

A Perfect Snowman

by Preston McDaniels

Using captivating, classical sepia-colored art, Preston McDaniels tells the heartwarming tale of a snowman that receives the perfect gifts of all: humility, compassion and love.



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, *It's not what we have, but who we have to share it with that matters most.* 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 animals are paying so much attention to the 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 *A Perfect Snowman*:

- finest: of superior or best quality; of high or highest grade
- perfectly: in a perfect manner or to a perfect degree
- straight: without a bend, angle, or curve
- Neighborhood: the area or region around or near some place or thing
- curious: eager to learn or know
- admire: to regard with wonder, pleasure, or approval
- shining: radiant; gleaming; bright
- darkness: absence or deficiency of light
- soul: a human being; person
- sight: one's range of vision on some specific occasion
- distance: the extent or amount of space between two things, points, lines, etc.
- handsome: having an attractive, well-proportioned, and imposing appearance
- pardon: kind indulgence, as in forgiveness of an offense or discourtesy
- ashamed: felt shame, distressed or embarrassed by feelings of guilt
- offend: to irritate, annoy, or anger
- trembling: to shake involuntarily with quick, short, movements as from fear
- rage: angry fury; violent anger
- begging: to ask for as a gift, as charity, or as a favor

Rare Words in *A Perfect Snowman* (continued):

- wept: expressed grief or sorrow
- scrap: bit or piece of food, especially of leftover or discarded food
- brood: a number of young produced or hatched at one time; a family of offspring
- reluctantly: unwillingly
- plucked: gave a pull at; grasped
- grateful: warmly or deeply appreciative of kindness or benefits received; thankful
- treasure: anything or person greatly valued or highly prized
- wretched: very unfortunate in condition or circumstances; miserable
- stray: a domestic animal found wandering at large or without an owner
- bitter: causing pain; piercing; stinging
- foolish: resulting from or showing a lack of sense
- creature: an animal, especially a nonhuman
- spoil: to damage severely or harm something
- alley: a passage, as through a continuous row of houses
- wicked: distressingly severe, as a storm, wound, or cold
- pity: sympathetic or kindly sorrow evoked by the suffering, distress of another
- quivered: shook with a slight but rapid motion; vibrate tremulously
- remarkable: notably or conspicuously unusual; extraordinary
- apron: a garment covering part of the front of the body and tied at the waist
- vanished: disappeared from sight, especially quickly
- wondrous: wonderful; remarkable
- tatters: torn or ragged clothing

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Describe the little boy. Where/how did he live?
- What did the boy see when he woke up one morning?
- What did the boy take from the house to make the snowman?
- How many round balls did the boy use to make the snowman?
- What did everybody think of the boy's snowman?
- Who were the first creatures that the snowman saw after everybody had gone to bed for the night?
- What did they want? Did the snowman give it to them?
- Who visited the snowman next?
- What did the snowman reluctantly give to the cat?
- Describe the little girl that came to see him next.
- What did the little girl ask for? Why?
- What did the little girl do when the snowman gave her the coal?
- Did the boy ever return?
- What happened when the snowman melted?
- Who met the snowman at the end?



Do

Mitten Mix-Up Match-Up

You will need: one white mitten for each student, fabric paint of various colors, glitter, and markers.

This is a fun game to build friendships and develop social skills. Each student will decorate their mitten using their name and other designs as they wish. Once dry, place each of the mittens in a box and mix them up. Have each child pull out a mitten and place it on their hand. Next, have each child try to find their mitten and have them stand next to their match until everyone forms a circle or a line. Time the children to see how fast they can match up the mittens with their owners.