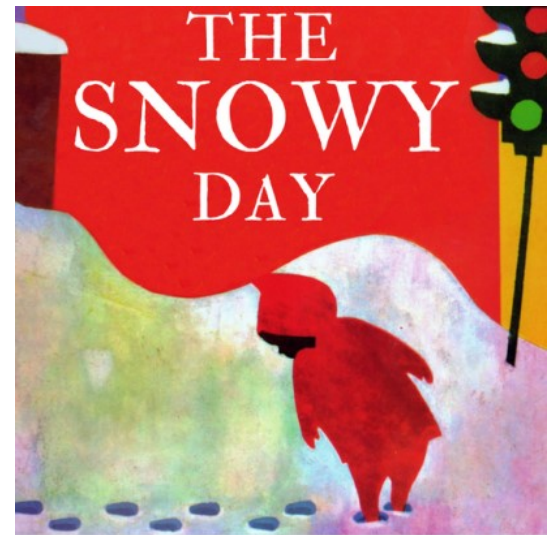


## BEFORE YOU SEE THE SHOW

THE SNOWY DAY AND OTHER STORIES BY EZRA JACK KEATS

By Jerome Hairston

Based on the books by Ezra Jack Keats



### THE BIG IDEA:

Hallmarks of Childhood

### CONNECTION TO STANDARDS

**Science: (K.S6.C3.PO 3):** Give examples of how the weather affects people's daily activities.

**Early Learning Standard: Social Emotional Learning (S1.C2):** Recognizes and Expresses Feelings of self and others

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning: Life and Career Skills (K-12)**  
**Work Independently**

### ABOUT CHILDSPLAY

Childsplay is a nonprofit professional theatre company of adult actors who perform for young audiences and families.

Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content, or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love, and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

For more information:  
[www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org)

### WHAT THE PLAY IS ABOUT

*The Snowy Day* celebrates the magic and boundless possibilities of the first snowfall! Follow Peter and his friends as they romp and play, starting snow ball fights and making snow angels in this imaginative musical play about the childhood joys and challenges of growing up. Using innovative shadow puppetry, Keats' treasured characters come to life in this humorous and fun adaptation of *Whistle for Willie*, *Goggles!*, *A Letter to Amy*, and *The Snowy Day*.

### Production Sponsor:



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

### #SHAREWITHUS

Follow us on social media and share your comments and photos!



## TALK ABOUT THEATRE ETIQUETTE

It's helpful to review the rules of theater etiquette before seeing a show, especially since this may be the first live theater experience for some of your students.

Please take a moment to discuss the following pointers prior to seeing the performance:

- Use the restroom before seeing the show as we do not have intermission during our school performances.
- Stay seated during the performance.
- Be respectful to the performers and other people in the audience by not talking during the performance.
- Appropriate responses such as applause or laughter are always welcome.
- Food, candy, gum, and beverages will not be allowed in the theater. Bottled water is allowed.
- Use of cell phones (including text messaging), cameras or any other recording device is not allowed during the performance at any time.

## AT THE THEATRE

- As you arrive at the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA), pay attention to the building's roof which is made of complex geometric folded plates.
- If you have traveled to the TCA by bus, a Childsplay Ambassador will board your bus to welcome you and share important information with you and your students, including where to line up.
- If your group arrived by private vehicle, park in the lot on the map we included in your field trip packet and walk to the front of the theatre.
- A house manager will show you where to line up. As you line up in front of the TCA, look up and check out the sculpture, *Sea of Waves I* by Ned Kahn, made of a sheet of metal with thousands of glass marbles that light up when the sun reflects off the mirrors mounted on the steel cables.
- An usher assigned especially to your group will show you to your seats. While you walk into the building with your usher, look at the carpet you are walking on. It's actually based on a watercolor painting by Hopi artist Ramona Sakiestewa.
- Following the performance there will be a brief question/answer session where actors and audience members will have an opportunity to ask each other questions about the production.



## QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE SEEING THE SHOW

- ▶ You can watch both plays and movies in a theatre, but how is seeing a play different than seeing a movie?
- ▶ The play is based on 4 books: *The Snowy Day*, *Whistle for Willie*, *Goggles*, and *A Letter to Amy*. What do you think the play version of these stories will be like? What do you think you will see on the stage?
- ▶ What is something you had to practice and practice before you were finally able to do it? What are some things that you are still working on that you would like to some day be able to do?
- ▶ What are your favorite hiding places?
- ▶ Have you ever seen snow in real life? What are activities that you can do in the snow?

## CLOSE READING ACTIVITY

### ACTORS AS CLOSE READERS

Theatre is a collection of choices. A choice is an artistic decision that is made to highlight a component of the character's personality, the story, or the theme. An actor's job is to draw evidence from the text to make choices that bring characters to life on stage.

#### Activity: What can you learn from a picture?

Look at illustrations in the book *The Snowy Day and Other Stories*. Describe what you see. Who are the characters? What are the characters doing? With your body, mirror what you see the characters doing. Can you tell how the characters feel? Now, make a choice and try to move your body in a way you think those characters would move. Make another choice and use your voice in a way that you think those characters would use their voices. Now, using your body and your voice, bring one of the pictures from the book to life!

### FIND MORE RESOURCES FOR FURTHER LEARNING

[www.pinterest.com/ChildsplayAZ](http://www.pinterest.com/ChildsplayAZ)



### BOOKS TO CHECK OUT

Our amazing volunteer librarian Sharon Ewers has put together a great list of books connected to ideas and themes in *The Snowy Day and Other Stories*. You can find it by going to

<https://goo.gl/ZXLpvd>

and clicking on "The Snowy Day Book List"

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TAKE FLIGHT