

# SNOWY SNIPPETS

## Easy ways to bring the arts into your Winter Classroom

### DANCE



#### Snowy Summaries and Storytelling

The chilly temperatures of winter always call out for a good story by the fire (real or digital). In this activity, share a story with your students. This can be done through a read-aloud or a passage that students read in groups. Some examples are *Snowmen at Night* by Caralyn Buehner or an informational text relevant to a current content topic. Next students identify and record 3 key details from the story or passage (for younger students, this may be the beginning, middle, and end). Individually or in groups, students create a movement for each key detail and sequence them into a movement sequence. Finally, they share their creations. This activity not only helps students summarize texts but also brings storytelling to life through movement and creativity.

### THEATER



#### This is Not a Snowflake

Looking for a fun theatre activity to spark students' creativity, encourage descriptive language, and develop inference skills? Try out "Not a Box"! Here are the steps:

Start by finding a winter object, like a snowflake, or any other object to use. A student takes the object and says, "This is not a snowflake (or the object you're using); this is a..."

The student then uses pantomime and descriptive language to show what the object has become.

Each student takes a turn, transforming the object into something new.

You can add a theme for the transformations, like types of weather or animals that hibernate or migrate. You can also have other students guess what the object has become for an extra challenge.

Give it a try—there's no limit to what your students will imagine!

### MUSIC



#### Snowball Fight with "Seven Jumps"

"Seven Jumps," performed by the Shenanigans is a lively Danish dance frequently used to experience long and short sounds and to perform locomotor and non-locomotor movements. You can transform the piece into a fun snowball fight with a few alterations, imagination, and props!

To begin, guide students to tap their legs to the beat during the first section, the refrain. For the verse sections, demonstrate the motions "pat-pat clap" to the rhythm "ta-di ta rest, rest;" you can also use the phrase "make a ball." Perform this snowball-making rhythm twice during the song's chorus before hearing a long high-pitched note. The long high-pitched tone directs you to hold your snowball for as long as it sounds, sing or think "hold," and then toss the snowball on the short lower pitch that follows.

Once students have mastered moving to the seated and using invisible snowballs, level up by using props and standing up. Wave scarves or use recycled paper while skipping during the refrain. During the verses, students stop where they are to play the rhythm "Make a ball," to hold, and toss their scarf snowballs. The sequence will happen seven times, adding another hold and toss each time, so tossing and catching the snowballs will create a flurry of organized chaos.



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