

A Snowman Named Just Bob

by Mark Kimball Moulton

A snowman comes to life just long enough to impart a few thoughts about the importance of friendship in this story full of whimsical illustration and rhyme.



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 think it takes to make your very own special friend?* 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 if the moon and stars have anything to do with 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 Snowman Named Just Bob*:

- joyful: full of joy, as a person or one's heart; glad; delighted
- feasted: took part in a feast; ate sumptuously
- cooked: to prepare food
- fare: food; diet
- settled: to come to rest, as from flight
- dim: not bright; obscure from lack of light
- weatherman: a person who forecasts and reports the weather
- reported: an account or statement describing in detail an event or situation
- slept: past tense of sleep
- obscuring: concealing
- forming: making or producing
- directly: exactly; precisely
- overhead: over one's head; aloft; up in the air or sky
- bright: radiating or reflecting light; luminous; shining
- disappeared: ceased to be seen; vanished from sight
- jig: a rapid, lively, springy, irregular dance
- retrospect: in contemplation of the past; a survey of past time, events, etc.
- magic: the art of producing illusions as entertainment

Rare Words in *A Snowman Named Just Bob* (continued):

- stir: to incite, instigate, or prompt
- whip: to move or go quickly and suddenly; dart; whisk
- settled: to come to rest, as from flight
- skipped: jumped lightly over
- inviting: attracting, alluring, enticing, or tempting
- eve: the evening
- exquisite: of special beauty or charm
- wake: the path or course of anything that has passed or preceded
- neighbor: a person who lives near another
- mystery: anything that is kept secret or remains unexplained or unknown
- delightful: giving great pleasure or delight; highly pleasing
- eerie: uncanny, so as to inspire superstitious fear; weird
- anxious: full of mental distress or uneasiness because of fear of danger
- inclined: deviating in direction from the horizontal or vertical; sloping
- everywhere: in every place or part; in all places
- throughout: in or every part of; everywhere in
- scattered: dispersed; disorganized
- recommend: to present as worthy of confidence, acceptance, use, etc.
- folk: members of one's family, one's relatives
- grand: magnificent or splendid
- compared: vied or rivaled
- awake: to wake up; to rouse from sleep
- twinkling: to be bright with amusement, pleasure
- countenance: appearance, especially the look or expression of the face
- unearthly: seeming not to belong to this earth or world
- doubtful: unsettled in opinion or belief; undecided
- shapely: having a pleasing shape
- aplenty: in sufficient quantity; in generous amounts
- starry: abounding with stars

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What holiday did this book first take place in?
- What did the family do after they ate?
- Did the weatherman forecast snow for that night?
- Was the weatherman right?
- What did the moon and stars do after everybody went to bed?
- Name the different places that the snow fell.
- What colors did the snow change into?
- What did Bob ask the child to do?
- What two things are needed to build a friendship?
- Did the child build the snowman all by himself?
- What all did they use to build Bob?
- What did giving Bob eyes let him do? What about his mouth, hat and nose?
- When will the kids put up the "Bob was there" sign?



Do

Rhyme Time!

Review the list of words below found in "A Snowman Named Just Bob" and ask the children to think of more words that rhyme.

Late

Wink

Care

Gold

Night

Ball

Play

House

Flake

Tree