



January Story Time Ideas from the Elm Grove Library



Create a story time at home using some of the elements below. Whatever your child's age, story time provides an opportunity to play with language and engage with your child.

- Children learn by repetition so go ahead and read a book over and over. Change it up by reading in different ways, looking at all of the details in the pictures, or letting your child tell part of the story.
- Point to words on the page from time to time so that your child realizes the words you say are also printed on the page.
- Ask questions as you read to help your child think about the story or predict what might happen.
- Singing simple songs enhances a child's ability to hear syllables and pronunciation. If you don't know the tune, check YouTube or just use the words as a rhyme.

Rhymes

Five Little Snowmen

Five little snowmen standing in a row, (Hold up 5 fingers)
Standing straight and tall in the deep, cold snow;
Out came the sun, shining bright and hot all day,
And one little snowman melted away.
(Repeat with 4, 3, 2, 1)

Merry Little Snowflakes

Merry little snowflakes (twinkle snowflake fingers)
Falling through the air (move snowflake fingers from high to low)
Resting on the steeple (use hands to form a roof over head)
And the tall trees everywhere. (hands straight up in the air)
Covering roofs and fences, (hands form a roof again)
Capping every post; (form a fist with one hand and put other hand on top of it)
Covering the hillside
Where we like to coast. (hand high to low like a sled going down a hill)
Merry little snowflakes (snowflake fingers)
Do their very best
To make a soft, white blanket
So buds and flowers may rest. (pretend to nap with head on hands)
But when the bright spring sunshine (hands form a circle over head)
Says it's come to stay;
Those merry little snowflakes (snowflake fingers)
Quickly run away. (hide hands behind back)

Songs

The Mitten Song (tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Thumbs in the thumb place,
Fingers all together,
This is the song we sing in mitten weather!

When it is cold it doesn't matter whether
Mittens are wool or made of finest leather.

Thumbs in the thumb place
Fingers all together,
This is the song we sing in mitten weather!

Little Blue Sled (tune: Bumpin' Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon as recorded by Raffi)

Bumpin' up and down on my little blue sled
Bumpin' up and down on my little blue sled
Bumpin' up and down on my little blue sled
Won't you be my darling?

Waving to my friends on my little blue sled
Waving to my friends on my little blue sled
Waving to my friends on my little blue sled
Won't you be my darling?

Recorded song: I'm a Little Snowflake (Laurie Berkner from the CD Whaddaya Think Of That? Available at the library or look for the song on YouTube.)

Picture Books for January (themes: snow, winter clothes, hibernation, colds, soup, penguins)

Bear & Hare: snow by Emily Gravett. Hare is more enthusiastic about snow than Bear.

Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson. Bear's friends gather in his den on a winter day while he is sleeping.

Chicken Soup with Rice: a book of months by Maurice Sendak. Enough silly rhymes to get you through the year.

Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett. A girl with a never-ending supply of yarn demonstrates generosity in a dark, snowy place.

First Snow by Emily Arnold McCully. A wordless book about enjoying the snow.

A Home in the Barn by Margaret Wise Brown. Farm animals find comfort in the barn in winter.

Is That Wise, Pig? by Jan Thomas. Pig adds strange ingredients to the soup.

The Mitten by Jan Brett. Many animals try to squeeze into a lost mitten.

The Mouse Mansion by Karina Schaapman. This is a great collection of stories for a snowy day and one-on-one sharing. Illustrations are photos of a detailed house created by the author, where the mouse family's adventures take place.

Oh! by Kevin Henkes. Simple story of new snowfall.

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen. The full moon allows a father and child to have a nighttime snow adventure.

A Penguin Pup for Pinkerton by Steven Kellogg. Pinkerton, a Great Dane, mistakes a soccer ball for a penguin egg.

Samson in the Snow by Philip Stead. Samson is a mammoth who shelters some tiny friends in a blizzard.

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip Stead. Zoo animals are concerned when the zookeeper catches a cold.

Small Walt and Mo the Tow by Elizabeth Verdick. A snowplow and tow truck need each other.

The Snow Show by Carolyn Fisher. A simple, entertaining explanation about how snow is made.

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats. A boy enjoys new snow – a classic!

Stranger in the Woods: a photographic fantasy by Carl Sams. Forest animals discover something new in the snow.

Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester. Tacky is different from the other penguins but that turns out to be very good indeed!

Safe sites for coloring sheets online:

Elm Grove Library website: <https://elmgrovewi.org/691/DIY-Story-Times>

PBS Kids characters are available at this website: pbskids.org.

Author Jan Brett creates many snowy coloring sheets with her picture book characters at janbrett.com.

The Crayola site has free seasonal coloring sheets and activities even though it is a commercial site at crayola.com.

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January 2021