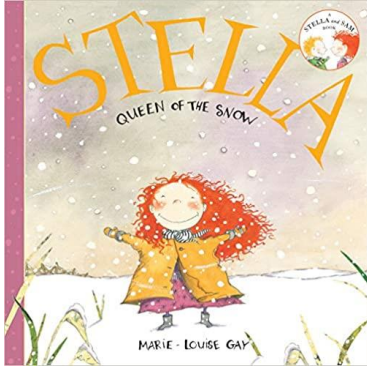


Book: Stella, Queen of the Snow by Marie-Louise Gay 2-5 years old

Introducing the book:



Exploring the Cover

Look at the cover. Ask children to describe what they see. In which season do we get snow? Ask children about the changes they see around them and in nature when it is wintertime.

Building Background

In this book, Sam asks his older sister, Stella, many questions. Before reading, select several of Sam's questions and discuss them with the children. Write down their answers. How do they compare to Stella's answers? Questions include: Where does a snowman sleep? What does a snowman eat? Why does fog come out of your mouth when it's cold? Where does snow come from? Where does snow go in the summer? How many snowflakes are there in a snowball? Do dogs get cold? Do birds get goosebumps?

Reading the book:

-As you read the book, compare the children's answers with Stella's. Did the children get the same answers? If not, do they agree with Stella's?

- Have the correct answers to the questions and explain them to the children as they appear in the book.

After reading the book:

Shapes and Snowmen:

Create a construction paper snowman kit to practice familiarity with shapes. Give children three white circles for a body, a black square, a rectangle for a hat, two long brown rectangles for arms, three yellow diamonds for buttons, two black circles for eyes, five tiny black circles for a mouth, and one orange triangle for a nose. As children assemble their snowmen, review the different shapes and their characteristics.

Winter Clothes:

Choose a volunteer or a stuffed animal to be the "snowman" that the other children dress. Put scarf, mittens, a hat, and other winter accessories on the snowman. Have children close their eyes. Then have another volunteer remove or change one clothing item. Encourage children to have fun and make silly changes, such as putting a hat on the snowman's hand. Have the rest of the group open their eyes and figure out what is now different about how their snowman is dressed.

Pass the snowball:

Instead of playing "Hot Potato," play "Pass the Snowball." Have children sit in a circle wearing mittens. Re-read Stella, Queen of the Snow, aloud while the children pass a Styrofoam "snowball" around the circle. At a random time while reading, stop the story and yell, "snowball!" The person holding the "snowball" is out. Continue playing until there is only one player left.

Resources and more winter activities ideas:

<http://marielouisegay.com/for-teachers>

<https://www.preschool-plan-it.com/winter.html>

<https://www.prekinders.com/winter-theme/>