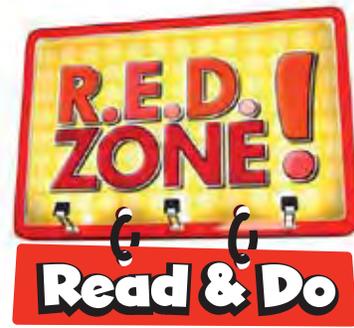


The Snow Dance

by Lorién Trover Hardy

What do four snowmen do at night when everyone is sleeping? Find out in this full illustrated hardback perfect for lessons on counting!



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 do you imagine a snowman does when no one is looking?* 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 why the boy thinks the snowmen are funny?

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 *The Snow Dance*:

- cowboy: a man who herds and tends cattle on a ranch
- rainbow: a multicolored arc in the sky that appears after it rains
- hula skirt: a skirt made of long stems of grass bound to a waistband
- checkered: marked with squares
- average: typical; common; ordinary
- tango: a ballroom dance of Latin-American origin
- mambo: a fast ballroom dance of Caribbean origin
- mailbox: a public box in which mail is placed for pickup and delivery by the post office
- waltz: a moderately fast ballroom dance

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How many snowmen did Mac make?
- What did the first one wear?
- What did the second one wear?
- The third? The fourth?
- What did the snowmen do while everyone slept?
- What kind of dances did the snowmen do?
- How long did the snowmen dance?
- Who knows the snowmen's secret?

Do

Salt and String Magic Trick

You will need: ice cubes, string and salt, cups and water.

Just as the snowmen in *The Snow Dance*, ice and snow have some interesting reactions that can be easily missed if you're not paying attention. This activity teaches hand and eye coordination, fine motor skills, logical-thinking and sequential order.

Place an ice cube in a cup of water. Cut a piece of string a few inches long. Have the kids try to pick up the ice cube using just the string and not their fingers. They will see that it does not work. Now dip the end of the string in the water and lay it across the ice cube. Sprinkle some salt on top of both the ice cube and the string. Wait a minute or so and then try to pick up the ice again using just the string. It should work this time because the salt will have melted the ice slightly and the water will have refrozen around the string.