

A-Book-A-Week: Classroom Instruction

Snowy Day

Activity Card #1	Literacy Development Category: Language Development: Retelling a Story
Suggested Activity Order <i>The Snowy Day</i> delightfully depicts the fun a child can have on a winter's day. It also works well for sequencing, an important skill in understanding how stories work. In this activity, we'll be encouraging children to use "ordering" words. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cut out the sequence pictures found at the end of this file. If you have access to a flannel board, you can attach small pieces of sandpaper to the back of the pictures.2. Re-read <u>The Snow Day</u>.3. Tell the children that today we will look at some pictures of Peter and put them in the order in which they occurred in the book.4. Show the pictures one at a time. Talk with the children about what happened first, second, next, after that, then, etc. If children are unsure, open the book to check the order. This tells children that we may need to return to a text to remember exactly what happened.5. Arrange the pictures on the flannel board, and model how to retell the story, using the words above.6. Take down the pictures, and encourage individual children first to put the pictures in their proper order and then to retell the story. Encourage them to use the "ordering words" just as you have done.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Snow Day</u> book<input type="checkbox"/> Flannel Board pictures for retelling (found at the end of this file)<input type="checkbox"/> Flannel board (if available)<input type="checkbox"/> Sandpaper scraps

The DeGrummond center at the University of Mississippi has a fabulous collection of on-line resources for the study of many authors and illustrators. Materials at the end of this file have come from that site. Here is the URL for Keats:

<http://www.lib.usm.edu/~degrum/keats/main.html>

The Snowy Day

Activity Card #2	Literacy Development Category Acts of Writing: Listing to remember
Suggested Activity Order <p><i>Today's activity will set the stage for the "Lots of Links" activity. Remember that many times in our "Acts of Writing" we are modeling what we can do with print without expecting children to read what we have written.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask the children if they can remember what things Peter did when he went outside to play. If they have difficulty remembering, return to the book to remind them of what Peter did.2. Following your discussion, tell the children that we will be writing a list of what Peter did to have fun in the winter snow.3. Record the children's responses in a list form. Under the last item, draw a dotted line.4. Ask the children if they know of any other ways to have fun in winter. (<i>You might want to make use of the WIL Winter Alphabet.</i>)5. Record any additional responses below your dotted line then review all items you have recorded. Tell the children that we have revised our list by adding new information.6. Tell the children that Ezra Jack Keats was the author and illustrator of <u>The Snowy Day</u>. Show them Keats' changes to his text (picture at the end of this file). Explain that writers often will make changes in what they have done, just like we did when we added more information.7. Say, "Today we have been talking about the fun Peter had and we can have in winter. Tomorrow we'll talk about fun at other times of the year."8. Save this chart as you will refer to it in the "Lots of Links" activity.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Snowy Day</u> book<input type="checkbox"/> Paper for recording children's responses

The Snowy Day

Activity Card #3	Literacy Development Category Lots of Links: Seasons of the Year
Suggested Activity Order <i>Today we will use the list we made in Activity 2.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Put the chart that you and the children created on the board. Ask the children if they can remember what they did to make this chart.2. Tell children, "Peter's story happened on a snowy day which means that it happened in the season we call winter. There are three other seasons that we talk about -- spring, summer, and fall.3. Tape the picture of winter on the board.4. Begin with spring. Ask the children if they know whether spring comes before or after winter. Tape the spring picture to the right of the winter picture.5. Read through your Activity 2 chart, reminding the children that we wrote down our ideas of fun things to do in winter. Then ask if any one can think of fun things children like to do in spring. Children may need some support in this, so remind them that spring is a time when we can play out of doors, etc.6. Repeat this activity with the summer card, guiding children in their discussion of things we do in summer. Repeat with the fall season cards.7. Remind the children that we could have jotted down our ideas in a list today, just like we did yesterday.8. You can place the season cards at a center in your classroom. Children can make books that show either what they do in the spring (summer, fall, winter) or what Peter might do in the spring (summer, fall, winter). Provide 5 1/2 by 8" paper for the individual pages of the children's books.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Snowy Day</u><input type="checkbox"/> Chart from your "Acts of Writing" activity<input type="checkbox"/> Seasons of the Year pictures (found at the end of this file)

The Snowy Day

Activity Card #4	Literacy Development Category: Artist's Craft: How an Artist Thinks about His Creation
Suggested Activity Order <p><i>Ezra Jack Keats began his career as an "inker" for a cartoon company, moving on to work for the Captain Marvel comic strip. Later, he became an illustrator for other people's children's books. He was disturbed that he never saw pictures of any African American children. In 1962, he worked to change that situation. This is what he said about that time, "The purpose of the book and the subject matter of the book was so strong that my style changed completely. I had never painted that way before. It turned out to be the beginning of a whole new style to me because I was so deeply involved."</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Show children the cover of <u>The Snowy Day</u> and point to Ezra Jack Keats's name at the top of the cover. Explain that Keats was the author (wrote the words) and illustrator (created the pictures) of this book. Ask the children if they can remember any other books where one person wrote the words and made the pictures (Sendak, Seuss, etc.) Show children Keats's picture.2. Tell the children a bit about Keats's career as an illustrator.3. Show the 1940 picture that inspired Keats to create <u>The Snowy Day</u>. You may want to remind children of the content of <u>Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King</u> so they can discuss why no African American children appeared in picture books.4. At the art center in your classroom, supply wallpaper and fabric scraps so children can create collages, just like Ezra Jack Keats.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Snowy Day</u> book<input type="checkbox"/> Inspiration for Peter and <u>The Snow Day</u> (found at the end of this file)<input type="checkbox"/> Picture of Keats (found at the end of this file)



Peter made tracks with a stick.



Peter took a warm bath.



Peter watched a snowball fight.



Peter made an angel in the snow.



Peter slid down a hill.



Peter made footprints in the snow.

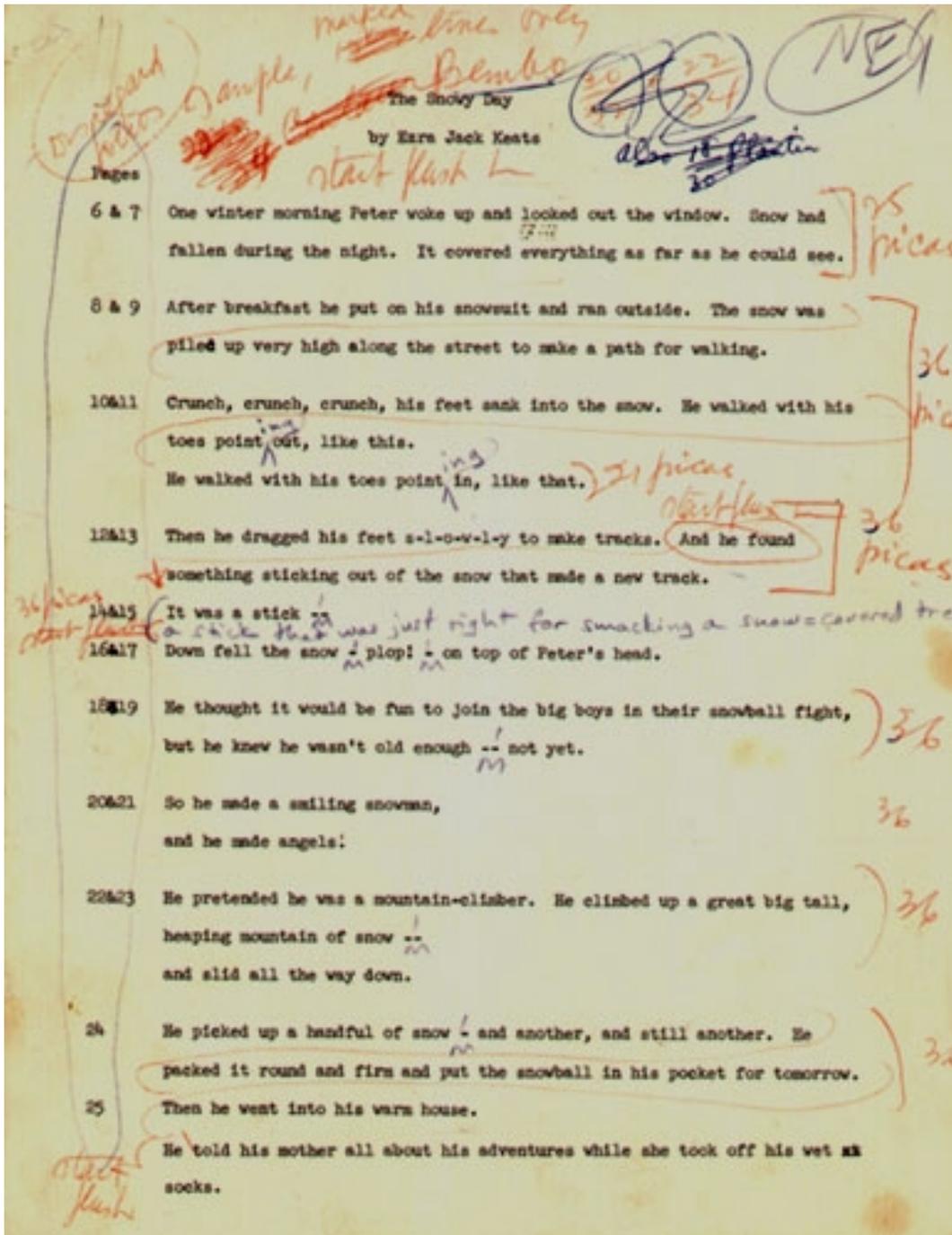
Seasons of the Year Cards



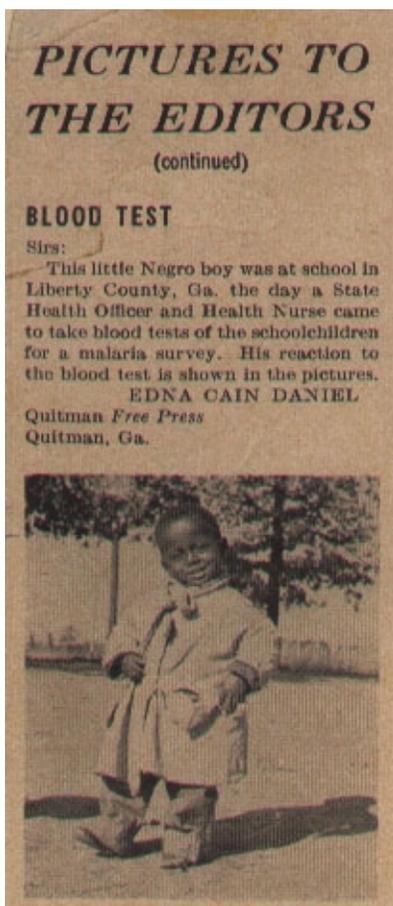
Ezra Jack Keats



Ezra Jack Keats' Typescript for The Snowy Day



The Inspiration for Peter and The Snowy Day



"Then began an experience that turned my life around--working on a book with a black kid as hero. None of the manuscripts I'd been illustrating featured any black kids--except for token blacks in the background. My book would have him there simply because he should have been there all along. Years before I had cut from a magazine a strip of photos of a little black boy. I often put them on my studio walls before I'd begun to illustrate children's books. I just loved looking at him. This was the child who would be the hero of my book."