

## The Snowy Day

*Ezra Jack Keats*

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**The Snowy Day** Ezra Jack Keats  
**Winner of the 1963 Caldecott Medal!**

No book has captured the magic and sense of possibility of the first snowfall better than *The Snowy Day*. Universal in its appeal, the story has become a favorite of millions, as it reveals a child's wonder at a new world, and the hope of capturing and keeping that wonder forever.

The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day.

"Keats's sparse collage illustrations capture the wonder and beauty a snowy day can bring to a small child."—*Barnes & Noble*

"Ezra Jack Keats's classic *The Snowy Day*, winner of the 1963 Caldecott Medal, pays homage to the wonder and pure pleasure a child experiences when the world is blanketed in snow."—*Publisher's Weekly*

"The book is notable not only for its lovely artwork and tone, but also for its importance as a trailblazer. According to *Horn Book* magazine, *The Snowy Day* was "the very first full-color picture book to feature a small black hero"—yet another reason to add this classic to your shelves. It's as unique and special as a snowflake."—*Amazon.com*

## The Snowy Day Details

Date : Published October 28th 1976 by Puffin Books (first published 1962)

ISBN : 9780140501827

Author : Ezra Jack Keats

Format : Paperback 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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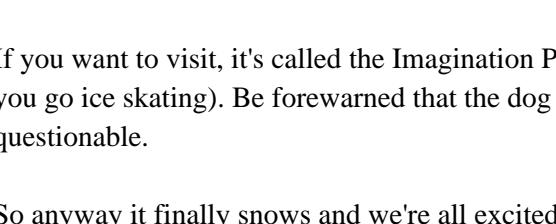
## From Reader Review The Snowy Day for online ebook

### Alex says

One of the great children's classics, and one of my kid's favorite books, and one of mine too. I love the beautiful art - the snowflakes on the last page, and the pattern on Peter's mom's dress. I love how uncalculated it is, how little it seems to be trying. It operates on a young kid's wavelength.

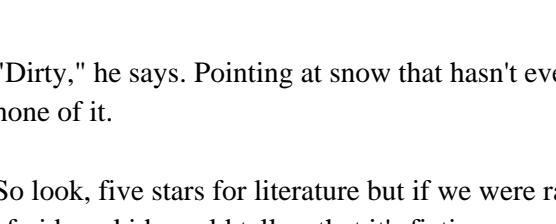
This year around the holiday season there were Snowy Day stamps, and every card we got that had one, my kid got all excited. "Nowy Day!" he would yell.

There's a statue of Peter and his dog, by the way, at a quirky little playground in a corner of Brooklyn's Prospect Park. Here it is:



If you want to visit, it's called the Imagination Playground, and it's right behind the LeFrak Center (where you go ice skating). Be forewarned that the dog is *extremely well-endowed*. Yeah, I too find that judgment questionable.

So anyway it finally snows and we're all excited, right? We point out the window. Nowy Day! And we bundle him all up and we take him outside for his very first snowy day, and he's like...



"Dirty," he says. Pointing at snow that hasn't even hit the ground yet. "Dirty. Cold outside." He is having none of it.

So look, five stars for literature but if we were rating it on how good its case for snowy days actually is, I'm afraid my kid would tell us that it's fiction.

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### Calista says

I loved this book. I wanted to read something about winter and snow. I miss having snow and I miss Michigan. The artwork is quiet and muted like snow. It is simple and really helps set the tone of the story. This is for younger kids or kids of all ages. It is simply told which again sets the tone perfectly.

As we read this book, the kids would say, "I've done that", or "we made snow angels this years" or "We didn't have enough snow this year to make our own snowman". They enjoyed it.

I like this little winter story that reminds me of the joys of snow as a kid. It's not about trudging to work and cleaning off your car. It's about seeing where you walk in the snow and snow angels and building snow men. It's the fun part of snow.

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## **Lata says**

Lovely little book I picked up on impulse. Beautiful collages of Peter having fun in the snow. Simple, sweet story of a young child on a winter's day.

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## **Mariah says**

This was a really cute, simple story that my students enjoyed :)

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## **jo says**

Until *The Snowy Day* (published in 1963), American children's books featured white children as the heroes (if you know of one that didn't, I'd love to hear about it). In the biography on his website, Ezra Jack Keats says:

Then began an experience that turned my life around—working on a book with a black kid as hero. None of the manuscripts I'd been illustrating featured any black kids—except for token blacks in the background. My book would have him there simply because he should have been there all along.

Besides being culturally groundbreaking, opening up children's literature to some of the marginalized citizens in our society, *The Snowy Day* is a beautiful book that perfectly captures the wonder and joy that can be found outside on a snowy day (yes, even in the city!).

A couple years ago, Kevin took me to the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art for my birthday, and we got to see original pages from this book. It was amazing to see the original cutouts, watercolor, and collage in person. Illustrations that looked like a consistent whole in the published book turned out to be separate pieces of paper fit and intricately glued together. It just goes to show, things that seem so polished and perfect always have an underside with details we can't even begin to imagine.

With that in mind, I'll close with a story on Keats' website that I loved. Keats was in school during the Depression, and his father tried to discourage him from focusing on art. He wanted him to do something more practical that would earn money. In 1935, when Keats' father died of a heart attack, he had to go through his father's belongings:

"I found myself staring deep into his [my father's:] secret feelings. There in his wallet were worn and tattered newspaper clippings of the notices of the awards I had won. My silent admirer and supplier, he had been torn between his dread of my leading a life of hardship and his real pride in my work."

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## **Ronyell says**

“The Snowy Day” is a Caldecott Medal winning book by Ezra Jack Keats that details Peter’s adventures on a snowy day. “The Snowy Day” is clearly one of Ezra Jack Keats’ most enchanting books for children!

Ezra Jack Keats has done a great job at both illustrating and writing this story. Ezra Jack Keats’ illustrations are truly creative and colorful to look at as the characters and the environment surrounding them look like something cut out of a cardboard as the characters and the environment around them look block shaped. Also, Ezra Jack Keats’ illustrations are extremely beautiful as they truly capture the beauty and essence of a snow day as the snowy world around Peter is covered in white and Peter looks extremely cute in his red snowsuit as he has a small hood that is pointed at the top, which greatly reflects the retro style of the 60s since this book was made during the 60s. Ezra Jack Keats makes this story simple yet powerful since the story details the adventures that Peter has on his snow day in such a vivid way, especially the passage where it mentions how Peter tries to make tracks in the snow with his feet, which I thought was very inventive since I have never read a picture book that contains a phrase where children track their feet in the snow to get a feeling of the snow.

“The Snowy Day” is a perfect book for children who also enjoy the beauty of a snowy day and many children will definitely enjoy this book for many years. I would recommend this book to children ages four and up since there is nothing inappropriate in this book.

**Review is also on: Rabbit Ears Book Blog**

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## **Willow says**

I loved this book when I was a wee one. It made me think a snowy day is magical. :D

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## **Manybooks says**

Always having loved winter, freezing temperatures and naturally also looking at and playing in the snow (and indeed, considerably more than ANY other season, but in particular and especially absolutely and vehemently despising most of the summer with its high heat and horrible, sticky and clammy humidexes) I am actually more than somewhat frustrated and disappointed that because I was born in Germany and lived in Germany until I was ten years old (when my family immigrated to Canada), I actually never did have the opportunity to experience Ezra Jack Keats' The Snowy Day as a child (and indeed only first heard about The Snowy Day and read it a couple of years ago for a Goodreads Children's Literature Group read). But even as an older (and indeed often exceedingly intellectual and critical) adult reader, nevertheless, The Snowy Day

(although definitely simple in concept and execution and as such of course primarily geared towards the very young) was (and remains) a totally evocatively magical and sweetly wonderful, and yes also a personally nostalgic reading event to and for me, reminding me with its basic but still profoundly touching marriage of sparsely descriptive text and accompanying glorious images of the magic of winter, of the many joys of playing in the snow, of how much winter as a season has always meant to me (and how much I absolutely love love love pictorial renderings of snow and that the pure whiteness of snow will always totally and absolutely trump spring, summer and even most of autumn, except perhaps the painted red and yellow foliage of October and November forests).

Now quickly this morning rereading The Snowy Day (and bien sûr feasting my eyes on the stark but beautifully evocative and magical mounds of snow and on little Peter in his orange snowsuit enjoying his playtime, his day outside romping around and celebrating winter), well this certainly has made me feel physically considerably cooler, refreshed and less heat-bothered (with our current hot and humid Southern Ontario summer weather) than either my fans or even truth be told my air conditioning unit even remotely can and are able to achieve. And while I do realise that there has supposedly been sometimes a bit of controversy with regard to The Snowy Day, as the main character, Peter, is African American, and author/illustrator Ezra Jack Keats is not, sorry, but there is at least in my humble opinion nothing even remotely problematic or issue heavy here by any stretch of the imagination. For The Snowy Day is simply and wonderfully the delightful story of one small and eponymous young boy having fun in the snow, enjoying his winter playtime outside and that he happens to be African American is just a simple fact of life (and I for one in fact and indeed also massively do applaud Ezra Jack Keats in so far that young Peter's ethnicity is basically and naturally shown and depicted in The Snowy Day, but is NEVER in any way belaboured or made much of, as Peter really is just a little boy having fun, and he could be any little boy, in fact he could be any little child, with his ethnicity and indeed if one were to go even further, also his gender being of no real significance whatsoever). Five stars!!

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### **Hilary says**

This looks as if it's a well known favourite in the US but we had not seen this book and it couldn't be found in the library. We suggested they bought a copy, and obligingly they did. This is a lovely story of a young boy waking up to the excitement of his landscape transformed by snow. The colours and patterns in this book are beautiful, the simple concept of adventuring in the snow and returning to a loving home makes a great read for young children who can share the joy and the magic with Peter. My daughter commented 'poor tree' when Peter smacks the tree with stick, personally if I am reading/talking to small children I am careful about the language I use and this could more positively be described as Peter tapping the snow from the tree, but minor point, very lovely story of a snowy day.

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### **Maggie says**

There's a reason this book is a classic, Keats was able to really listen to the phrase "less is more" when he created this perfect little kids book. The pictures are warm and inviting, they directly interact with the text, making each page a fun adventure playing in the winter. Peter explores many of my favorite aspects of playing with snow, from snow ball fights (though he decides not to take part), to snow angels, to trying to hold on to snow even inside (even though the snow ball melts in his pocket). I think Keats just perfectly captures the wonder kids feel when going out to play in winter- I think a lot of adults could take a note from

this book as well and have a little more fun when winter rolls around.

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### **j says**

I like to imagine this book from the boy's parents' perspective.

"But when he woke up, the snow was still there, and new snow was falling!"

...and dad is outside swearing as he tries to shovel out his snowed-in car so he can go to work. Meanwhile, mom has slipped and fallen on the puddle of water left when the snowball the idiot child tried to carry inside in his pocket melted. She calls and calls for help, but her son doesn't hear her because he is outside making snow angels and pathetic two-segmented snowmen who don't even have noses (NO CARROT! says Nina).

This winter can bite me.

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### **Laima says**

#### **The Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats

The Snowy Day was a 1963 Caldecott Medal winner. Now, 50 years later, this book is still available at your local library. It was written and illustrated for children ages 3 to 8. I guess it just shows that a simple story and colorful pictures can withstand the test of time.

This is a story of what a young child does on a snowy day. It may be a bit nostalgic for some older readers. Perhaps for children growing up in the 60's and 70's it was a fine book to read. We used to have huge snowstorms and many snow days from school when I was young. Building snowmen, making snow angels, sliding down hills, having huge snowball fights and coming home from the park frozen like a popsicle was all fine and dandy but do young children of the 21st century really do that anymore?

These days, with global warming we're lucky even to have some snowfall where I live ... and I live in Canada.

This is certainly not my top choice for a children's story but as long as kids want to read it, I wouldn't discourage parents/teachers from selecting this book.

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### **Jon(athan) Nakapalau says**

The minimalist art really adds to this story of discovery. Will take you back to a time when the world was filled with endless possibilities.

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### **Cyndi says**

Here are the things I discovered about Mr. H, my grandson with this book. He wants to ski...He's four years old and has never seen anyone ski in real life. Also, Mr. H is hoping for "lots and lots" of snow this winter...he doesn't have to shovel. And last, he loves this book and Peter is his new friend.

Now, if you will excuse us, Mr. H has discovered the joy of making footprints in the play dough...while standing on the table. ?

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### **Kathryn says**

Gosh, this cover just takes me back to my childhood! I don't know that the book was ever a "favorite" of mine, but I do remember the little boy in his snowsuit (I was obsessed with that snowsuit!) and his fun in the snow. I've always had a bit of a soft spot for Ezra Jack Keats and have read several of Peter's stories through the years.

I still adore Peter's excitement over the snow, and the simple but loving way his story is told. It really captures the child's joy in the little things; making ones footprints go like this, then like that--finding a stick and knocking snow out of a tree. Love the snowflakes at the end! And I still love that snowsuit.

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