

# How to Host a Magical Winter-Themed Reading Celebration

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## Step 1: Choose Your Winter-Themed Books

### 1. **The Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats

A little boy named Peter explores the snowy world outside his window, discovering simple joys like making footprints and snow angels. *Why it works:* Encourages kids to appreciate snow and outdoor play.

### 2. **Over and Under the Snow** by Kate Messner

A young girl and her father ski through the woods, discovering the hidden world of animals beneath the snow. *Why it works:* Blends storytelling with fascinating winter wildlife facts.

### 3. **The Mitten** by Jan Brett

A lost mitten becomes a cozy hiding spot for woodland animals in this classic folktale. *Why it works:* Sparks imagination and teaches about winter animals.

### 4. **A Loud Winter's Nap** by Katy Hudson

Tortoise just wants to hibernate, but his noisy friends have other plans! *Why it works:* Shows kids the value of trying new things while celebrating winter fun.

### 5. **Winter Wonderland** by Jill Esbaum (National Geographic Kids)

A nonfiction book with stunning photos and facts about winter landscapes, weather, and animals. *Why it works:* Introduces kids to the science and beauty of winter in a fun way.

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## Step 2: Set the Scene with Winter Décor

- **Snowy Ambiance:** Hang snowflake cutouts, white balloons, and fairy lights. Use cotton batting to mimic snow.
  - **Cozy Reading Nook:** Arrange soft rugs, blankets, pillows, and stuffed animals.
  - **Book Display:** Showcase the featured books on a winter-themed table or shelf.
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## Step 3: Plan Fun Story-Inspired Activities

- **"The Snowy Day" – DIY Snow Play**  
Make "snow" using **baking soda and water** or use cotton balls. Let kids build mini snowmen or create snowy landscapes.
- **"Over and Under the Snow" – Winter Animal Scavenger Hunt**  
Hide animal pictures or toys around the room (foxes, owls, bears). Give kids a checklist to find them and share fun facts. **"The Mitten" – Mitten Matching Game**  
Cut out mitten shapes in different colors and patterns. Kids race to find matching pairs!
- **"A Loud Winter's Nap" – Tortoise Hat Craft**  
Create a tortoise from pom-poms or construction paper. For extra fun, make a sled-bed using **popsicle sticks!**

- **"Winter Wonderland" – DIY Snowstorm in a Jar**  
Fill a jar with **water, glitter, and white paint**. Add baby oil to create a swirling snow effect when shaken.
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#### **Step 4: Serve Winter-Themed Snacks**

- **Hot Cocoa Bar:** Offer marshmallows, whipped cream, and candy canes.
  - **Blizzard Bites:** Toss cereals with melted white chocolate and sprinkle with edible glitter.
  - **Mitten Cookies:** Bake mitten-shaped sugar cookies and decorate them.
  - **Frozen Fruit Kabobs:** Freeze fruit skewers for an “icy” treat.
  - **Animal-Themed Snacks:** Use cookie cutters to make sandwiches or cheese slices shaped like woodland animals.
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#### **Step 5: Host a Cozy Storytime**

- **Interactive Reading:** Encourage kids to act out parts of the story or make sound effects.
  - **Create a Calm Atmosphere:** Dim the lights, play soft instrumental music, and provide cozy blankets.
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#### **Step 6: Send Kids Home with Goodie Bags**

Include:

- Mini books or winter-themed bookmarks
- Stickers or crayons
- Activity sheets (coloring pages, word searches)
- A handwritten note encouraging more reading at home