



SNOW DAY FOR MOUSE

by Judy Cox

illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler

GRADES
K–3

About the Book

Snow! Cookies! Candy! Mouse loves snow days. When he's accidentally swept out the door and into the snow, Mouse has a blast ice-skating, sledding, and building snow animals—always just one step ahead of sly Cat. But above Mouse on a wire sit three cold birds who warn Mouse of Cat's approach. Now it is Mouse's turn to do something nice for his new friends.

Mouse's fourth adventure is full of warmhearted, snowy fun.

HC: 978-0-8234-2408-5

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Literature/Language Arts

Fiction vs. Nonfiction—Mouse does many things in the story that a real mouse cannot do. After reading the story, read a nonfiction book about mice to make comparisons. Students can make a classroom chart with two columns: "Things Real Mice Do" and "Things Real Mice Do Not Do." They can list (or draw) appropriate elements from the story in the correct column.

Listening/Rhyming Words—The author uses several pairs of rhyming words: quivery/slivery; higgledy-piggledy; snow-suited/heavy booted; undetected/unsuspected; sharing/caring. Read the book aloud to the class and have them raise their hands when they hear a rhyming pair. As a follow-up they can create their own lists of rhyming pairs.

Discussion—At the end of the story, Mouse had "a warm and toasty feeling deep inside." Students can discuss why they thought this happened. How was it related to the birds? Can they describe a similar feeling they have had in their lives and why?

Snow Days—The family in the story decides to bake cookies on a snow day. Students can list other activities that might be fun to do at home on a snow day (ideally omitting anything electronic). They can share their lists with the class. (Even students who live where there is rarely/never snow can use their imaginations.)

Further Reading—Students may be interested in reading/hearing more stories about Mouse. These include: *One Is a Feast for Mouse: A Thanksgiving Tale*; *Cinco de Mouse-o!*; and *Haunted House, Haunted Mouse*.

Geography

Observation/Map Location—On the penultimate page of the story the illustration shows the birds' luggage as they appear to be traveling to somewhere warmer. Have students look carefully at all of the stickers on the suitcase and make a list of the places they see. They can then use a world atlas, globe, or wall map to locate these destinations.

Snow—Students can enter their state into <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/snow-and-ice/recent.php> to get an idea of recent snowfall in their city or town. They can create a classroom chart of daily temperatures and predicted snowy days as winter approaches. They can listen to weather predictions on the news, and they can compare the predictions with what actually happens.

Online Resources

Snow—<http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheek3/snow.htm>

Presents a wealth of links to additional classroom activities related to snow.

Snow Forecasts—www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/winter_wx.shtml

The National Weather Service site begins to predict winter weather on September 15.

Classroom Activities prepared by Sandy Schuckett, school library consultant.

About the Author and Illustrator

Judy Cox is an elementary school teacher and the author of picture books and fiction for young readers. She received an Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award for children for *One Is a Feast for Mouse*, the first book about Mouse. She lives with her family in Oregon. Visit Judy online at www.judycox.net.

Jeffrey Ebbeler has worked as an art director, book designer, and illustrator. His art for *One is a Feast for Mouse* was called “colorful” and “dramatic” by *Booklist*. His paintings for the second book about Mouse, *Cinco de Mouse-o!*, were called “feisty” and “refreshing” in a starred review in *Kirkus Reviews*. He plays the trumpet and drums, and Jeff lives with his wife and twin daughters in Cincinnati, Ohio. Check out his website at www.jeffillustration.com.

The Mouse Stories

by Judy Cox, illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler

ONE IS A FEAST FOR MOUSE: A Thanksgiving Tale

HC: 978-0-8234-1977-7 / PB: 978-0-8234-2231-9

CINCO DE MOUSE-O!

HC: 978-0-8234-2194-7 / PB: 978-0-8234-2328-6

HAUNTED HOUSE, HAUNTED MOUSE

HC: 978-0-8234-2315-6 / PB: 978-0-8234-2544-0

SNOW DAY FOR MOUSE

HC: 978-0-8234-2408-5

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