child to comment and explain. If he does read a printed word flawlessly, that's great! But when there's a harder word, go ahead and point to relevant pictures, and then move your finger to the corresponding text. Help connect letters and sounds as you go. Then, because practice makes perfect, return to the book a few times - reinforcing connections as your child becomes more comfortable with new letter combinations and words. Above all, remember to treasure this time with your child. Keep your tone light and supportive. Reading is a gift to savor for a lifetime - and beautiful pictures are, too.

http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Ed_Dont_Cover_Pictures/



POPCORN SNOWMAN

It's tons of fun and a perfect indoor activity that kids can munch on once they're done!

Ingredients

- 15 cups popped popcorn
- 1 stick of butter or margarine
- Two 10 oz. packages marshmallows
- 1/4 cup confectioner's sugar
- Pretzel sticks
- Raisins
- Candy corn
- Mini jawbreakers
- Gumdrops or red hots
- Fruit leather



Instructions

1. Put the popcorn in your largest mixing bowl and set aside. Melt the butter or margarine in a nonstick saucepan over medium-low heat. Add all the marshmallows to the pan, stirring continually with a wooden spoon until they're completely melted. Pour the mixture over the popcorn and stir to coat evenly. As soon as the marshmallow is cool enough to touch, rub a little butter or margarine in your hands and make popcorn balls (about 1 cup of popcorn per ball).
2. Build and decorate your snowmen on sheets of waxed paper. For each one, stack three popcorn balls atop each other. Push pretzel-stick arms into the sides of the middle popcorn ball. Add raisins for eyes and a candy corn for a nose. Arrange a row of mini jawbreakers into a broad grin. For buttons on the snowman's chest, use gumdrops or red hots.
3. If your popcorn balls aren't sticky enough to hold the decorations, mix up a small batch of stiff white icing by adding water, a few drops at a time, to 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar and stirring until smooth. Use this to glue the candy in place. For snowmen's scarves, cut rectangles out of fruit leather and fringe the ends. Makes 5 snowmen.

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To: Ms. Erin's Lions

The Book Nook:

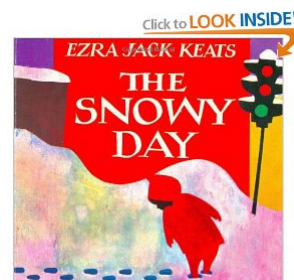
The Mitten By: Jan Brett

With the mitten left behind, a little mole snuggles up inside. Then a rabbit...and a hedgehog...and an owl and more animals until finally even a bear! See what happens to the white mitten in this cute story.



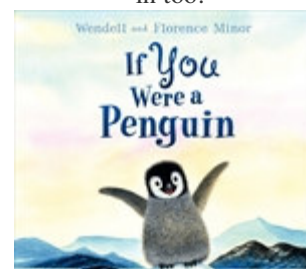
The Snowy Day By: Ezra Jack Keats

The Snowy Day, a 1963 Caldecott Medal winner, is the simple tale of a boy waking up to discover that snow has fallen during the night.



If You Were a Penguin By: Florence Minor

There's a lot penguins can do, just like you and me! Wendell and Florence Minor create a charming tribute to all the playful fun and activity that comes with being a penguin—which young readers can delight in too!



Lion Lowdown

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CLASS: Kindergarten LIONS

Mr. Snowman!



Let's build a snowman! First we need to have a really _____ snowstorm, of course on a _____ day. Watching all that _____ snow fall makes me _____ for a bowl of _____. _____ it's still _____ and there's a lot of it! Let's go! Next is _____ to go out in the cold. Once that is done, we need to get busy. We make a _____ and _____ it in the _____. It gets so _____ we can't roll it anymore. Then we do _____ more and stack them on top of each other. We _____ for _____ in the driveway for the _____, eyes and _____. Mom gives us a scarf, hat and _____ to complete Mr. _____. _____ he's done! Finally. Now the best part, _____.

What to Expect in Kindergarten...

Lessons:

Sight words: with, my, you, what, are, now
Letter sounds
Planets
Community Workers
Math Stories
Numbers 6-10
Class Store

Activities:

1/16 Curriculum Closed for Martin Luther King Day
1/18 Pajama Day
1/19 Lil' Sports
1/27 2nd Period Grading Period Ends
1/27 Field Trip

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