

WINTER: An Alphabet

Acrostic

by Steven Schnur

26 acrostic poems, alphabetically arranged - a welcome addition to all classrooms with numerous uses. Companion volumes available for Autumn, Spring and Summer.



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 kind of weather do we have in the winter?* 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 those footprints belong to someone who lives in that house?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Point out the acrostic from the letter for each verse (e.g. A=Awake). 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 *Winter: An Alphabet Acrostic*

- acrostic: a number of lines of writing, especially a poem or word puzzle, in which a combination of letters from each line spells a word
- dawn: the beginning of the day when the first light appears
- kettle: a metal pot used for boiling water, usually tea
- menorahs: an eight-branched candleholder, lit during Hannukah
- ivory: a creamy white color
- hearth: the floor of a fireplace
- crescent: a curved shape like when the moon is only partly lit
- hothouse: a heated building in which to grow plants
- vibrate: to shake or move back and forth
- recedes: to go back or down
- vat: a large container used to hold or store liquid
- cloistered: hidden from view
- zest: lively enjoyment or enthusiasm

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Can you think of any hot foods or drinks that are especially good to have when it is cold outside?
- What indoor games do you like to play when it is too cold to go outside?
- Would you spend the night in an igloo if you could?
- What helps keep the chipmunks and rabbits warm in their underground tunnels?
- What would be the hardest thing about ice skating?
- Which season do you like better - winter or summer? Why?

Do

Snow Letters

Using old spray bottles filled with colored water, let the children paint alphabet letters in the snow.