

Snowy Town

By ReadWorks



Jonny took his dog, Scruffy, out for a walk on a cold day in December. He bundled up in his heavy winter coat and put on his thick wool cap and heavy mittens before he said goodbye to his mom. Outside the front door, the whole world was like a winter wonderland: there were icicles hanging from tree branches and snow banks that rose all the way up to Jonny's knees. Scruffy was excited to be outside and scampered around, digging in the snow and jumping into drifts. Jonny was also glad to be out in the cold air. The blizzard that left all this snow had raged for two days, and he hadn't been allowed to go outside, even just to catch some air!

They walked through Jonny's neighborhood, passing people who looked glad to be outside, too. A few blocks down, Jonny saw his friend Marcus building a snowman with his big sister, Marie.

"Hi, Marcus!" Jonny called out. He walked over to the snowman.

"Hey, Jonny. You want to help?" Marcus was patting the bottom part of the snowman with his glove, while Marie was rolling together the second section of the snowman, packing the snow together to make sure it stayed in a round shape.

Jonny walked over and wrapped Scruffy's leash around Marcus' mailbox. Together, Jonny, Marcus, and Marie built an amazing snowman. They fashioned a long pointy nose out of many small twigs pulled together in a tent shape, and eyes out of bruised green apples Marie found in the house. They made the snowman's arms out of two longer sticks, setting them up to make it look like he was waving. Sometimes Jonny would look over and Scruffy would be digging again, but he mostly sat patiently, watching Jonny, Marcus, and Marie work.

When they were all done, Marcus and Marie's mom came outside to see their work. "This is an amazing snowman!" she said. "Does anyone want hot chocolate?"

All three kids and Scruffy ran into the house and warmed up. After about an hour, Jonny decided it was probably time to go home—the sun was beginning to set, and it was starting to get very cold. As he was saying goodbye to Marcus, Marie, and their mom, Scruffy ran out into the yard, ignoring all of their calls to stop and come back.

All of a sudden, Scruffy jumped up and gave the snowman a big bear hug.

"Oh no!" Jonny yelled, and ran out to the snowman, which was now a pile of snow and sticks on the ground. Marie and Marcus ran out behind him. All three looked down at the remains of the snowman and then at Scruffy, who was staring up at them, panting and smiling.

"Oh well," Marcus said. "We can build another one tomorrow."

Jonny apologized for Scruffy and clipped the leash back onto his collar. Marcus was right. Tomorrow was a new day and could mean another snowman. Jonny walked Scruffy home as the sun set. Maybe tomorrow he would build a snow-dog.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is Scruffy?

- A the snowman Jonny, Marcus, and Marie build
- B a snow-dog that Jonny wants to build
- C Jonny's cat
- D Jonny's dog

2. What is the climax of the action in this story?

- A Scruffy jumps up and knocks over the snowman.
- B Jonny sees Marcus and Marie building a snowman.
- C Marie finds two bruised green apples in her house.
- D Jonny takes his dog outside for a walk.

3. Marcus is not upset after Scruffy knocks over the snowman that he, Jonny, and Marie built.

What evidence from the story supports this statement?

- A When Marcus first sees Jonny walk by, he invites Jonny to help him and Marie build a snowman.
- B Marcus, Marie, and Jonny make a long pointy nose for their snowman by putting small twigs together in a tent shape.
- C When Marcus sees the remains of the snowman, he says, "Oh well. We can build another one tomorrow."
- D As the sun sets, Jonny walks Scruffy home and thinks about building a snow-dog on the following day.

4. Based on the events of the story, what can be concluded about Scruffy?

- A Scruffy is probably a black dog.
- B Scruffy is probably a brown dog.
- C Scruffy is probably a small dog.
- D Scruffy is probably a big dog.

5. What is a theme of this passage?

- A making friends after moving to a new place
- B having fun outdoors on a cold day
- C saying sorry after making a big mistake
- D saving money for going on vacation in the winter

6. Read the following sentence from the passage: "Outside the front door, the whole world was like **a winter wonderland**: there were icicles hanging from tree branches and snow banks that rose all the way up to Jonny's knees."

What does the phrase "**a winter wonderland**" mean?

- A a place where temperatures were once very cold during the winter but are now slowly rising
- B a place where imaginary creatures like unicorns, witches, and elves live and get into fights with each other
- C a place that has been changed so much by snow and ice that it looks strange and magical
- D a place where snowmen come to life and take part in winter activities with children, such as sledding and snowball fights

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Marcus, Marie, and Jonny build a snowman; _____, Scruffy knocks it over.

- A initially
- B later on
- C for example
- D in summary

8. What does Jonny yell after Scruffy jumps on the snowman?

9. At the end of the story, what does Jonny think about doing tomorrow?

10. Does this story have a happy ending? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the story.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 890

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8. What does Jonny yell after Scruffy jumps on the snowman?

Suggested answer: Jonny yells, "Oh no!"

9. At the end of the story, what does Jonny think about doing tomorrow?

Suggested answer: Students may give either or both of the following responses:

- Jonny thinks about building another snowman.
- Jonny thinks about building a snow-dog.

10. Does this story have a happy ending? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the story.

Suggested answer: Responses may vary, as long as they are supported by the story. Students may respond that the story does not have a happy ending because Scruffy knocks over the snowman that Marie, Marcus, and Jonny spent much of the day building. Alternatively, students may respond that the story does have a happy ending, because Jonny is looking forward to building a snow-dog or another snowman on the following day. Still other students may respond that the ending is neither happy nor unhappy, but a combination of both.