



albatros

WHITE WINTER



Illustrations © Jan Kudláček

GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

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Curriculum: Earth and Environmental Science; Weather and Climate; Poetry

● AGES 3-6

● GRADES PREK-1

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● GR LEVEL: M

● AR LEVEL: 2.4

BEFORE READING

Essential Questions

1. What is the difference between dreams and reality?
2. What makes winter special or magical?
3. How does the world change when the snow comes?
4. How can pictures and poetry help tell a story?



Discussion Questions

What do you think this book will be about based on the front and back cover?

What are your thoughts on winter? What do you like and dislike about this season?

What is your favorite season and why?

Do you have any memories that took place in the winter that come to mind?

Take a picture walk through the text. What do you notice?

Have you read any other books that take place in the winter? What was it about?

The author of this text uses poetry. In poetry, readers should pay special attention to the way the writing sounds, the rhythm, and the images in the writing. What do you know about poetry?

DURING READING

Discussion Questions

How does the author show that the setting of this story takes place in the winter?

Who is the main character in the story?

What do you think James saw in his dream?

Have you ever had a dream that felt real?

How do you think James felt when he woke up and saw the snow?

What did the white horse carry across the sky?

What would you imagine riding a snowflake across the sky would feel like?

What are some animals you see in the text throughout the story? How many are there?

How does the world in this text change as it snows?

Is the chimney really wearing a blanket? Why do you think the author uses these words to describe what the chimney looks like?

Keep track of all the things that winter does in the text.

Do you think this story is real or make-believe? What clues tell you?

Why do you think the author says that James knows why Elsie gets taken for a ride at the end of the story?



AFTER READING

After rereading the text, see if you can find anything you didn't notice the first time around.

Close your eyes as you listen to the text being read aloud. What do you see in your mind?

Discussion Questions

What animal would you want to take you on a magical winter journey?

What things look or sound different when everything is covered in snow?

What picture in the book did you like best? Why?

What was your favorite part of the story?

How did the illustrations help you understand the story?

What message or feeling do you think the author wanted you to think about winter?

What are some ways the animals show that they are good friends?

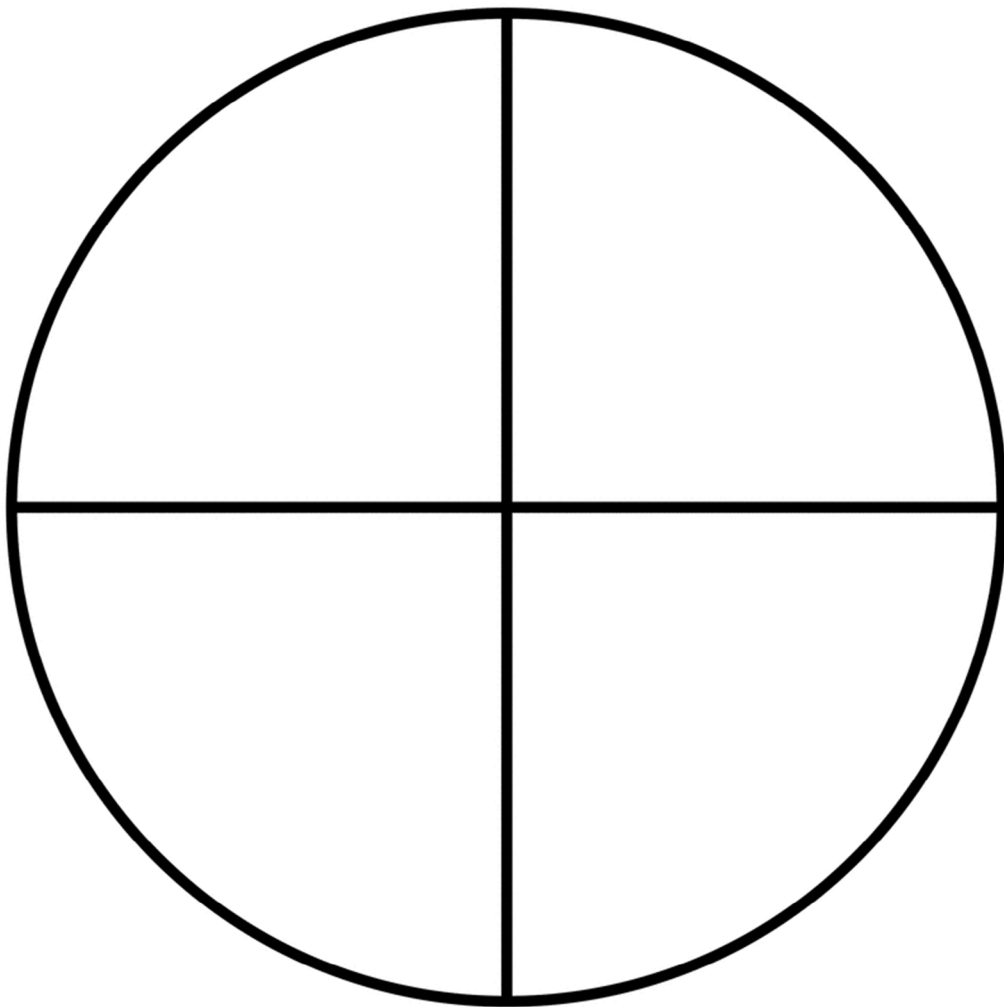
Are you a good friend? How do you know?

AFTER READING

Seasons and Colors

What other colors and images can be used to describe each of the seasons?

Label the graphic organizer below with the four seasons, then draw pictures of things that remind you of each season in the year.



AFTER READING

Word Study

The author uses many different words to describe the wintry scene. Make a list of these words below. Some examples have been written for you. Add some of your own words to the list after you've looked through the text.

Winter Words
freezing white



Text-to-Self Connections

How does the story of James relate to something in your own life? Write or draw a story about your own experience in the winter.

Art Extensions

Draw yourself and a new winter friend. It could be a real friend, a snow creature, or someone magical. Show what you would do together—sledding, skating, talking, or exploring. What is your magical friend's name?

Every snowflake is unique! Cut out and decorate a snowflake in your own way. What are some ways your snowflake is different from your classmates? Are there any ways they are similar?

AFTER READING

Sequencing

Fill out the graphic organizer below to retell what happened in the story in order using words or pictures. You can use words like first, next, and finally to sequence the events from beginning to end.

