



Reading Guide for *Just SNOW Already!*

Written and illustrated by Howard McWilliam

While reading *Just SNOW Already!*, study the pictures to see many things that are not written in the story. Grown-ups, you can use this reading guide to help kids get a deeper understanding of this book.

Discussion Questions: Note: There are no right or wrong answers in this section; just your opinions.

1. Why didn't the boy notice the exciting things happening on his street?
2. Have you ever played in snow? What are your favorite things to do when it snows?
3. How would you describe the main character? Does he remind you of someone that you know?
4. Could the boy have done something different while waiting for snow?
5. Have you ever waited for something you really wanted? How did you keep yourself from getting impatient?
6. Did you like this book? Why/why not?
7. Do you have a friend who might like this book? Who is it? Why?
8. Did you learn anything new from reading this book?



Subplot Questions: While the main plot in this book is about a boy waiting for snow, there are a LOT of subplots (stories within a story) that are shown only through the illustrations. These involve people or animals in the neighborhood. Look closely at each character on the street and follow their story throughout the book.

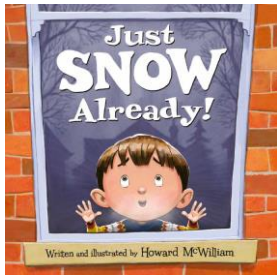
1. How did the sister spend her day?
2. Why did the firefighters come to the neighborhood?
3. Describe the mail carrier's day from the beginning of the book until the end.
4. Why did the dog-walker let go of the dog leashes?
5. Why were there kids dressed in costumes?
6. What was happening with the birds?
7. What happened with the painter?
8. How was the couch finally moved into the house?
9. How did the monkeys escape from the truck?
10. What other subplots can you find in this book?



Challenge Questions:

1. What number house does the boy live in? Do you know your address?
2. In the group of bikers, can you find: a unicycle, a velocipede, a recumbent bicycle, a handcycle, and a quad-tandem bike? Look up these words if you don't know them.
3. How many minutes does the boy 'try to keep busy'?
4. How many monkeys do you think are on the wide snowy page of the book?
5. Can you find the meditating monkey? Look for other monkeys doing funny things.
6. How many clowns were in the clown car? Can you find each of them on the snowy-filled page?





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Answers:

To Subplot Questions

1. The sister spent the day playing in her neighbor's front yard.
2. The firefighters came to rescue the cat from the tree.
3. She was tripped by the boy's dog and dropped mail. An elderly woman walking on the sidewalk helped her pick up the mail she dropped. Then a crow stole a letter and brought it to its nest. The mail carrier climbed the tree to take it back, and then a monkey stole her hat! Finally, while it snowed, she took her hat back from the monkey.
4. Because she was startled by the bird poop that landed on her head.
5. The kids went to a costume-themed birthday party.
6. The orange bird bothered the pigeon on the roof, who squawked at that orange bird in annoyance. The orange bird complained to the red and yellow birds on the streetlight. The red and yellow birds helped the orange bird confront the pigeon, and then they took the pigeon's spot. The pigeon found another spot and acted grumpy.
7. A squirrel jumped on the painter and caused him to spill blue paint on the lower right of the house.
8. A pulley was used to lift the couch to the balcony door on the second floor.
9. Water accidentally spilled out of the firetruck when the dogs ran into a firefighter. The truck carrying the monkeys skidded on the icy puddle. When the truck crashed into the purple car, the monkeys escaped.

To Challenge Questions

1. House number 123
2. A unicycle has one wheel. A penny-farthing velocipede was one of the earliest bicycles invented, and had a huge front wheel and a small back wheel. A recumbent bike lets the rider recline in a laid-back position. A handcycle is a 3-wheeled vehicle powered with the arms rather than the legs. A quad-tandem is a 4-seater bicycle.
3. 20 minutes (look at the clock in his room)
4. If you guessed 100 or more, you were very close! There are 136 monkeys.
5. Top of page 32, on the windowsill
6. 13 clowns

