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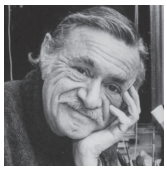
November 2026
MTC STUDY GUIDE



The Snowy Day and Other Stories

For PreK–Grade 3

About the Author: Ezra Jack Keats



Ezra Jack Keats was an award-winning American author and illustrator whose books celebrate the curiosity, imagination, and everyday adventures of childhood. His 1962 book *The Snowy Day* won the Caldecott Medal and introduced generations of children to Peter, a young boy discovering the wonders of the world around him. In *The Snowy Day and Other Stories*, playwright Jerome Hairston brings Peter and other beloved characters from Keats' books to the stage, using music, movement, and shadow puppetry to explore the adventures, feelings, and discoveries that make childhood so special.



About the Play: *The Snowy Day and Other Stories*

Adapted for the stage by Jerome Hairston, *The Snowy Day and Other Stories* brings four beloved books by Ezra Jack Keats to life: *The Snowy Day*, *Whistle for Willie*, *Goggles!*, and *A Letter to Amy*. Follow Peter and his friends through adventures filled with discovery, friendship, and imagination. Using music, movement, and innovative shadow puppetry, Childsplay's production celebrates the magic of childhood and the everyday experiences that help children grow.

About the Company: Childsplay

Childsplay is a professional theater company based in Tempe, Arizona, dedicated to creating exceptional theatrical experiences for young audiences and families. Known for its imaginative productions, the company brings stories to life through inventive staging, puppetry, music, and movement. Its production of *The Snowy Day and Other Stories*, adapted by Jerome Hairston, brings several of Keats' beloved stories to the stage.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Bring the class together for a short discussion. Students can answer verbally, draw a picture, or share with a partner.

- *What was your favorite moment in the play? Why?*
- *How did the actors help you imagine the world of the story?*
- *How do you think Peter felt during his adventure?*
- *Did anything surprise you?*
- *What would you do if you had a whole day to explore somewhere new?*
- *If you could add one scene to the play, what would happen?*

Activity One: WHAT'S THE WEATHER? (whole group)

Invite students to spread out around the room, leaving enough space to move safely. Explain that you will call out different weather conditions, and they will show what it feels like using only their bodies and faces.

Call out:

- A cold, windy day. Brrr! *How do you move?*
- A gentle snowfall. *Can you catch a snowflake?*
- A huge snowstorm. *Can you walk against the wind?*
- A sunny day after the snow. *How does your body change?*
- The first time you've ever seen snow. *What do you do?*

Teacher tip: Encourage students to make their movements bigger or smaller, faster or slower. There are no wrong answers!

Activity Two: MAGIC OBJECTS (whole group or in pairs)

1. Explain that actors often use mime to make an audience believe they are holding something, even when their hands are empty.
2. Model holding an imaginary snowball. Show its size, shape, and weight. Pretend to throw it gently into the air and catch it.
3. Now invite students to mime their own imaginary winter objects:
   - Pull on a pair of heavy winter boots.
   - Wrap a long, cozy scarf around your neck.
   - Build a snowman, adding its eyes, nose, and arms.
   - Catch a tiny snowflake on your tongue.
   - Shake snow off your hat.

Teacher Tip: Ask your students if they helped us to imagine something we couldn't see? And for younger students, model each action first. Older students can work in pairs and guess each other's magic objects.

Activity Three: THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES (whole class)

Tell students that the play has ended, but Peter's adventures don't have to stop! Lead the class through an imaginary adventure. Narrate a simple story while students act it out together:

"One morning, you look outside and discover something amazing. You put on your clothes and head outdoors. Suddenly, you notice something unusual nearby. You move closer to investigate. What could it be? You discover a new place to explore. What happens next?"

Pause at each moment and invite students to suggest what happens next. Encourage them to show their ideas with movement, facial expressions, and sound effects. Finish by asking students to create one final frozen picture of the adventure they invented together.

Teacher tip: Let students lead the story. There is no need for a finished script or a single correct ending.



Additional Resources for Teachers

Here are five additional resources that offer a mix of activities, author background, and practical drama games for the classroom.

- Ezra Jack Keats Foundation: www.ezra-jack-keats.org
- Penguin Random House, *The Snowy Day*, *Whistle for Willie*, *Goggles!*, *A Letter to Amy*: www.penguinclassroom.com
- Childsplay Theatre: www.childsplayaz.org
- ReadWriteThink: www.readwritethink.org
- *Theatre Games for the Classroom* by Viola Spolin (book).

FLORIDA SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS CONNECTIONS

The activities in this study guide support the following Florida standards for early learning, Theater, and English Language Arts.

Theater

- **TH.K.C.1.1:** Create a story about an everyday event using body movements, sounds, and imagination. Supported by *What's the Weather?* and *The Adventure Continues.*
- Students develop creative expression, use movement to communicate ideas, and create scenes inspired by a live performance.

English Language Arts

- **ELA.K12.EE.4.1:** Use appropriate collaborative techniques and active listening skills during discussions. Supported by *Reflect and Connect* and group drama games.
- Students practice listening, describing events, sharing ideas, making predictions, and responding to stories through speaking, drawing, and writing.

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