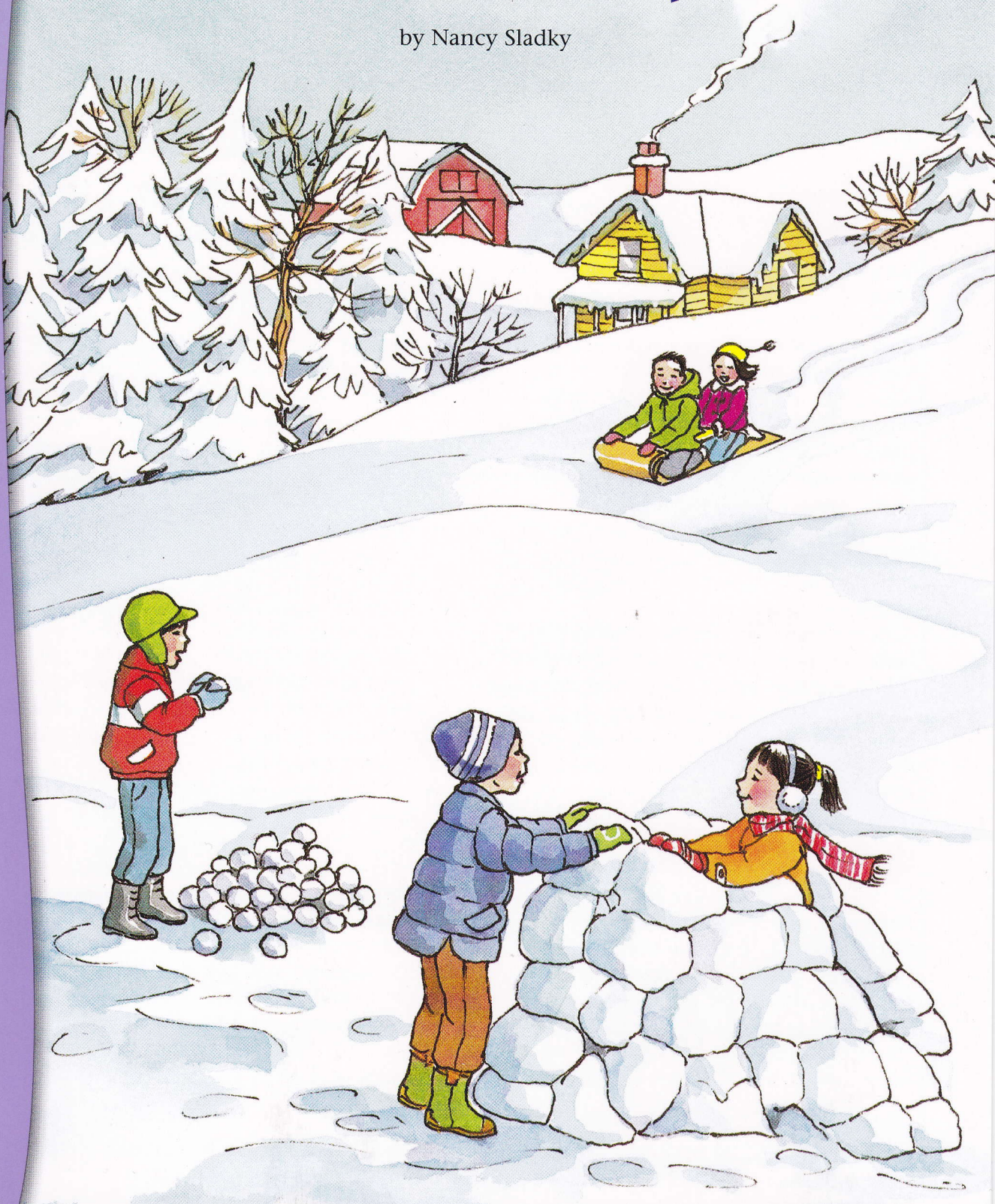


The Storm's Surprise

by Nancy Sladky



- 1 The wind blew fiercely, and the snow was so deep it almost reached the windows. Min Lee was glad to be sitting safely between her mom and dad in their living room.
- 2 "The weather report said the snowstorm shouldn't last much longer," Mrs. Lee said.
- 3 "I've never seen this much snow on the ground," remarked Min. "I'll be glad when . . ." The lights began to blink and then went off.
- 4 "I'll get a flashlight," said Mr. Lee.
- 5 "Do you think the electricity will be back on soon?" asked Min, moving a bit closer to her mom.
- 6 "It will depend on the storm, honey," said Min's dad as he returned to the dark living room with the flashlight in his hand. "It's getting late. Let's go to bed."
- 7 Min looked concerned. "Mom, do you think I'll be able to have my birthday party tomorrow?" Min's aunt, uncle, and cousins were all coming.
- 8 "I'm not sure," Mrs. Lee said. "We'll know more tomorrow. However I'm sure everyone will understand if we have to postpone the party."
- 9 In the morning, Min looked out her bedroom window. She knew right away that her party would have to be canceled. The snow was three feet deep—and still falling. In fact, it looked as if Min and her parents might be snowbound and have to stay inside for a few days. They lived in the country, and it would be hard for anyone to reach their house in such bad weather.
- 10 "I'm sorry, Min," said Mrs. Lee. "I'll call Aunt Lily and reschedule the party for next weekend. How will that be?"
- 11 "Okay, I guess," Min answered gloomily. She sat by the window and stared out at the huge snowdrifts. After a while, she went out back to help her dad shovel the long driveway. Min stood outside shivering and thought, "This is when my party was supposed to start. Instead, here I am shoveling snow. What a birthday present!"
- 12 Suddenly, Min heard a horn beeping loudly. *Who could that be?* she wondered. *No one could possibly reach our house in all this snow.* She ran to the front yard. There she saw her aunt Lily, her uncle Fred, and her four cousins.
- 13 "Surprise! Happy birthday!" they shouted.
- 14 Min was more than surprised. She was stunned. "How did you all get here?" she asked.
- 15 Aunt Lily explained, "Your uncle drove here in our new pickup truck. See, he even put a plow on the front end."
- 16 "We cleared the road so you can get into town," added Uncle Fred. "We were all worried that you might be stranded."
- 17 "Let's get our toboggans. This snow is great!" Min's youngest cousin, Thomas, shouted.
- 18 Min joined her cousins for an afternoon in the snow. They raced down hills in their toboggans and made some great snow forts. Playing in the snow was wonderful, but also exhausting. Tired and cold, they all returned to the warm house.
- 19 Mr. Lee set the birthday cake on the table. Min blew out the candles and then opened her presents.
- 20 Then Uncle Fred stood up. "Well, it's time we get home. We don't want to be on the road when it's dark."
- 21 "Thanks for coming," Min said gratefully. "You really surprised me!"
- 22 After everyone left, Min sat down with her parents. "Thanks, Mom and Dad. I had a great birthday. I can't believe it began so badly and ended so well."
- 23 "It turned out great for all of us," Mrs. Lee said. "You had a fantastic surprise party, and we got our road cleared!"

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 This story is about a girl who
 - a** was unhappy about having her birthday party canceled.
 - b** spent her whole birthday shoveling snow.
 - c** had a fantastic surprise birthday party.
- 2 The party was a surprise to Min because
 - a** her mom had told her the party would be rescheduled.
 - b** Min's family all brought her birthday presents.
 - c** Min's dad would not allow her to have a party.

- 3 It turned out to be a great party because
 - a** Min got to ride in the pickup truck.
 - b** Min and her cousins played in the snow.
 - c** the snow stopped, and it warmed up.
- 4 Because of the snowstorm,
 - a** Min's party was rescheduled.
 - b** The Lees were stranded for days.
 - c** Neither **a** nor **b**
- 5 This story shows that
 - a** snowstorms happen only in the country.
 - b** a bad situation can turn into a good one.
 - c** Both **a** and **b**

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 strongly; savagely (1)
- 2 put off; set for a later time (8)
- 3 called off (9)
- 4 sadly; unhappily (11)
- 5 a heavy tool used to clear a path or road (15)
- 6 left in a helpless position (16)
- 7 tiring (18)

C A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used.

The *fly* buzzed around the room.
The bird will *fly* to its nest.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

- 8 **blink** (3)
 - a** close and open the eyes
 - b** flash off and on
- 9 **still** (9)
 - a** without noise; quiet
 - b** at this time
- 10 **cleared** (23)
 - a** unblocked; cleaned off
 - b** became sunny; brightened

THINK ABOUT IT

D Read the sentences. Each one tells about an event in the story. Put the five events in the correct order by writing *a, b, c, d, or e*.

- 1 The electricity went off.
- 2 Min and her cousins played in the snow.
- 3 Min and her father shoveled the driveway.
- 4 Min and her parents watched the snowstorm.
- 5 Min's relatives arrived to surprise her.

E sadly = sad + **ly**
sadness = sad + **ness**

The letters *-ly* and *-ness* are called suffixes. A suffix is added to the end of a word. It changes the word's meaning. Adding the suffix *-ly* to a word makes the new word tell *how*. Adding the suffix *-ness* to a word makes the new word tell *what*.

Read each sentence. Which word in parentheses () makes sense? Write the word.

- 6 The wind blew (fiercely, fierceness).
- 7 Without electricity, the (darkly, darkness) of the house was scary.
- 8 Min looked (sadly, sadness) out the window at all the snow.
- 9 Min's (happily, happiness) showed as she talked about the birthday surprise.
- 10 A bad situation had (suddenly, suddenness) turned into a good one.

F Suppose you are going to write a report called "Why It Snows." Read each item. If it fits in your main topic, write *Yes*. If it does not, write *No*.

- 11 How to shovel snow
- 12 How rain can turn to snow
- 13 Why days are shorter in winter
- 14 How snow forms
- 15 How to make a snowman