

'Winter's Child' by Angela McAllister and Graham Baker-Smith

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Synopsis (for parents):

Tom loves winter. He spends his day sledging and skating on the vast frozen lakes. But Nana is cold. The wood is running out and food is scarce.

One frosty day, Tom meets a mysterious, pale boy with bright blue eyes. Together they explore the glittering, icy landscape, playing in and around cascading waterfalls, riding reindeer and venturing deep into the silent woods. As Nana's health deteriorates, Tom realises that winter is placing a terrible strain on his beloved relative. Can his strange new friend help?

A magical, breath-taking story about friendship, change and nature. Each illustration glimmers and gleams and the relationship between Tom and his family is touchingly explored.

OPTION 1

Can you create a freeze-frame or act out these key moments from the story.

You may want to think about:

What might the characters' facial expressions look like?

What might their body language look like? Can you accurately show each character's personality, thoughts and feelings?

- ❄ Tom skating and sledging at the beginning of the story.
- ❄ Tom meeting the pale boy with ice-blue eyes.
- ❄ The fire wood and the vegetables running out.
- ❄ Nana becoming ill.
- ❄ Tom and Winter's Child saying goodbye.
- ❄ Winter arriving on his sleigh of ice.
- ❄ The snow melting and Spring arriving.

OPTION 2

Answer the questions about the story we have just read. You may want to choose just a few to talk about. You can discuss the answers or write the answers on the sheet.

PAGE 1 and 2

1. Why does Nana brush the snow from her window box?

2. What other signs of spring might Nana look for?

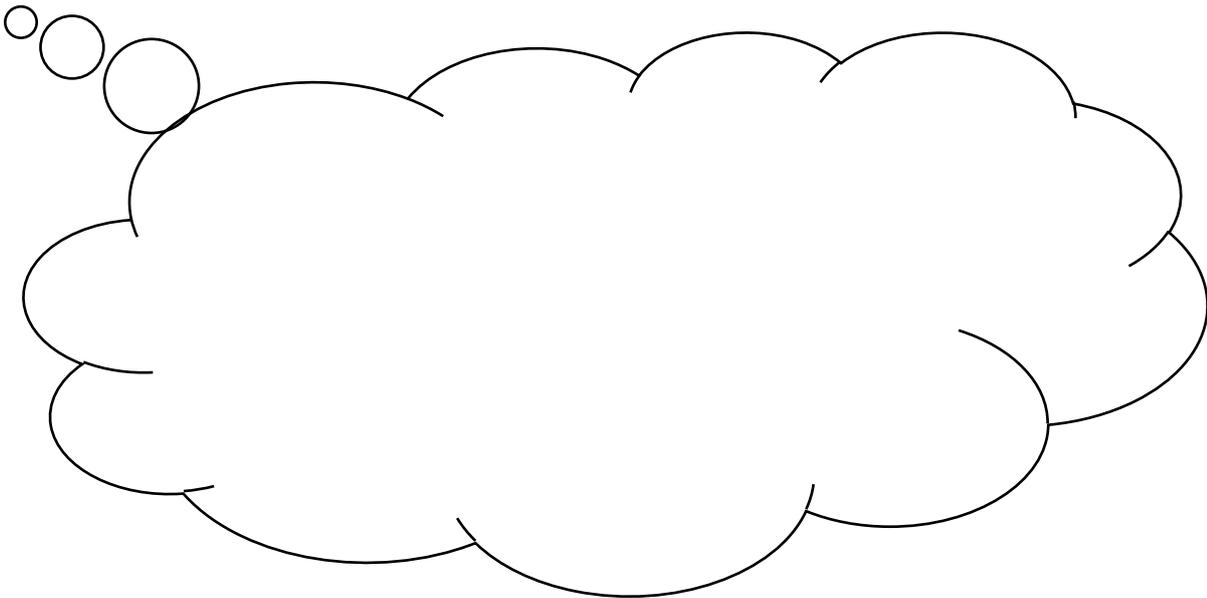
PAGE 3 and 4

3. Why does Tom love winter?

4. Why is Tom's mother worried?

PAGE 5 and 6

5. What might Tom be thinking and feeling as he skis?



PAGE 7 and 8

6. Can you describe the boy?

PAGE 9 and 10

7. What does Tom hear that night?

8. Who might the distant voice belong to?

9. What might the boy be thinking and feeling when he hears the voice?

PAGE 11 and 12

10. What does the verb 'sighed' tell us about Tom's mother?

How is she feeling?

PAGE 13 and 14

11. How do the boys use the icicles to make music?

PAGE 15 to 18

12. Where do the boys go after they climb on the reindeer?

Page 19 to 20

13. Why is Tom's heart heavy?

PAGE 21 to 22

14. How have Tom's feelings about winter changed?

PAGE 23 to 24

15. Who is the pale boy?

16. Why must the pale boy go home?

PAGE 25 to 26

17. When will the pale boy return?

PAGE 27 to 28

18. Where do you think the boy and his father will go?

PAGE 29 TO THE END

19. Look at the last two pages. Who do you think the girl is?

OPTION 3

Use the picture plans (talk for writing pictures below) to link the pictures to the story and see how much of the story you can retell. Practice a few times adding in some of the words from the story.

The Winter's Child

