Story: Waist Deep

Ava and Zak were the only kids at their new school who had never seen snow.

They didn't care. "It sounds cold," said Ava. "And wet!" said Zak. "And dark," said Ava. They both liked sunny days best. No snow was just fine with them.

One Friday night, their parents were listening to the radio. "It's going to get cold tonight," their father said. "Tomorrow, it might snow. Are you two excited?"

But Ava and Zak just looked at each other. "NO!" they said together.

When they woke up in the morning, Ava listened very carefully "Ha!" she said. "It's completely quiet. It can't be snowing outside."

But when she got up to look out the window, she stopped. The sky was filled with huge white snowflakes silently drifting down to the ground.

Ava and Zak stood at the doorway looking outside. The snow was starting to cover the grass. "Better bundle up!" said their father. "It's going to be cold out there."

Ava and Zak bundled up. They put on their jackets and scarves and hats. They put on their thick socks and snow pants and boots. They put on their bright red mittens. "This is ridiculous," Ava said.

"What are we even going to do out there?" whispered Zak. "We can't draw on the driveway with chalk. We can't work on our fort. We can't even play in the leaf pile."

Ava and Zak stepped out into the silent falling snow.

"Ah!" said Ava. "It's cold!"

"Ah!" said Zak. "It's wet!"

They looked around at the light grey sky and the white flakes falling and the white drifts slowly covering their yard. "But I guess it isn't dark at all," said Ava.

Ava and Zak took a few steps through the snow and heard it crunch under their boots.

"What now?" asked Zak. Ava had an idea. They walked in a circle to make a ring in the snow, and then walked out from the ring to turn it into a sun. But the snow kept falling and soon it covered their tracks. It was all the way up to their ankles.

"What now?" asked Zak. He reached down and took a clump of snow in his hand. A snowball. He dropped it to the ground and nudged it with his foot. His snowball got a little bit bigger.

Ava made a snowball, too. She lifted Zak's up and stacked it on top of hers. "Look!" she said. "A snowman!"

They gave him arms with two twigs, and drew him a smiling face. Then they built him a whole family.

Soon there was even more snow. It was all the way up to their knees.

"What now?" asked Zak. He sat down in the snow and leaned back, looking up at the sky. He stretched his arms and legs out wide. He was lying in the cold wet snow, but he was warm and dry.

Ava pulled him back up. "Look!" she said. "A snow angel!" They flopped into the snow and made him a whole family.

Soon there was even more snow. It was all the way up to their waists. "What now?" asked Zak.

"Kids," called their father, "come inside! You're going to get cold and wet out there and it's almost lunch time."

"We'll have to find out later," said Ava. "Snow might be cold and wet, but it's also a ton of fun."

Glossary *(Definitions of Story Words)*

Bundle up: To layer clothing to keep warm.

Snow pants: Warm, waterproof pants you put on top of your regular clothes to protect you from getting cold and wet in the snow.

Snowflake: An ice crystal that is formed when rain freezes in the cold.

Ridiculous: Something that is silly or absurd.

Drift: A big pile of snow that builds when the wind blows.

Nudge: To gently push against something.

Flop: To fall down in a loose, heavy way.

Elements of a Story

Elements of a Story: The pieces of a story that come together to make it complete. Story elements include character, setting and plot.

Character: The people or animals in the story.

Conflict: The problem in the story that needs to be addressed or fixed.

Plot: What happens in the story.

Setting: Where and when the story takes place.

Theme: A story's main idea.