

SNOW DAY - LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Add a new scene to the *Snow Day* book. Think of another activity the family could do on a snowy day—go snowmobiling, put on a family skit, have a snow day picnic by the fireplace—whatever you can think of. Then tell or write the words to go with the new scene. Try to make the words sound poetic; and so rather than using long, complete sentences like, “The family went for a bumpy ride on a snowmobile,” you might say “Bumpity-bump snowmobile ride.” After you write a new scene for *Snow Day*, then draw a picture to go with the scene.

Notice the title letters on the cover of *Snow Day*. The art director is the person at the publishing company who is in charge of designing picture books, including the style of letters/font for the title. The snowflake letters on the cover of *Snow Day* are a perfect match for that book, but snowflake letters would certainly look funny on the cover of *Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud*. The *Pigs* book actually has a “hotsy-totsy” font which is funny-looking, ballooned style letters, a perfect match for the funny *Pigs* book. Look at the cover of *Wild Child*. Would the style of letters on *Wild Child* look good on the *Snow Day* book? They are called centaur letters, a perfect match for the autumn, set-in-nature *Wild Child* book, but not for *Snow Day*. Gather some picture books and notice the style of letters on each of their covers. Do you think the lettering works for each book? Why or why not? Why do you think the art directors chose the style and color of lettering that they did for each book? Design a cover for a story that you have written and create letters (handwritten or typed—choose a font from a computer) in a style that best matches your story.

Snow Day is a MOOD or POETIC STORY. Unlike *Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud* and *Wild Child*, *Snow Day* doesn't have a problem in the story. The characters are not even named so it could seem like any family in the story. The most important thing in *Snow Day* was to capture the mood, the feeling for a snowy day, and to show different scenes for a snowy day using descriptive phrases (Plumpy pumpkin muffins . . . Lights dance. Flick-a-lick . . . Stomp, clomp indoors). These phrases are ‘word pictures.’ Try creating a “Mood Story.” For example for a Beach Day story, you might write about “Sandy, hammy, cheesy sandwiches” or “Staring, waiting-to-steal seagulls.” Have fun making word pictures in your mood/poetic story.