



# WINTER IS HERE

BY KEVIN HENKES  
ILLUSTRATED BY LAURA DRONZEK

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Snow falls, animals burrow, and children prepare for the wonders winter brings. Caldecott Medalist and award-winning author Kevin Henkes's striking text introduces basic concepts of language and the unique beauty of the winter season. Laura Dronzek's expressive paintings beautifully capture the joyful wonders of winter.

This is an engaging companion to the best-selling *When Spring Comes* and *In the Middle of Fall*. *Winter Is Here* is an ideal choice for story time, seasonal curriculums, and bedtime reading.



## STORYTIME ACTIVITIES



• **ARE YOU SLEEPING?:** Ask the children what animals they see in the book (e.g., squirrel, owl). Discuss hibernation and create a list of animals that hibernate and animals that do not. Then create a group mural depicting a winter scene. Have each child draw, color, and cut out an animal to glue onto the mural. If it is an animal that hibernates, have them glue a flap of paper over it, and on the outside of the flap, draw where that animal hibernates. (For example, if they glue a bear on the mural, they should draw a cave or den on the flap and affix the flap on top of the bear.)

• **WINTER FUN:** Ask the children to recall the winter activities that the children are enjoying in the story (e.g., sledding, making a snowman, ice-skating). The children can also suggest other winter activities to add to the list. Have pairs of children choose one of the activities on the list and create a diorama or a pop-up picture depicting children experiencing that activity on a winter day.

• **DAY AND NIGHT:** After reading the book, have each child create a winter collage. Provide the children with a variety of materials to design their collage. If they choose to make a day scene ("Winter is white and gray"), they can use white paper, silver crayon, silver glitter, and metallic paper to enhance their picture. If they decide to make a night scene ("But with the dark of night, winter is blue"), they can use blue paper, white chalk, cotton, and metallic paper to create their picture. Display the pictures, putting the day scenes together in one group and the night scenes together. Ask the children to think about how each group of collages makes them feel.

• **WINTER WARDROBE:** Reread the page, "It can take a long time to get ready for Winter." Ask the children to recall all of the clothing that one wears in winter. Then tell the children that they will be creating a winter clothing "shop" by drawing, coloring, and cutting out hats, vests, coats, scarves, boots, and mittens. Display all the items and affix Post-it price tags. Have the children take turns being the customer (who must count out plastic coins to "pay" for their purchase) and the shopkeeper (who must total the prices of the items that the customer wants to "purchase"). Make sure all children have an opportunity to be a customer and a shopkeeper.

• **WARMING UP:** Ask the children: "How do you stay warm in winter?" Have the children write about and illustrate how they keep warm in the winter (e.g., drinking hot cocoa; sitting by the fire; wrapping up in a hat, coat, and scarf). Collate the pages to create a "Warm in Winter" book.





# WINTER WARDROBE

Winter is here! You might have to put on a hat—or a scarf and mittens—when the weather gets cold. Color in the winter clothes and the person who’s all bundled up in the picture below!





# WINTER IS HERE!

How do you know it's winter? Is it starting to get really cold outside? Do you wear sweaters and drink hot cocoa? Look at the pictures below, and circle the ones that make you think of winter!



Snowmen



Flowers



Warm clothes



Butterflies



Snow