



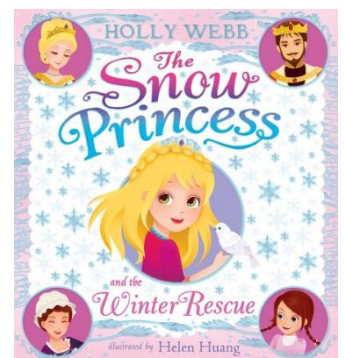
The Snow Princess and the Winter Rescue

written by Holly Webb,

Illustrated by Helen Huang

1 – Introducing the book

- Before starting the book, talk to the children about their experiences of snow. Have they ever played in the snow, built a snowman, caught a snowflake? Look through some of the pictures in the book and ask children to think of words to describe the snowy scenes.
- What is snow? What conditions do we need for it to snow or for there to be a frost? What time of year do we tend to have snow?
- As you read through the story, explore the character of Princess Amy. Why does she wish she could go outside at the beginning of the story? Does she always behave as a princess is supposed to?
- Why does the bird gaze out at the snow? How are the bird and Princess Amy alike?
- How does Princess Amy show she loves the bird? How do you think she feels when she has to let the bird go?
- Why doesn't Princess Amy want to play with Bella when she asks her to come sliding? Talk about what you can do to help when someone is feeling sad and show you are a good friend.





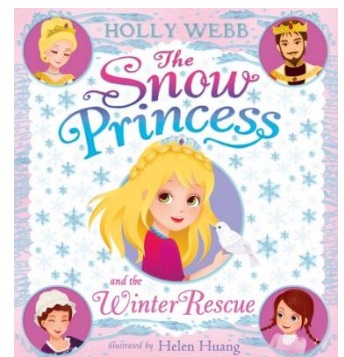
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2 – Snow, Snow, Everywhere

- Explain to children that no two snowflakes are exactly the same. Show pictures of snowflakes under a microscope (a simple google search will yield plenty of good examples!) so that children can see they are made up from different shapes and patterns. Demonstrate how to make snowflakes from circles of paper using scissors. Fold the circles in half, in half again, and then in half again – a great opportunity to use mathematical language about fractions of shapes. Show children how to cut out different shapes around the edges of the folded paper, before unfolding to reveal the finished snowflake. Children who find fine motor skills more of a challenge, could explore making giant snowflakes out of large circles of paper so that the shapes are less fiddly to cut. Once the snowflakes are opened out, explore the different 2-D shapes that children can see. Are there any triangles, squares, rectangles etc? Are there any shapes with curved sides? Which shape has the most sides? Mounted on different coloured tissue paper, the snowflakes will make a beautiful window display for the classroom.
- Children can also explore different ways of making snowflakes in order to practice counting. Wrap white or pipe cleaners around each other to build a star shaped frame. Children can then thread white or silver beads on to the different ‘branches’ of the pipe cleaner snowflake. How many beads are on your snowflake now? How many will there be altogether if you thread three more on? Alternatively, make snowflakes by glueing lolly sticks on top of each other, angling them to form a star frame as before. Ask children to glue sequins along the lolly sticks. Can they then order the snowflakes from the ones with the most sequins to the ones with the fewest?





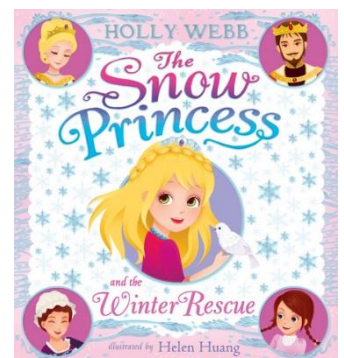
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2 – Snow, Snow, Everywhere

- Give children plenty of opportunities to explore ice and watch it melt. Ask where in the classroom they could put ice cubes where they will melt quickly, and where they might melt more slowly? Why? Investigate these predictions. Sprinkle salt on top of ice and see what happens. Make ice cube paint brushes by freezing watery paint in ice-lolly moulds and invite children to paint with them as they melt.
- Make snowy scenes with shaving foam in a tuff tray. Children could explore trying to make the injured bird's footprints in the 'snow' using the end of a pencil. Alternatively, add glitter and blobs of different colour paint to the shaving foam snow, and invite children to swirl them to make patterns.
- Put on some 'twinkly' music that sounds like snow falling, and encourage children to make up a snowflake dance. How could you move your body to show the snowflake being blown through the air?





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3 – The Little White Bird

- In the story, Princess Amy takes the injured bird home with her. An animal hospital role play area will provide an opportunity for children to learn how to look after different pets. Talk about the different foods that animals eat. Princess Amy asks for bread, seed and dried fruit for her pet bird. Children could practice measuring out portions of bird seed using weighing scales. Provide a range of mixed up beans and seeds and ask children to sort them out in size order to find the ones that are suitable for the bird. As Princess Amy's bird recovers, he keeps grooming his injured wing. Talk about what you have to do to care for different kinds of pets, for example brushing dogs or cats to prevent their fur from getting matted. Make parallels with what children have to do to look after their own health and self-care.
- Children could make their own paper bird in a cage, just like Princess Amy. First help children to cut out a bird shaped outline from white card. This can be decorated by gluing on feathers, or alternatively you could make wings by zig-zag folding paper into a fan-shape. Attach a piece of thread to the top of the bird's body. Cut out long strips of gold card, and fix them together through the centre of each length with a split pin. The other end of the thread should be fixed to the split pin. The gold strips can then be spread out around the split pin, and the other ends glued to a wide band of gold card to form the cage.

