**Just a Snowman**
by Mercer Mayer

When school is cancelled after a heavy snowfall, Little Critter wants to build a snowman, but finds that his friends and family have other ideas on how to spend a snow day.

**Before:**
Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What kinds of fun activities do you like to do on snow days?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if Little Critter and his sister had any help building the snowman?

**During:**
Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

**Rare Words in *Just a Snowman:***
- shoveled: took up and removed with a shovel
- accident: any event that happens unexpectedly, without a deliberate plan or cause
- ice-skating: skating on ice
- backwards: in reverse of the usual or right way
- tie: to make or be the same score; to be equal in a contest
- sledding: the act of riding on a sled
- steered: to guide the course of
- fort: a strong or fortified place occupied by troops and usually surrounded by walls, ditches and other defensive works
- prunes: a dried plum
- ingredients: something that enters as an element into a mixture
- mugs: a drinking cup, usually having a handle
Snow Day Sequence

Using their imaginations, have the kids act out each of the snow day activities and have the children put the activities in the order that Little Critter did them. The activities include putting on snow clothes, digging with a snow shovel, throwing snowballs, ice skating, sledding on snow, making snow angels, building a snowman and drinking hot chocolate. When everyone has it down pat, play Simon Says using the actions if time permits.
Define read. read synonyms, read pronunciation, read translation, English dictionary definition of read. reproduce written words mentally or utter them aloud: read a book; to apprehend the meaning; assume as intended or deducible: read too much into a letter. Read - definition of read by The Free Dictionary. https://www.thefreedictionary.com/read. Printer Friendly. Dictionary, Encyclopedia and Thesaurus - The Free Dictionary 12,707,636,402 visitors served. From Middle English reden, from Old English rǣdan (ācūto counsel, advise, consult; interpret, readæ), from Proto-Germanic *rǣdan... (ācūteadvise, counselæ), from Proto-Indo-European *Hreh₃-dʰ- (ācūto arrangeæ). Cognate with Scots rede, red (ācūto advise, counsel, decipher, readæ), Saterland Frisian rāide (ācūto advise, counselæ), West Frisian riede (ācūto advise, counselæ), Dutch raden (ācūto advise; guess, counsel, redeæ), German raten (ācūto advise; guessæ), Danish råde (ācūto adviseæ), Swedish råda (ācūto advise, counselæ) Read up "study" is from 1842; read out (v.) "expel by proclamation" (Society of Friends) is from 1788. read-only in computer jargon is recorded from 1961. read (n.) "an act of reading," 1825, from read (v.). read (adj.) 1580s, "having knowledge gained from reading," in well-read, etc., past-participle adjective from read (v.). Entries related to read. *re Read may refer to: Reading, human cognitive process of decoding symbols in order to construct or derive meaning. Read (automobile), an American car manufactured from 1913 to 1915. Read (biology), an inferred sequence of base pairs of a DNA fragment. Read codes, a standard clinical terminology system used in General Practice in the United Kingdom. Read (computer), to retrieve data from a storage device. Read (magazine), a children's magazine. Read (surname), people with this surname.