All You Need for a Snowman

by Alice Schertle

Everything you need to build the perfect snowman – from the first snowflake to walnut buttons and a fanny pack.

R.E.D. ZONE! Read & Do

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, *How many different things can you think of to create a snowman?* 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 many kids it took to build that 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 *All You Need for a Snowman:*

- fluttering: to wave, flap, or toss about
- thousand: a cardinal number: 10 times 100
- million: cardinal number: 1000 times 1000
- billion: cardinal number: 1 followed by 9 zeros
- bottle caps: a device for closing or sealing a bottle
- earmuffs: a pair of often adjustable coverings for protecting the ears in the cold
- fanny pack: a small zippered pouch suspended from a belt around the waist

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions…

- What do you need to start making a snowman? How many flakes?
- Name some of the ways that you make a snow ball round.
- How many snowballs do you need to make a snowman?
- What did they use for the snowman's eyes? His nose?
- What other things can you see that is used?
- What did they do with all the extra snow?

Do

How Many Zeros?

You will need: round objects such as buttons, counting chips, checkers, etc.

Write the words: ten, hundred, thousand, million and billion on the board. Show the children what it looks like, both as a word and as a number. Using items such as buttons, counting chips, etc...have the children show how many zeros it takes to make each of the numbers. At the front of the classroom, have two desks facing the students. Have the children compete, two at a time to see who can display the correct number of objects that matches the number. Point to "million" and the children will race to display six counting chips, "thousand" and they will display three counting chips, etc.