

Winter Read Aloud Guide

Pre-K and Kindergarten • Ages 4-6 • About 15-20 minutes

Turn rhyming winter riddles into a shared guessing game. Children practice listening for details, using clues to explain a guess, exploring winter vocabulary, and noticing rhyme.

Get ready

You need: the winter book, paper, and crayons. Preview the book and choose a few riddles if your group needs a shorter session. Plan how to keep each answer out of view until children have guessed.

1 Connect and introduce | 2 minutes

Show the cover. Ask, “What is winter like where we live? What have you seen in books or pictures about snowy places?” Welcome children who have never seen snow. Explain: “A riddle gives us clues. We listen, think, and use those clues to guess.” Have children think quietly and put a thumb against their chest when ready to share.

2 Read and solve together | 7-9 minutes

Read each riddle all the way through with a natural rhythm. Pause at “What am I?” and allow a few seconds to think. Invite two or three guesses before revealing the answer. Ask, “Which clue helped you?” Reveal and name the answer together, then connect it to the clues. Welcome thoughtful guesses, even when they differ from the answer.

Hot cocoa: “Which words tell you what it tastes like? Pretend to warm your hands around a mug.”

Snowman: “What is it made of? Pretend to stack big snowballs.”

Blizzard: “Which clues tell you this is more than a gentle snowfall?” Explain that a blizzard has strong winds and blowing snow that makes it hard to see. Gently make a windy “whoosh” together.

3 Listen for rhyme | 2 minutes

Reread the blizzard riddle after the answer is known. Emphasize night / light. Say, “These words rhyme. Their endings sound alike.” Have children echo the pair. Then say hat / cat and hat / snow: “Which pair rhymes?” Invite another word that rhymes with night.

4 Draw and share a winter riddle | 4-5 minutes

Invite children to draw something from the book. Help them tell or dictate two clues without naming it: “I am _____. I have _____.” Partners listen and guess before seeing the drawing. Share a few with the class. Children’s riddles do not need to rhyme.

Help everyone join in

Offer support: reread a key clue, add a gesture, or offer two choices. Accept pointing, acting, and home-language responses.

Extend: ask, “Could a scarf and hat alone tell us the answer? Which other clue do we need?”

Notice: Can each child use a clue, explain a guess, or recognize a rhyming pair? Revisit one skill during the next reading.