

## Kids' Activity Guide

*Snowman's Story* is a wordless book that tells a lovely tale of magic, friendship, and misunderstandings. The beauty of a wordless book is the ability to retell the story a bit differently every time your child opens it. *Snowman's Story* is the tale of a snowman who comes to life with a magical hat, a rabbit who runs away with the hat, the snowman's friends who help him trail the rabbit, and a funny and heartwarming surprise at the end. The detailed and whimsical drawings will spark your child's imagination, allowing them to weave their own version of the events.

By not limiting the reader to a specific plot, Hillenbrand provides the opportunity to discuss plot variation and to view events from more than one perspective. The open structure also allows for creative writing, in which children provide the language the author chose to withhold. A wordless book is ideal for nonreaders, in that they can feel like an author, putting their own words to the pictures. *Snowman's Story* is also appropriate for strong readers, who understand plot progression, character development, and conflict resolution. This book allows for a wide range of literary abilities, with each reader gaining insightful knowledge and skills through the process.

## Pre-reading Questions

1. What is a friend?
2. What can friends do together?
3. How can friends help one another?
4. Have you ever helped a friend in need?
5. Does magic exist? Where?
6. Is it possible to do the wrong thing but for a good reason?
7. Have you ever misunderstood a situation, where you thought one thing but it turned out to be another?
8. What is a story? What are some different ways to tell a story?
9. Why do people tell stories? Can stories help teach a lesson?

These questions will prepare your child for reading *Snowman's Story* and get them thinking about misunderstandings and friendship. After discussing these questions, read the book with your child. After reading the book, discuss what he or she thought about the book and why. Finally, complete the following activities, all related in some way to the story, and spanning many subject areas.

## Post-reading Cross-curricular Extension Activities

### Science: Hibernation Diorama

The story takes place in the middle of winter. After the snowman reads the book to his friends, they head toward a cave. Bear is yawning, and it's probably time for him to hibernate.

To start the activity, ask your child the following questions:

1. Where do animals go when it starts to snow and get very cold?
2. What is hibernation?
3. How do animals get ready to hibernate?
4. Does every animal hibernate? If not, do you know some that do?

After discussing these questions, research animals that hibernate. Below is some basic information.

**Hibernation** is when an animal goes into a deep sleep. Before hibernating, the animal eats a lot of food to gain extra body fat. When hibernating, the heartbeat and breathing slow down, and the body cools down. It doesn't eat food or drink water. It doesn't move for days or weeks. It's hard to wake an animal in true hibernation. This can be dangerous if a predator attacks. That's why true hibernators find a safe den before they sleep.

Have your child choose an animal, and explain that he or she will be creating the habitat of the hibernating animal. Some examples of hibernating animals include bears, chipmunks, woodchucks, bats, turtles, frogs, raccoons, and skunks.

#### Supplies needed:

Shoe box  
Children's modeling clay  
Sticks  
Grass  
Markers

#### Directions:

1. After deciding which animal to depict, research the location where the animal hibernates (cave, burrow, den, hollow log, in mud, or leaves)
2. Form the animal with the modeling clay.
3. Create the habitat with modeling clay.

4. Cover the ground and habitat with appropriate covering, such as grass or small sticks.
5. Use markers to color the background on the inside of the shoe box.
6. Place the animal inside the habitat.
7. Display the diorama for all to see.

### Writing: *Snowman's Story* Comic Strip

Comic strips are another medium that uses drawings as the primary tool to convey a story. Help your child turn the snowman's story into a comic strip. Print one of the templates from the site below and have your child draw the main events of the story. If your child is able, have him or her write captions below each picture describing the events, and include dialogue for the characters. If not, have your child dictate the story to you and you write down the words. Have them read their story out loud to a sibling, a friend, or another family member.

### Writing: Create Your Own Comic Strip

Now that a comic strip has been made telling the snowman's story, help your child create his or her own story and comic strip. Brainstorm possible topics, like "First Day At School," or "A Fun Day With A Friend." Print one of the templates from the site below. Have your child draw the events of the story in chronological order. Next, have your child either write down the captions below the image, or have him or her narrate to an adult who writes it down. Have your child share the comic strip with family members and friends.

#### Link to comic strip templates:

<http://donnayoung.org/art/comics.htm>





## Post-reading Cross-curricular Extension Activities

### Art & P.E.: Have an Indoor Snowball Fight

In *Snowman's Story*, the animal friends and the rabbit throw snowballs at each other. Unless you live in a very cold place, you can't have a snowball fight most of the year. This art project will allow you and your child to have an indoor snowball fight!

#### Supplies:

- Plain white athletic socks
- Scissors
- Polyester fiberfill or cotton balls
- White yarn
- Yarn darning (long, heavy needle with a large eye for stitching with yarn)
- Storage container

#### Directions:

1. Turn the socks inside out so the fluffier side is showing on the outside.
2. Cut the socks about halfway down the foot.
3. Stuff the toe of the sock with either polyester fiberfill or cotton balls.
4. Use the yarn darning and white yarn to stitch up the hole.
5. Repeat as many times as needed to fill the container with "snow balls."

Once the snowballs are all made and in the container, it's time for your snowball fight!



### Math: Hot Chocolate and Toppings Bar

When it's snowing and kids are outside playing and building snowmen, they come back inside chilled and ready to warm up. Create a hot chocolate bar with your child, helping them understand measurement as they pour and mix the items. Before beginning, show your child the measuring devices (measuring cups and spoons) and discuss fractions (half, quarter).

#### Supplies needed for hot chocolate:

- 4½ cups whole milk
- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa
- ¼ cup sugar

#### Preparation:

In a medium saucepan, heat 4 cups of the milk over low heat, being very careful not to let the milk boil. In a small bowl, mix together the cocoa, sugar, and the remaining ½ cup milk. Add the cocoa mixture to the warm milk, and continue to warm the cocoa until hot. Serves 4. Double the recipe if more guests are coming.

#### Toppings:

Measure 4 tablespoons of each into individual paper cups:

- Crumbled toffee candy
- Crushed peppermints or candy canes
- Mini chocolate chips
- Mini peanut butter chips
- Crushed peanuts or almonds
- Chopped thin mint candies

Measure 1 cup of each into individual paper cups:

- Miniature marshmallows

Count 8 of each of the following for stirring:

- Candy canes
- Cinnamon sticks
- Chocolate covered candy sticks

Once the toppings bar and hot chocolate are ready, invite your friends over and enjoy!

## Post-reading Cross-curricular Extension Activities

### Spanish: Build a Hispanic Snowman

As the story begins, animals are building a snowman. Have your child cut, paste, and create a snowman, while learning the names of the body parts in Spanish. To practice the body parts, your child can click on the link below and complete the online activities. Once your child has glued the snowman on a paper, draw lines and label the body parts in Spanish. Finally, sing “Head, shoulders, knees, and toes” together in Spanish. Notice how the Spanish version is a little bit different.

**Website to practice Spanish body vocabulary:**

<http://onlinefreespanish.com/aplica/lessons/body/bodymenu.htm#.VFBC-tEtDIU>

### Supplies needed to create snowman:

- White construction paper
- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- 3 circle templates (small, medium, and large)
- Markers or colored pencils

### Directions:

1. Draw or trace three circles (one small, one medium, and one large) on white construction paper and cut them out.
2. Glue the three circles, slightly overlapping, with the smallest at the top and the largest at the bottom, onto a piece of colored construction paper.
3. Cut out two small eyes, a nose, and a mouth, and glue them onto the smallest circle (the head).
4. Cut out two stick arms and glue onto either side of the middle circle.
5. Draw lines from each of the body parts (head, arm, eye, nose, and mouth) to the outside of the snowman, and label the body parts in Spanish.

**Spanish vocabulary for labeling the snowman:**

**La cabeza** – Head

**El brazo** – Arm

**El ojo** – Eye

**La nariz** – Nose

**La boca** – Mouth

**Song lyrics for “Head, Shoulder, Knees, and Toes” in Spanish and English.**

**For an animated version, go to:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxQOHkjuybw>

### Spanish:

Cabeza, hombros, rodillas, pies

Rodillas, pies

Cabeza, hombros, rodillas, pies

Rodillas, pies

Ojos, orejas, boca, y nariz

Cabeza, hombros, rodillas, pies,

Rodillas, pies

### English translation:

Head, shoulders, knees, feet

Knees, feet

Head, shoulders, knees, feet

Knees, feet

Eyes, ears, mouth, and nose

Head, shoulders, knees, feet

Knees, feet



## Help Snowman Find His Story Board Game:

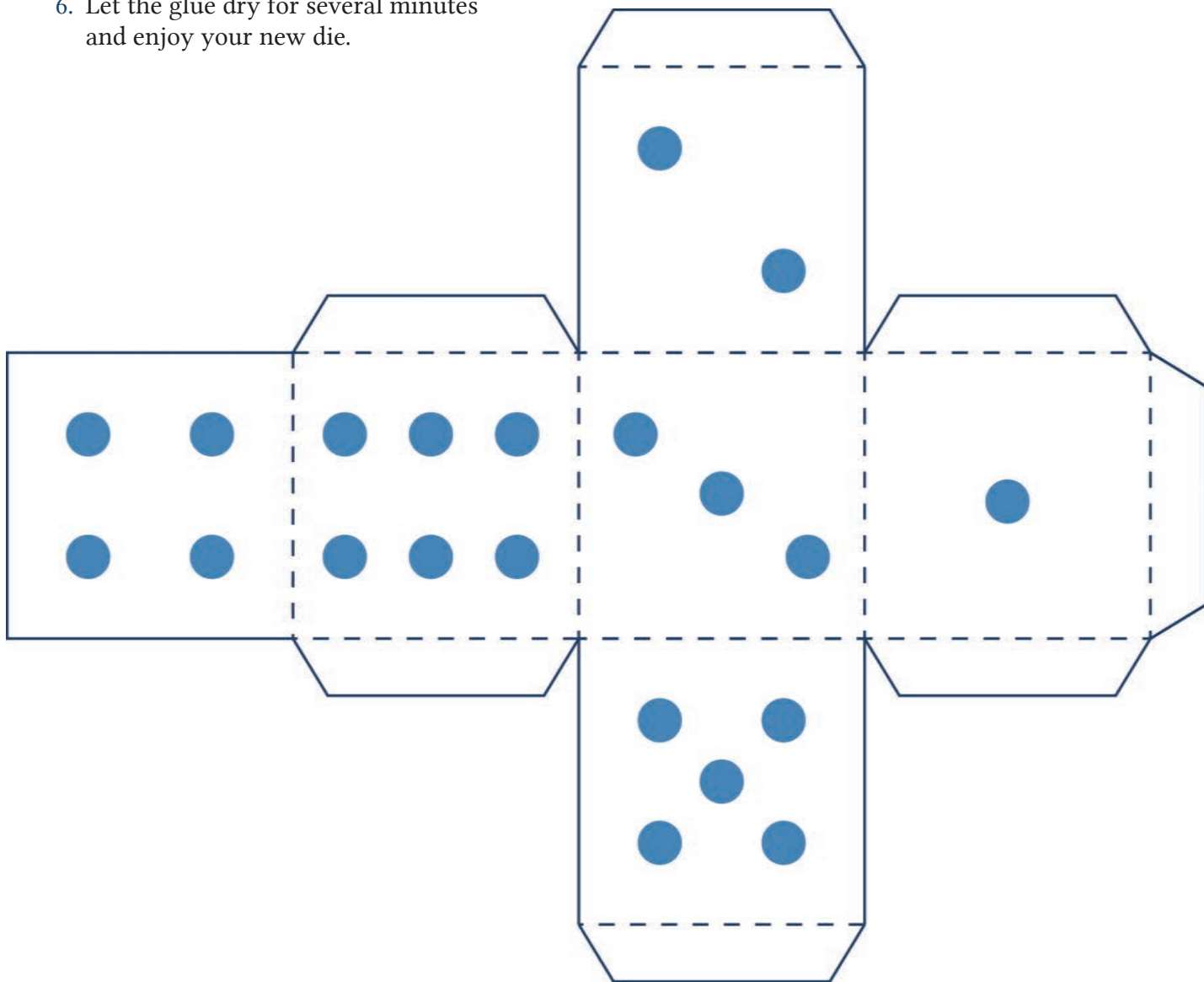
Help Snowman find his missing story. Print out the game board halves on the next two pages. Cut out the game, align the left and right side up, and tape them together. Then print out and put together the die (below) and the game pieces (on page 6) by following the directions.

### How to Play the *Snowman's Story Board Game*:

1. Roll the die to see who starts the game. Whoever rolls the highest number goes first.
2. The first player will roll the die, then move his or her game piece that many spaces along the board.
3. Follow the directions on the space the game piece lands on.
4. Each player will take turns rolling the die and moving his or her game pieces on the board.
5. The first player whose game piece reaches Snowman's story wins!

### To Create the Die:

1. You will need the die template, scissors, and glue or a glue stick.
2. Cut along the solid outline of the die template. Decorate it if you want to.
3. Fold all seven tabs in along the dotted lines.
4. Put a small amount of glue on the seven small tabs.
5. To form the cube, fold the small tabs in so the glue sticks to the inside edge of the die.
6. Let the glue dry for several minutes and enjoy your new die.

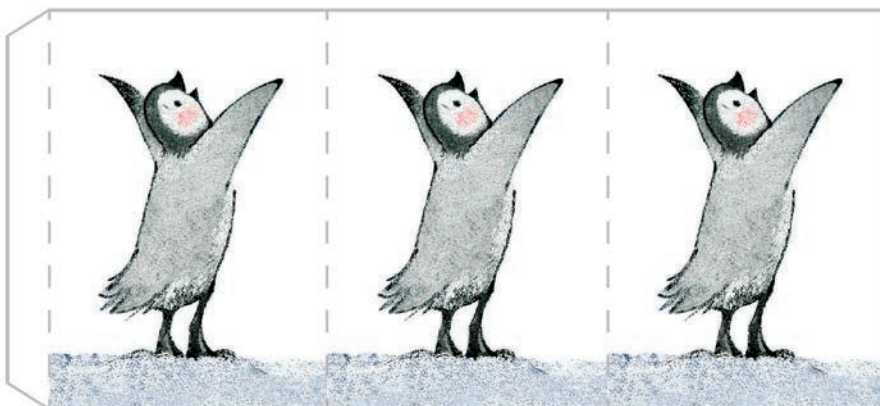
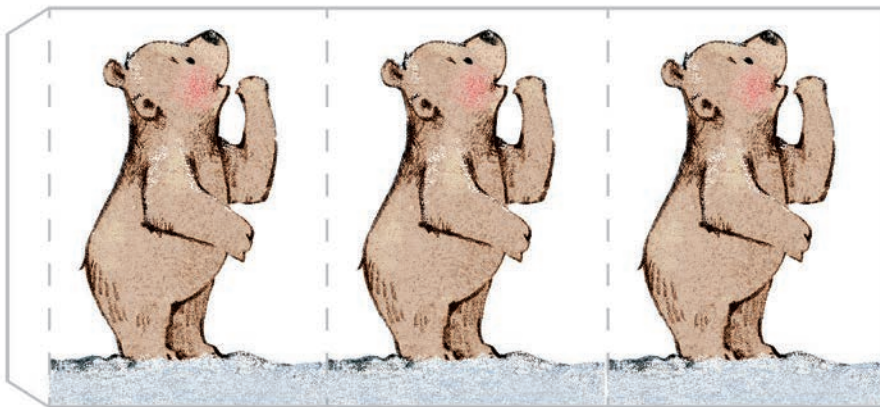
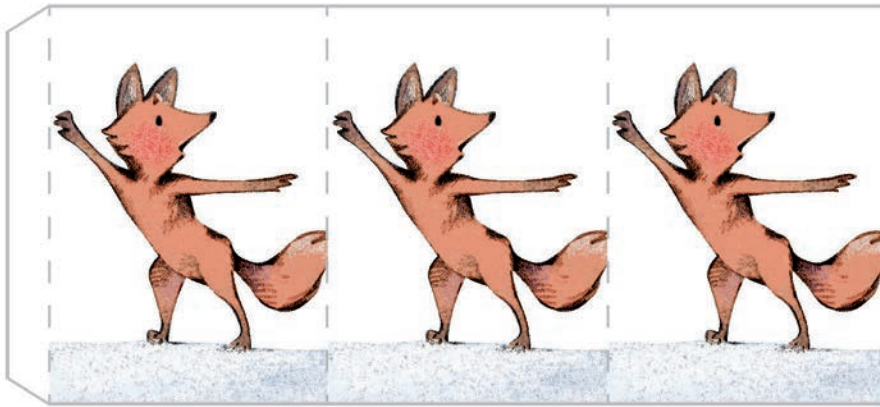




## Help Snowman Find His Story Board Game:

### Assemble the Game Pieces:

1. Cut out the game pieces along the solid lines.
2. Fold the three panels in along the dotted lines so the characters are on the outside.
3. Place a small amount of glue on the last tab, and fold it inside of the last panel to create a standing character.
4. The game piece will now be able to stand on its own.



# Help Snowman

## Find His Story



start



You have come to a  
snowy cliff so watch your step!  
*Skip turn.*



Take part in a  
snowball fight.  
*Move back two spaces.*



Get back on track  
and continue the chase!  
*Move ahead one space!*



Smacked by a snowball.  
*Lose one turn.*





Cross the tree bridge  
to continue the chase!  
*Move forward one space!*

step!



Friends help you to climb  
the frozen waterfall.  
*Leap two spaces ahead!*



Think about how you will  
climb the frozen waterfall.  
*Move back one space.*

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Knock on the door  
of rabbit's home.  
*Go to finish!*

Enter the door  
of rabbit's home.  
*Move ahead  
one space!*





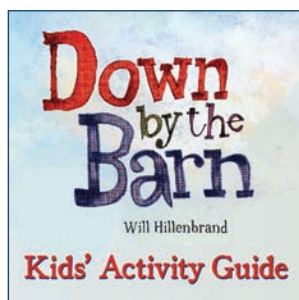
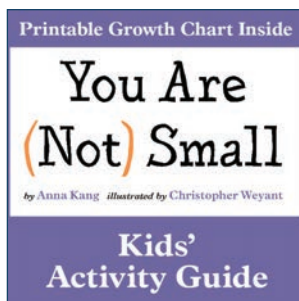
# Snowman's Story



Who is enjoying Snowman's Story? Is it you or someone you love?  
Have fun drawing your favorite person or animal listening to Snowman read.

# Snowman's Story

Click on the Kids' Activity Guides Below for More Fun!



*This guide was created by Chris Valcarcel, educational consultant, Will Hillenbrand, author and illustrator, and Jennifer Messinger, graphic designer.*

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