Snow Joke

Sue Mongredien
Mark Beech
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Illustrations
Mark Beech
The title of the story about Prince Jake is *Snow Joke*. Can you **read** the title out loud?

The word *Snow* begins with a *Sssss* sound, and here are some more words which appear in the story with *Sssss* at the beginning. **Say** them too.

snowball  ski  sledge  Slavedriver Slater  
sport  spit  scream  splat

Can you **think** of any more you know?

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**Look** at the picture on the front cover of the book. **Circle** the answer you think is correct.

The story happens in... winter.  spring.  summer.

Jake is wearing gloves and a scarf because... it’s hot.  it’s fashionable.  it’s cold.

Behind Jake there is... a monster.  a snowman.  the king.

Jake is... playing a practical joke on the king.  asking for help from the king.  fighting with the king.
3 Look at the back cover of the book. Decide if these sentences are True (T) or False (F).

Jake has a problem.  
Jake has a sister.  
Jake and his sister are friends.  
Jake wants to help his sister.

4 Look at these words from the story. Do you know them? Put the words into the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>snowball</th>
<th>snowplough</th>
<th>puffa jacket</th>
<th>frozen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>butler</td>
<td>training</td>
<td>carrot</td>
<td>mobile phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>headline</td>
<td>funny</td>
<td>naughty</td>
<td>blocked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words I know</th>
<th>Words I'm not sure of</th>
<th>Words I don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Now look in a dictionary to find the words you didn’t know.
Jake is the “Prince of Play” and he loves to play practical jokes on everyone. **Underline** the correct expressions using ‘play’.

- play skiing
- play football
- play ping pong
- play the piano
- play guitar
- play the TV

In the picture on the front cover we can see Jake and a snowman. What other things do you think Jake will make with snow? **Tick** the best options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An igloo</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A snow castle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A snowball</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A snow monster</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>An ice cream</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Jake is wearing gloves and a scarf. **Draw** a picture of yourself, dressed to play in the snow.
Chapter 1

1 Put the pictures in order as they appear in the story and write a sentence to describe each picture.

2 Fill in the spaces with the missing prepositions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>across</th>
<th>at</th>
<th>in</th>
<th>into</th>
<th>up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The royal gardens were covered _____ snow and the princes were throwing snowballs _____ each other. Princess Petunia walked _____ of the castle and ____. the drawbridge. Her brothers’ snowballs hit her and she fell _____ the drawbridge and ____ the frozen ice. The princess tried to stand ____ but the ice cracked and she fell ____ the moat.
3 Unscramble the sentences to see the examples of the princes’ bad behaviour.

horses’ / into / They / the / stable. / sledged

snow. / bag / filled / Prime / with / the / Minister’s / They

They / music / the / the / Concert. / at / Christmas / changed

into / made / fall / Petunia / the / moat. / frozen /They

4 Think of a winter sport and describe it. What equipment do you need? Where can you do it? Have you tried it? Is it difficult? Are you good at it?

5 Listen to Chapter 1 on the CD while you read your book. Can you repeat these orders?

Take aim!...Fire!
Hee-e-e-elp!
No killing at lunchtime, please.
No more skating on the moat!
And no more annoying me!
Chapter 2

1 Boris the butler speaks in a very formal way - not like Jake! **Underline** the formal language and **circle** the informal expressions.

“Your Majesties, I have just been informed that Miss Prudence has the flu and will not be able to come to the castle to teach tomorrow.”

“...Yes! The Prune was ill. No school tomorrow! More school holidays! Yes!”

“I have therefore taken the liberty of contacting St. Augustine’s to ask if we could borrow a teacher.”

“...St. Augustine’s? Oh no!”

“His name is Slater,” Boris replied. “He was here last summer when Miss Prudence was on holiday.”

“Oh no! Slavedriver Slater, back at the castle! This was a complete disaster.”

2 **Complete** the ideas Jake and Ned have for getting out of classes with Slavedriver Slater.

Maybe Jake could pretend to ____________ like the Prune.

Maybe he could take a big bag of food and ________________ ________________ until Slavedriver Slater had gone.

Or maybe he could ____________________________

so she could come back to work as soon as possible.

Or maybe they could _________________ or poison him.

Or they could send _________________ to St. Augustine’s to keep Mr Slater prisoner there!
3 Separate all the irregular verbs and write their past forms.
freezespithitsetgetkeepmakedogoseetakehavetellgiveputrun

4 Listen to Chapter 2 on the CD while you read your book. Can you repeat these suggestions? Do you remember who made them?

Let’s make a snowman while we try to think of a plan, said ________.

Why don’t you make a snow-chef?, said ________.

We could send the Moranian army to St. Augustine’s, said ________.

Maybe he can set a good example, said ____________.
Chapter 3

1 Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences.

If the snow-plough could clear the snow off the roads, .... ... then Slavedriver Slater wouldn’t be able to drive to the castle.

If the roads were covered with lots and lots of snow, ... ... then the King couldn’t set a good example to the country.

If Mr Slater wasn’t able to drive to the castle, ... ... then there would be no lessons.

If the photos were on all the front pages, ... ... then the King would guess the photos in the newspapers were his.

If Jake always played practical jokes, ... ... then the snow-plough could push the snow back onto the roads.

3 Listen to Chapter 3 on the CD while you read your book. Can you repeat these sentences the way they are said in the story?

This is the funniest Snow-King ever! (said Ned laughing)

But it’s on all the front pages! How can I set a good example to the country after this? (shouted the King)

Aha! Is all this because of you? (the King asked, his face the colour of a tomato)

Jake! They’ve all got these pictures on the front page. Why did you do it?
2 Read these definitions and complete the crossword.

Across
5. a machine that produces movement
7. the place you eat the first meal you have in the morning
8. a building for keeping vehicles in
9. move in the direction in front of you

Down
1. a round flat piece of metal worn around your neck on a chain
2. a small telephone you can carry
3. a set of large printed pages containing news stories and published every day
4. the first page of a newspaper
6. the entrance to the royal castle and gardens
7. move in the direction behind you
Chapter 4 and 5

1. **Unjumble** the letters to complete the sentences.

   Petunia picked up a newspaper and read the NILEDAHE.
   
   Jake had to think of a plan to get his EEGRVN on Petunia for taking the photos.
   
   Mr Slater cannot get to the castle because of all the snow KINGCLOB the road.

2. **Listen** to Chapter 4 on the CD while you read your book. Can you **repeat** these sounds correctly?

   Do you **remember** what was happening when these sounds were made?
   
   “Splat!” This was the sound of __________________________
   
   “Aaaargh!” This was the sound of __________________________
   
   “Chugga-chugga-chugga-chugga” This was the sound of __________
   
   “SPLASH!” This was the sound of __________________________

3. King Nicholas promises to send Jake to a cricket summer camp. **Decide** if these sentences about the sport are True (T) or False (F).

   It’s a game played by two teams of 11 players.  
   
   Someone who plays this sport is called a cricketer.
   
   Players get points by hitting a ball with a bat and running between two sets of sticks.
How did these people feel at the end of the story? **Match** the feelings to the people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>worried</th>
<th>sorry</th>
<th>happy</th>
<th>amazed</th>
<th>proud</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Princess Petunia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen Caroline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince Ned</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Nicholas</td>
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<td>Prince Jake</td>
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**Listen** to Chapter 5 on the CD while you read your book. **Repeat** these sentences and show how pleased you are that everything ended well.

Do you **remember** who said them?

*He’s a hero!* ________________

*Saved by a snowball!* ________________

*Prince Jake saves the day!* ________________

*Your aim with snowballs is so good, I bet you’ll be a brilliant bowler.* ________________
1. **Match** these words from the story with their definitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you set a good example,</th>
<th>...you make them conscious of a possible problem or danger.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you blink,</td>
<td>...you use a tool to move something such as snow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If you warn somebody,</td>
<td>...you behave in a way that is a model for other people to copy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you get out of something,</td>
<td>...you avoid doing something that you should do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you get your revenge on someone,</td>
<td>...you quickly open and close your eyes again and again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you shovel,</td>
<td>...you hurt someone because they have hurt you.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. **Look** at the back cover of the book. **Tell** your friend the story by answering these questions:

“A little practical snow joke gets Jake in big trouble.”

What was the little joke?

What happened to Jake as a result of playing the practical joke?

“And it’s all because of his sister.”

What did Princess Petunia do?

Was it all her fault?
Look at the picture of Petunia taking a picture of Jake pulling a silly face. Find a silly picture on Internet (e.g. people “planking” or holding up the Tower of Pisa) and describe it.

Think about the practical joke that ended with Princess Petunia falling into the frozen moat or the practical joke that ended with the snowplough falling into the frozen lake.

Give your opinion: are these kind of practical jokes funny or not?
Remember all the practical jokes Jake and Ned played in the story, and the headlines and photos of the Snow-King and snow princess in all the newspapers?

Choose one of their practical jokes, write the newspaper headline, and draw a photo.

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