



Toys Meet Snow

Written by: Emily Jenkins

Illustrated by: Paul O. Zelinsky

When Little Girl goes away for winter vacation, Lumphy, a stuffed buffalo, Sting Ray, a plush stingray and Plastic, a rubber ball all head outside to play in the miraculous, amazing, heavenly snow.

Lexile: 340 **AR Level:** 2.7

Author Website: <http://www.emilyjenkins.com/>

Illustrator Website: <http://paulozelinsky.com/>

Food: snowcones with strawberry syrup, snowflake cookies

Nonfiction Titles:

Cassino, Mark *The Story of Snow: the Science of Winter's Wonder*

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs *Snowflake Bentley*

Miles, Elizabeth *Snow*

Introduction:

Display the cover of the book. Ask for predictions about what the book is about. Why do you think that? Focus on the title. What is the author telling us? We know these toys will "meet" snow. What do you think will happen?

Lead a whole group discussion asking what students know about snow. Who has seen snow? Who has played in snow? Ask students to describe how snow feels, looks, tastes.

Story time Activities:

- 1. Pair with Non-Fiction.** Pair the book with one of the non-fiction titles above. Explore the connection of the science of snow with the playful side of snow. Plastic is very knowledgeable about snow but the other two toys are more interested in the playful side of snow. After reading both books, compare and contrast the two books. End the lesson with a more scientific activity like:
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/wordwheels/themes/snowflake/>
Also, complimentary videos may be found at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbW6MsXfPYU> OR
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-M48RfaWcWA>
- 2. Metaphors and Similes.** Ms. Jenkins uses metaphors throughout the book. Before reading discuss how authors use figurative speech to help readers “see” what they are describing. Discuss what similes and metaphors are and ask them to create some of their own. Keep a list. Pause during reading to highlight the metaphors in the book. Re-visit the list after reading and ask students again to share their own metaphors. Here is a great video of Simile Girl and Metaphor Man to help distinguish the two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoSBVNUO2LU>
- 3. Illustrator Study.** Display other books illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky. There are many and the kids will know a lot of them. Images and descriptions are at <http://paulozelinsky.com/list.html> You will also find biographical information. Interviews with Mr. Zelinsky are available on line. He won the Caldecott for *Rapunzel* and Caldecott Honor for *Hansel and Gretel*, *Rumplestiltskin*, and *Swamp Angel* so a discussion of what the Caldecott is and how books win the award fits nicely.
- 4. Imagination/Writing.** After reading ask students if they think their own toys might go out and play when they are not home. Ask them to think of their favorite toy and to use their imaginations to create a paragraph about what that toy would do if it went outside. Allow students to share their writing.

5. **Pair with a Craft.** Lots of snow and snowflake crafts on Pinterest.
<https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=snowflake%20craft&rs=typed&0=snowflake%7Ctyped&1=craft%7Ctyped>



Pretzel and marshmallow snowflakes

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/226024475024975581/>



Snow Puffy Paint Snow Puffy Paint

<http://theimaginationtree.com/2014/11/snow-puffy-paint-recipe.html>



Coffee filter snowflakes

<http://mom.me/lifestyle/10231-diy-coffee-filter-snowflakes/>

Discussion Questions:

1. Do your toys go outside to play when you aren't home? What do they do?
2. Throughout the book, Plastic has a practical answer for the things the other toys observe. How did she learn the things she knows? *A: books.* During the sunset, the author writes, "Plastic didn't say anything. She is thinking." What do you think she is thinking about?
3. Why does Lumphy think the tree in the yard is a different tree? How does snow change the look of familiar items?
4. The toys make snow angels. Is it easy to tell which toy made which angel? What helps you know?
5. Mr. Zelinsky is the illustrator for this book. How do his illustrations help tell the story? The colors he uses change from the beginning to the end. What happens to them? *A: the colors get darker* Why would he do that?