



Snowball

Written by Sue Hendra and
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STUDY GUIDE

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SUMMARY

Snowball longs for someone to play with. He is at the top of a very large hill and needs to get down to the bottom to find some friends. The story follows his exciting journey to the bottom of the hill.

CHARACTER REVIEW

Snowball

Sheep

Dogs

Bear

Romantic couples

Acrobat team

Electric eel

Mayor

Ladyship

Zoo animals

SEL THEMES IN THE BOOK

- Feelings
- Friendship
- Self-control

STUDY QUESTIONS

PAGES 3 AND 4

- **How do you think Snowball feels when he's standing on top of the hill?** Encourage verbal children to answer. Use the Feeling Faces to encourage discussion.
- **Snowball thought that the town below looked like an exciting place. Excited is a feeling word that describes how we feel inside. When we feel excited we feel very happy about something. Can anyone think of a time that you felt excited?** Refer to lesson 30 in the second manual for further information and resources to support this feeling. The children might find it challenging to describe a time that they felt 'excited' so encourage staff members to model this. Ask children to show you their 'excited' feeling faces (use resources from Lesson 30 to support this).
- **Optional question - Do you think 'excited' is a comfortable or an uncomfortable feeling?** Show feeling face cards and discuss how excited can be both comfortable and uncomfortable.
- **Sometimes when we feel excited we need to calm down, how can we do this?** Refer to *How to do Turtle* poster.

PAGES 5 AND 6

- **How does it feel when you don't have anyone to play with?** Elicit discussion from the group. If children are finding it challenging to answer then staff can use some examples from the setting – 'Joey, you felt sad this morning when you couldn't find someone to play with. Can you show me your sad face?'
- **Snowball has decided to go down the hill to the town, how do you think he feels?** Happy (and excited).
- **How can we tell that he's feeling happy?** He is smiling and he also set off with a "Jiggy, jig, jig". Explain that when we feel happy our faces show it but we also do things with our bodies too – for example skip. Play some happy music and ask the children to move to it.

PAGES 7 AND 8

- **Snowball stumbled on a twig. Look at his face, how do you think he feels?** Scared.
- **Can you think of a time when you felt scared?** Encourage the verbal children in your group to answer. Staff to give examples.

PAGES 9 AND 10

- **Look at Snowball's face in these pictures, what do you notice?** His feelings are changing. At first he seems to be enjoying it but then he looks more scared as he gets bigger. His feelings have changed.

PAGES 11 AND 12

- **How do you think Snowball feels about the pebble nose and stick arms?** He feels happy.
- **His face changes when he gets closer to the sheep, why do you think that is?** He could be scared that he will hurt himself or the sheep.
- **As he was getting closer to the sheep his feelings changed and he was feeling an uncomfortable feeling, what could Snowball have done to calm down?** Turtle. Lead the children in a group Turtle.

PAGES 13 AND 14

- **How do you think the sheep was feeling when snowball picked him up?** Sad and/ or scared.
- **Look at the sheep and Snowball, who needs to do Turtle?** Both of them. Explain why and give some examples from the setting – ‘This morning Jane felt angry when Anthony took some of her playdough. Jane felt so angry that she shouted and this made Anthony feel sad and he cried. Jane needed to do turtle as she was angry and Anthony needed to Turtle as he was upset.’
- **Snowball said ‘Oops!’ but what else should he have said?** I’m sorry.

PAGES 15 AND 16

- **Look at Snowball’s face as he was heading for somebody’s washing, how does he feel?** Scared and sad.
- **He needed help, who could have helped him?** The rabbits could have tried to help him.
- **Does anyone remember what good friends do?** Refer to the story and poster – play, help and share.

PAGES 17 AND 18

- **Look at the characters faces on these pages, how do they feel?** Scared.
- **They can see Snowball coming and they feel scared. What could they have done to help them calm down?** Turtle. Encourage a confident child to demonstrate doing Turtle or do a group Turtle.

PAGES 19 AND 20

- **Snowball and the animals are scared, they don’t know when they’ll stop. Can you show me your scared faces?** You could use mirrors to enhance the children’s understanding of how they look when they are scared.
- **Let’s pass a scared face around the circle.** The lead staff member will begin by displaying a scared face and then turn to the child on their right. The child on the right will then show their scared face to the person on their right and this will continue until everyone has had a turn. Compliment the children on their efforts.

PAGES 21 AND 22

- **Look at the characters faces, how do you think they feel?** Scared.

PAGES 23 AND 24

- **At the beginning of the story, snowball wanted to go to the town to find somebody to play with. He was lonely. Lonely is an uncomfortable feeling, it means that you feel alone. What do you think happens next?**

PAGES 25 AND 26

- **He now has lots of friends! Look at Snowball's face, how do you think he feels? Happy.**
- **Our friends make us feel happy. When we have friends we have someone to play with and we don't feel lonely.**

ACTIVITIES

- Enhance the malleable area with white playdough/ floof and photocopied and laminated Feeling Face cards
- Create scared pictures – discuss colours and ask the children which colour best represents the feeling
- Discuss things that make them scared
- Sing Little Miss Muffet to further explore the feeling 'scared'
- Excited - play loud, excitable music and encourage the children to dance/ move around to it
- Use instruments to create excited and scared music
- Activities to encourage collaborative play - jigsaws, playdough, etc.
- Photocopy and laminate pages from the story for sequencing. Enhance this activity by having some of the related Feeling Face cards to hand and asking the children to point to the Feeling Face card that demonstrates how Snowball is feeling
- Create snowball pictures using cotton wool and photocopied and laminated facial features from the feelings lessons