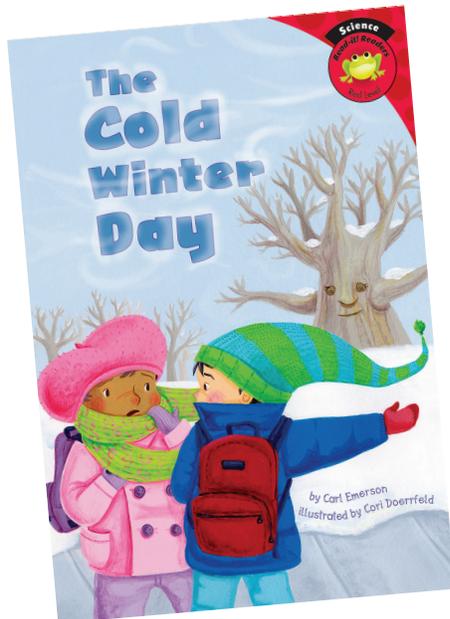


# CREATIVE DRAMATICS

Picture Window™  
Books



## The Cold Winter Day by Carl Emerson

- Characters:** Emma  
Owen  
Old Oak
- Props:** Winter clothes (scarves, hats, gloves, etc.)  
Box to hold winter clothes  
Pictures of snowmen (made by students)
- Genre:** Realistic fiction
- Ages:** 4-6

# The Cold Winter Day page 1

## NOTES TO THE LEADER OF THE CREATIVE DRAMATICS SESSION

Before acting out the story, read *The Cold Winter Day* to the entire class.

The leader/narrator of the creative dramatics session needs to give clear, simple clues to the children who are acting out the story. First, select the children who will be playing the separate parts. Emma and Owen can be played by two individuals or by a group. The same for Old Oak.

The leader might want to ask the children to describe the characters before the session begins. For example, "What are words to describe Emma and Owen?" Answers could include friendly, curious, smart, happy, excited, etc. Also, "What are words to describe Old Oak?"

The children can act out the story from their chairs, sitting on the floor, or by standing in clearly marked places where the action will take place. The front of the room could be the playground; the left side of the room could be where Old Oak stands. It is always a good idea to make sure that all the characters and locations (if you decide to use them) are clearly established before the play session begins.

**Narrator:** Emma and Owen stepped off the school bus.

The wind was cold against their faces.

*(Narrator prompt: "How do you show you're cold? Let's have Emma and Owen show us how they act when they're cold.")*

**Emma and Owen:** *(shiver)* BRRRRR!!!!

**Narrator:** The children looked at Old Oak.

"Old Oak looks cold," said Emma.

**Emma:** Old Oak looks cold.

**Narrator:** *(Narrator prompt: "Who can tell me about winter? What happens in the winter? What are some fun things to do in winter? In North America, the winter season begins in December. It lasts until March. The season of spring, summer, and autumn follow.")*

Emma and Owen looked around the park. There were no people and no animals.

*(Narrator prompt: "Where do you think the animals went? Why aren't they outside like they are when it's warmer? Some animals, like chipmunks, sleep during the winter. Others, like birds, fly south for the winter.")*

"Old Oak looks lonely," Owen said.

**Owen:** Old Oak looks lonely.

## The Cold Winter Day page 2

**Narrator:** Emma and Owen walked home.

They talked about Old Oak.

“Old Oak must be sad,” said Emma.

**Emma:** Old Oak must be sad.

**Narrator:** “She must be cold, too,” Owen said.

**Owen:** She must be cold, too.

**Narrator:** “I have an idea!” Emma said.

**Emma:** I have an idea!

**Narrator:** “We should help Old Oak warm up!” said Emma.

**Emma:** We should help Old Oak warm up!

**Narrator:** Owen thought that was a great idea.

**Owen:** That’s a great idea!

**Narrator:** The next morning, Emma and Owen put on their winter clothes.

*(Narrator prompt: “What kinds of clothes do you wear in the winter to stay warm? Do you know why it’s important to dress warmly in the winter?”)*

They carried a big box to the park.

**Emma and Owen:** *(Students playing Emma and Owen should walk to the area designated as the park, carrying a box.)*

**Narrator:** *(Narrator prompt: “What do you think is in the box? What is Emma’s idea? During winter, the sun is at its lowest point in the sky. The number of day-light hours is less. Temperatures fall in most places, so the air feels cold.”)*

“Hi, Old Oak!” Owen said.

**Owen:** Hi, Old Oak!

**Narrator:** “We have a surprise for you!” said Emma.

**Emma:** We have a surprise for you!

## The Cold Winter Day page 3

**Narrator:** Emma and Owen pulled hats, scarves, and mittens from the box.

They worked quickly to cover Old Oak's branches.

*(Narrator prompt: "Students playing Emma and Owen cover student or students playing Old Oak with winter clothing: scarves, hats, mittens, etc. to warm them up.")*

"There you go," Owen said.

**Owen:** There you go!

**Narrator:** "Now you will be warm," said Emma.

**Emma:** Now you will be warm!

**Narrator:** "The cold does not bother me," Old Oak said.

**Old Oak:** The cold doesn't bother me.

**Narrator:** *(Narrator prompt: "Why do you think Old Oak isn't bothered by the cold weather? During winter, most trees have no leaves. During summer, the trees store food inside their trunks. When winter arrives, the trees use the stored food to stay alive.")*

"I have another idea," Emma said.

**Emma:** I have another idea.

**Narrator:** "We will make you a friend!" said Emma.

**Emma:** We will make you a friend!

**Narrator:** Emma and Owen built a snowman. They used two sticks for the arms.

**Emma and Owen:** *(Narrator prompt: "Pretend to build a snowman. Once you are finished, be sure to hang up the snowman pictures we made.")*

**Narrator:** Old Oak smiled. "It will be nice to have a friend for the winter," she said.

**Old Oak:** It will be nice to have a friend for the winter!

**THE END**