

# The Biggest Snowman Ever

by Steven Kroll

Clayton and Desmond discover that teamwork and friendship are the best tools to use to win the prize for building the biggest snowman.



## 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, *A hard task always becomes easier when you work as a team.* 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 how two mice could make such a big snowman?

### 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 Biggest Snowman Ever*:

- mayor: the chief executive official, of a city, village, or town
- declared: to make known or state clearly
- judging: forming judgments or opinions of
- contest: a race or competition
- Martian: a supposed inhabitant of Mars
- frowned: to look displeased
- drifts: mounds or banks of snow driven together by the wind
- base: the bottom support of anything; that on which a thing stands or rests
- whispered: to speak with soft, hushed sounds
- wheelbarrow: a frame or box for conveying a load
- discovery: the act or instance of discovering
- brushed: to remove by brushing or by lightly passing over
- floppy: limp or hanging loosely

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What was the name of the town that the mice lived in?
- How long did the mayor give the mice to build the biggest snowman?
- What kind of snowman is Penelope going to make? James?
- Where did Clayton and Desmond go to build their snowmen?
- What do Clayton and Desmond both use to make the work go faster?
- Both of their snowmen were different... but what was the same?
- What was the idea that the two mice came up with to win the contest?
- What did the mice ride out into the country on?
- What did Clayton and Desmond win for having the biggest snowman?



**Do**

## How Many Zeros?

1. Make up a story with the children. Begin with a sentence, such as "One cold winter day, I decided to build a snowman, and..."
2. Ask a child to add a sentence to your sentence. (Ahead of time, give examples of things the children might add, such as where it lives, what size it is, its name, its favorite food, things it plays with, whether it has brothers and sisters, and so on.)
3. Ask the next child to add another sentence, and so on.
4. Afterwards, retell the story. What can you tell me about the snowman? (For example, it is big, white, cold, and wears a top hat.)
5. Tell the children, "I will tell you the story again. If I say something wrong say, "Stop," and correct me so it is right." For example, "I have a snowman. It is hot." The children will say, "Stop. It is cold."