

Teacher's Guide



Willow and the Snow Day Dance

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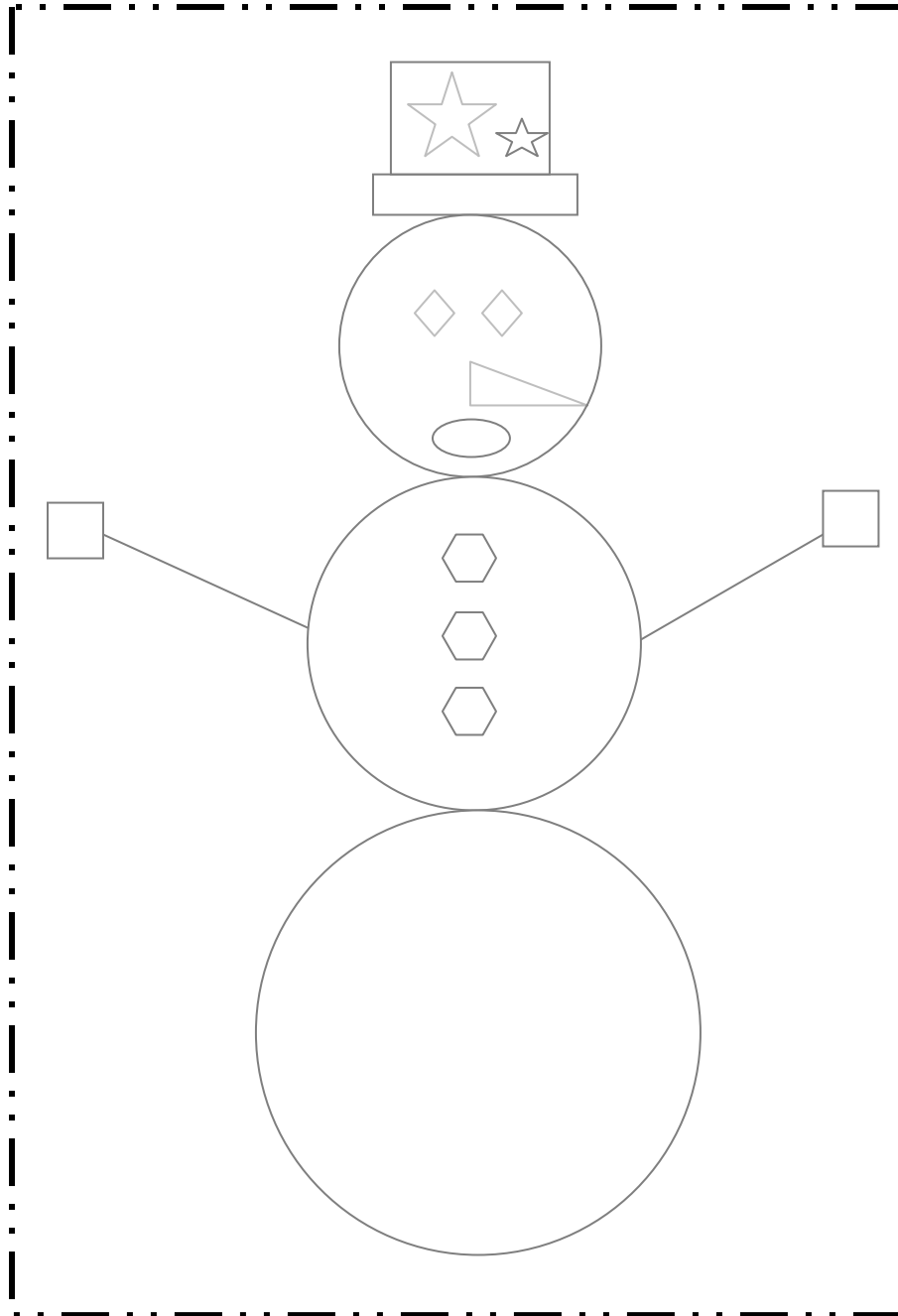
Snowman Shapes

Willow and the Snow Day Dance



In the story *Willow and the Snow Day Dance*, when Willow looks out the window on her snow day she sees many snowmen. Color the snowman below according to the color chart.

- Oval: Peach
- Triangle: Orange
- Square: Brown
- Diamond: Blue
- Hexagon: Green
- Rectangle: Black
- Star: Yellow





Creating a Story Board

Willow and the Snow Day Dance



Below, there are eight sentences about the story *Willow and the Snow Day Dance* that need to be put in order. Cut out the sentence strips and glue them in order at the bottom of the page.

Willow imagined the hill behind the quiet gray house covered in snow, perfect for sledding.	Willow received a note with directions for the Snow Day Dance in her mailbox.
Willow wrote a letter to her neighbors asking for scraps for her garden art project.	Willow collected hats, mittens, and scarves for a charity drive.
Willow helped her mom clean out the flower beds.	Willow noticed that the “Keep off” sign was no longer on the hill.
Willow and her classmates did the Snow Day Dance before bed.	Willow moved to a new neighborhood.

Willow and the Snow Day Dance
Story Board

1	5
2	6
3	7
4	8



Similes

Willow and the Snow Day Dance



Many authors use similes to create a visual image in the reader's head. A simile compares unlike things by using the word "like" or "as". Denise Brennan-Nelson uses two similes in the story *Willow and the Snow Day Dance*. She compares Mr. Larch to an old apple tree. She puts the image of a snow-covered hill into the reader's head by comparing it to a vanilla cupcake.

Pick three sentences from the book and rewrite them to include similes. Then, include a picture of the mental image that your sentence might create in the reader's head.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Weather Chart



Willow and the Snow Day Dance

Willow and the Snow Day Dance includes changing weather and different seasons. Predict the weather for this month, and then record the actual weather pattern for the month by drawing pictures in the calendar. Don't forget to write the dates of the month on the calendar. When the month is over, summarize what the weather was like.

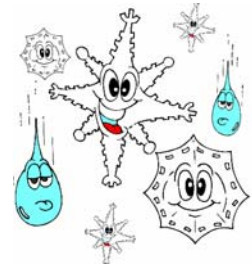
I predict there will be _____ sunny days this month.

I predict there will be _____ partly sunny days this month.

I predict there will be _____ cloudy days this month.

I predict there will be _____ rainy days this month.

I predict there will be _____ snowy days this month.



Month: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

There were _____ sunny days this month.

There were _____ partly sunny days this month.

There were _____ cloudy days this month.

There were _____ rainy days this month.

There were _____ snowy days this month.



Snow Day Short Story



When Willow goes to play outside on her snow day, Mr. Larch is on the hill sledding. He is wearing a smile and talking to Willow and others in the neighborhood. Use the space below to write a short story about the rest of their snow day. Use as many details as possible, making sure that Mr. Larch and Willow are included in the snow day activities.

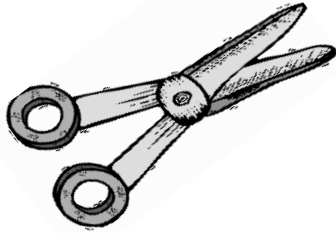


Nature Diorama

Willow and the Snow Day Dance



Pick a scene from *Willow and the Snow Day Dance* and have fun creating a three-dimensional model of the scene. Your goal is to make a diorama using mostly items from nature. Be as creative as possible, even painting or coloring the items that you find outside to fit the scene from the book.



Materials:
Shoe box
Markers or paint
Scissors
Glue

Items from nature: sticks, stones, plants, dirt, etc.



Below, create a sketch of what you want your diorama to look like. You can recreate a picture from the book, or create a scene that didn't have a picture with it in the book. Remember to include as much detail as possible.



Silly Superstitions

Willow and the Snow Day Dance



The Snow Day Dance is a superstition. There are many variations of the Snow Day Dance, like flushing ice cubes down the toilet before bed. Create your own superstition. First, decide what the outcome of the superstition will be. Will it be to score the most goals in the soccer game, or to lose your tooth tonight? Be creative! Then, come up with situations to cause your superstition to come true. The Snow Day Dance has three parts; your superstition should have at least five parts. Write a short story to go along with your superstition.



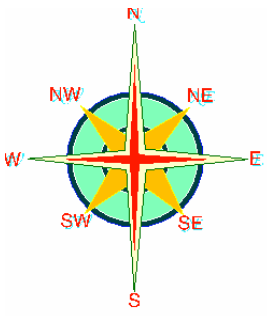
Other examples of superstitions include:

- If you break a mirror you will have seven years of bad luck.
- Find a penny, pick it up, all day long you'll have good luck.
- Walking under a ladder will bring bad luck.
- Carry a rabbit's foot for good luck.
- Opening an umbrella inside will bring bad luck.






























Map Skills

Willow and the Snow Day Dance



Help Willow, in the South West corner, get to the snow man in the North East corner. On her way to the snowman, she must avoid all obstacles. Trace the path that Willow will take and then fill out the direction sheet below the map. The first three steps have been done for you. Good Luck!

FINISH

START ↑

2 Steps North	1 Step East	1 Step North West	



A Letter to Your Neighbor

Willow and the Snow Day Dance



In the story *Willow and the Snow Day Dance*, Willow writes letters to her neighbors asking for help with different things. She asked for items for her garden, for donations for a charity, and for help with the snow day dance. Write a letter to a neighboring class asking for help with something that you'd like to accomplish. Notice that her letters include illustrations; yours should, too. Your letter can be fiction or nonfiction.

Cause & Effect

Willow and the Snow Day Dance

Many of Willow's actions cause something to happen in the book. For example, Willow writes to her neighbors asking for seeds or seedlings for her garden. Her neighbors share their seeds and seedlings so she can grow a garden at her new house. The cause was Willow writing a letter, and the effect was her neighbors' sharing. In the graphic organizer below, come up with three more cause/effect examples from the story *Willow and the Snow Day Dance*.



CAUSE

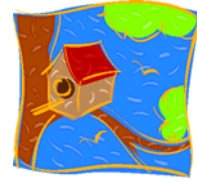
EFFECT

	→	
	→	
	→	



Make a Bird House

Willow and the Snow Day Dance



Willow creates her own market to help raise money for the charity event at her school. She sells decorations from her garden. One decoration is a bird house. Gather materials and follow the instructions below to a creative bird house.

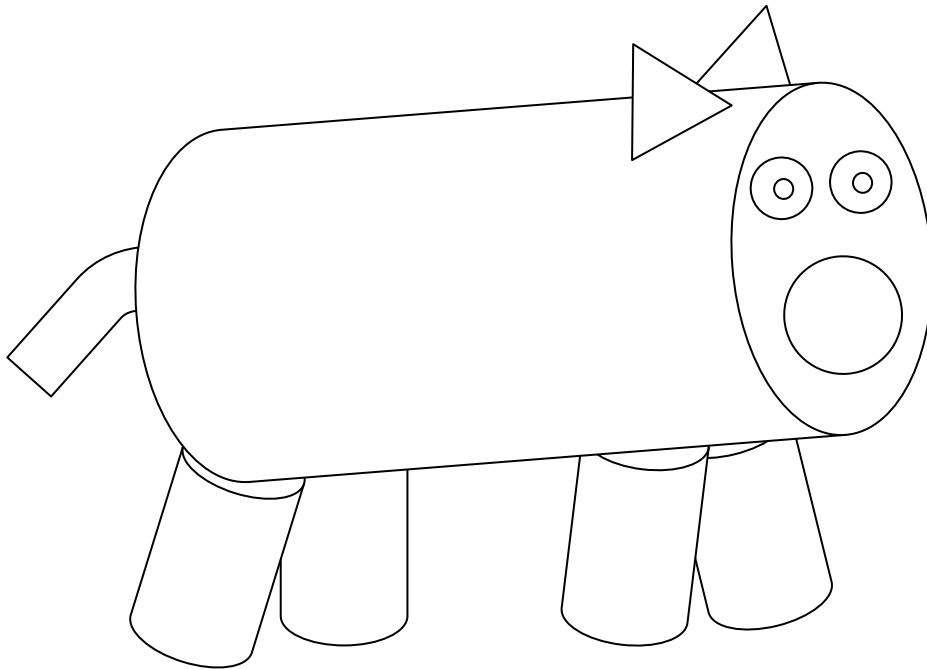
Using a coffee can with a lid you can create an animal-inspired bird house. With the lid on the coffee can, the lid itself will be the face of your animal. The coffee can will act as the body. Some examples of animals that you can make include, but are not limited to: bee, pig, dog, cat, etc. The mouth is where the bird will fly in and out, and needs to be cut to size before painting and decorating.

Materials:

- Coffee can
- Scissors
- Glue
- Acrylic paint or model car paint
- Sandpaper

Suggested Materials

- Pipe cleaners
- Google eyes
- Craft foam
- Scrap paper



Willow's Market



Willow and the Snow Day Dance

Below is a list of things that are available for people to buy at Willow's Market. Order three different items for yourself, and then ask three friends or family members to buy three different items. Record each order and find the total cost. Then, find the change each person would get from \$20.



- Small Bird Feeder \$5
- Tire Decoration \$9
- Stepping Stone \$4
- Metal Flower \$3
- Large Bird Feeder \$6

<p>Name: <u>EXAMPLE</u></p> <p>Stepping Stone \$4 Metal Flower \$3 Large Bird Feeder \$6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL: \$13 Change from \$20: \$7</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL: \$ _____ Change from \$20: \$ _____</p>
<p>Name: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL: \$ _____ Change from \$20: \$ _____</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL: \$ _____ Change from \$20: \$ _____</p>



Character Traits

Willow and the Snow Day Dance



Willow and Mr. Larch are two very different people. Use the boxes below to list as many character traits about them as you can. Then, complete the other four boxes according to the label in each.

Some character traits include: creative, stubborn, adventurous, messy, dull, and serious

<p><u>Willow</u></p>	<p><u>Mr. Larch</u></p>
<p>Favorite Character (from any book): _____</p>	<p>Family Member: _____</p>
<p>Friend: _____</p>	<p>Any Teacher: _____</p>

Graphing Snow Day Activities

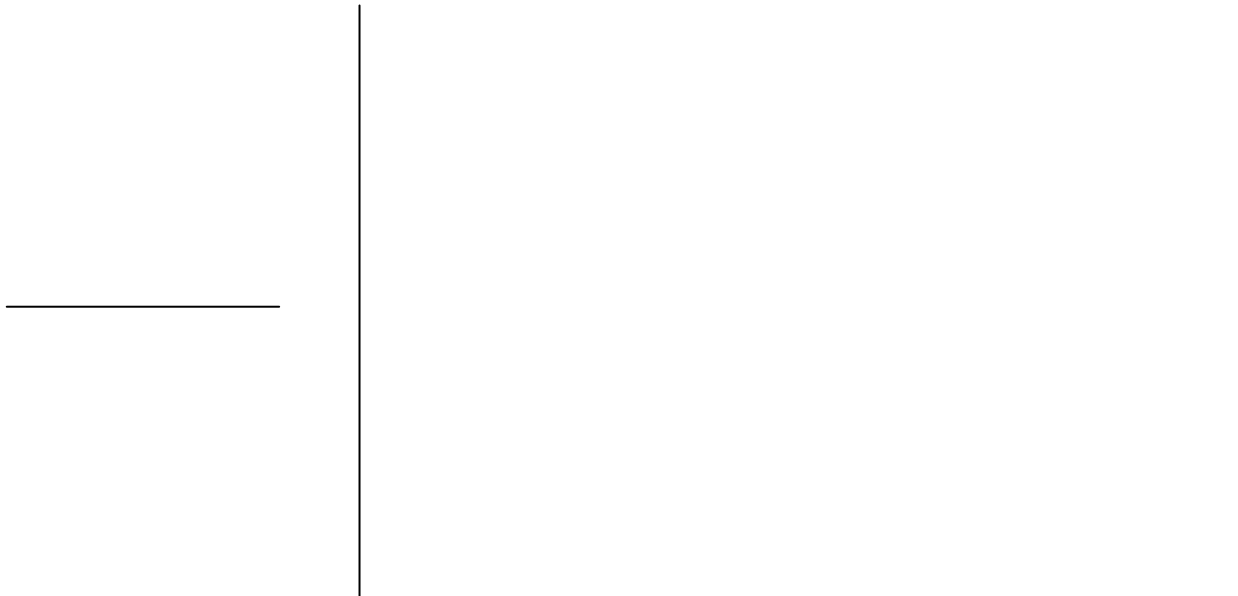
Willow and the Snow Day Dance

In the story *Willow and the Snow Day Dance*, Willow falls asleep every night thinking of all the things she could do when it snowed. Ask at least 12 people what they would do during a snow day. Record their answers as tally marks in the chart below. Then, create a bar graph to display the data that you have collected. Don't forget to label graph title, x axis, y axis, and the scale.



Build a Snow Fort	Go Ice Skating	Have a Snowball Fight	Make Snow Angels	Build a Snowman	Stay inside where it's warm.

(Graph Title)



No-Bake Chocolate Crackle Cookies

Willow and the Snow Day Dance

Although it would be fun, not every minute of a snow day can be spent outside. Make these sweet treats to enjoy with your hot cocoa when you come inside from the bitter cold.

Total Time: 10 minutes

Ingredients:

- 3 ounces semisweet chocolate
- 2 cups crispy rice cereal
- 2 (5 inch by 2 ½ inch each) graham crackers,
broken into small pieces



Directions:

1. Line cookie sheet with waxed paper. In 2-quart microwave-safe bowl, heat chocolate in microwave oven on High 1 to 1 1/2 minutes or until melted, stirring once. Add cereal and crackers; stir until coated.
2. Drop mixture by 1/3 cups onto lined cookie sheet. With fingertips, shape mixture to form rounded mound if necessary. Refrigerate cookies 30 minutes to set. Store cookies in tightly covered container at room temperature.

Answer Key

Willow and the Snow Day Dance

Creating a Story Board:

1. Willow moved to a new neighborhood.
2. Willow imagined the hill behind the quiet gray house covered in snow, perfect for sledding.
3. Willow helped her mom clean out the flower beds.
4. Willow wrote a letter to her neighbors asking for scraps for her garden art project.
5. With the help of the neighborhood, Willow collected hats, mittens, and scarves for the charity drive.
6. Willow received a note with directions for the Snow Day Dance in her mailbox.
7. Willow and her classmates did the Snow Day Dance before bed.
8. Willow noticed that the “Keep off” sign was no longer on the hill.