

WINTER: A Few of My Favorite Picture Books

Compiled and Annotated by: [Maria Walther](#), Author of [The Ramped-Up Read Aloud](#)

Barnett, M. (2020). *A polar bear in the snow*. (S. Harris, Illus.). New York: Somerville, MA: Candlewick. Illustrator, Shawn Harris, had an idea, “What if I made a book where it was just white paper on top of white paper?” He asked his childhood friend, Mac Barnett, to help him by writing a story about a polar bear in the snow. With a question-answer format, readers are invited to try and figure out where the polar bear is going. When the polar bear finally jumps into the sea to play, the illustrations glow with brilliant shades of blue. After swimming, the polar bear climbs out of the water and walks away leaving readers to wonder where he will go next.

Mac Barnett and Shawn Harris Discuss *A Polar Bear in the Snow*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBFSrIXXlo>

Teaching Ideas: Predicting; Question-Answer Structure; Winter

Camper, C. (2020). *Ten ways to hear snow*. (K. Pak, Illus.). New York: Kokila/Penguin.

It’s the morning after a blizzard and also “grape leaf day.” Lina is anxious to get to her grandma’s place to check on her, help her cook, and tell her about the snow. Aware that Sitti is losing her eyesight, Lina notices different sounds that snow makes as she walks through her neighborhood.

Teaching Ideas: Intergenerational Relationships; Onomatopoeia; Winter

Casanova, M. (2013). *One-dog sleigh*. (A. Hoyt, Illus.). New York: Farrar Straus Giroux. (See Summary and Teaching Ideas on page 227 of *The Ramped-Up Read Aloud*)

Cordell, M. (2017). *Wolf in the snow*. New York: Feiwel & Friends.

A girl in a red-hooded coat gets lost in a snowstorm on her way home from school. Meanwhile, a wolf pup is separated from the pack. The girl bravely carries the lost pup through the storm and returns the pup to its mother. When the girl collapses from exhaustion, the wolf pack howls until the family finds her.

Teaching Ideas: Wordless Book; Kindness; Winter

BOOK TRAILER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUvNSZzMxUc>

Garoche, C. (2015). *The snow rabbit*. New York: Enchanted Lion.

This uniquely illustrated wordless picture book tells the magical tale of two sisters, one who uses a wheelchair, and their outdoor adventures on a wintry day.

Teaching Idea: Winter

Kousky, V. (2018). *Harold loves his woolly hat*. New York: Schwartz & Wade.

Harold loves his woolly hat so much that he wears it all the time. He believes that his hat makes him special and he can’t imagine life without it. One day, a crow swoops down and takes his hat. Harold tries everything to win it back until he discovers that crow is using it to keep his babies warm.

Teaching Ideas: Story Elements; Winter; Pair with *Two Wool Gloves* (Jin, 2019)

Lee, S. (2017). *Lines*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle.

A lone ice skater twirls across the pages leaving lines in her wake. When she falls and skids across the page, the page transforms from a skating pond to an artist's pad. Like the fallen skater, the frustrated artist crumples up the paper. When the artist decides to try again, the paper is smoothed out, the skater is helped up by a fellow skater, and an entire winter scene appears.

Teaching Ideas: Wordless Book; Mistakes; Winter

London, J. (2018). *Little fox in the snow*. (D. Miyares, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick.

Little fox wakes up and goes hunting in the snowy forest. Along the way, fox meets a hungry wolverine who chases him back to his den. With poetic language, creative conventions, similes, and much more, this is an ideal mentor text for writers.

Teaching Ideas: Mentor Text for Writers; Science—Animals; Winter

BOOK TRAILER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHEvCQyWumg>

Neubecker, R. (2013). *Winter is for snow*. New York: Disney/Hyperion.

A winter-loving brother is trying to convince his reluctant sister to join him outside for a fun-filled time in the snow. The text is written in two different colors, making it clear who is speaking at different points in the story. This book could also lead to opinion writing about winter!

Teaching Ideas: Fluency Fun! Partner Read with Different Voices; Point of View; Winter

Pak, K. (2017). *Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter*. New York: Holt.

A girl and her brother greet all the signs of the coming season and each responds. The dialogue is not marked in any way, so readers have to infer from the structure of the story and the text whether it's the children or the natural world doing the talking. As the seasons continue to change, you can read *Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring* (Pak, 2020) and *Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn* (Pak, 2016).

Teaching Ideas: Fluency Fun! Partner Read with Different Voices; Point of View; Winter

Reidy, J. (2019). *When the snow is deeper than my boots are tall*. (J. Chou, Illus.). New York: Holt.

A delightful celebration of a day of snow play. From the child's first glimpse of snow outside the window to a final peek before bedtime, experience the joys of the first snowy day. Listeners will be chiming in with the catchy, rhythmic text.

Teaching Ideas: Word Play; Repetition; Rhyming; Winter

Rocco, J. (2014). *Blizzard*. New York: Disney/Hyperion. (See Read Aloud Experience on page 242 of *The Ramped-Up Read Aloud*)

BOOK TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/107765816>

JOHN ROCCO READS BLIZZARD ALOUD: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Yh3RqsQAOQ>

Stead, P. C. (2016). *Samson in the snow*. New York: Roaring Brook. (See Summary and Teaching Ideas on page 37 of *The Ramped-Up Read Aloud*)