

Project

gins

The Snow Den



Shoo Rayner
Jonatronix

OXFORD

Before reading

Talk about the book

It's a good idea to talk with your child about the book before they read it.

- Look at the front and back covers together – these give clues to what the book is about.
- Talk about winter and snow. Ask your child to tell you what sort of games you can play in the snow.
- Talk about the dangers of playing on ice or snow or near water.
- Ask your child to tell you what they think might happen in this story.

Encourage your child to read the story at their own pace.

Challenge words

These words may be tricky for your child to read using their phonic skills but they are important for the meaning of the book. Encourage your child to read these words by saying and blending the letter sounds as much as they can, then help them with the tricky part, or simply read the word to them.

dangerous ice broken could building holes

During reading

Encourage your child to read at their own pace.

- If your child gets stuck on a word, prompt them to use their phonic skills to sound out the letters or groups of letters and blend them to make the word, e.g. g-l-ow-i-ng becomes 'glowing'. Encourage them to break longer words down into smaller chunks of known letter sounds.
- If your child is still struggling with the word, read the word to them. This is perfectly OK and allows them to move on quickly with the story.
- Discuss any new or unfamiliar words within the context of the story to ensure that your child understands their meaning.

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Origins

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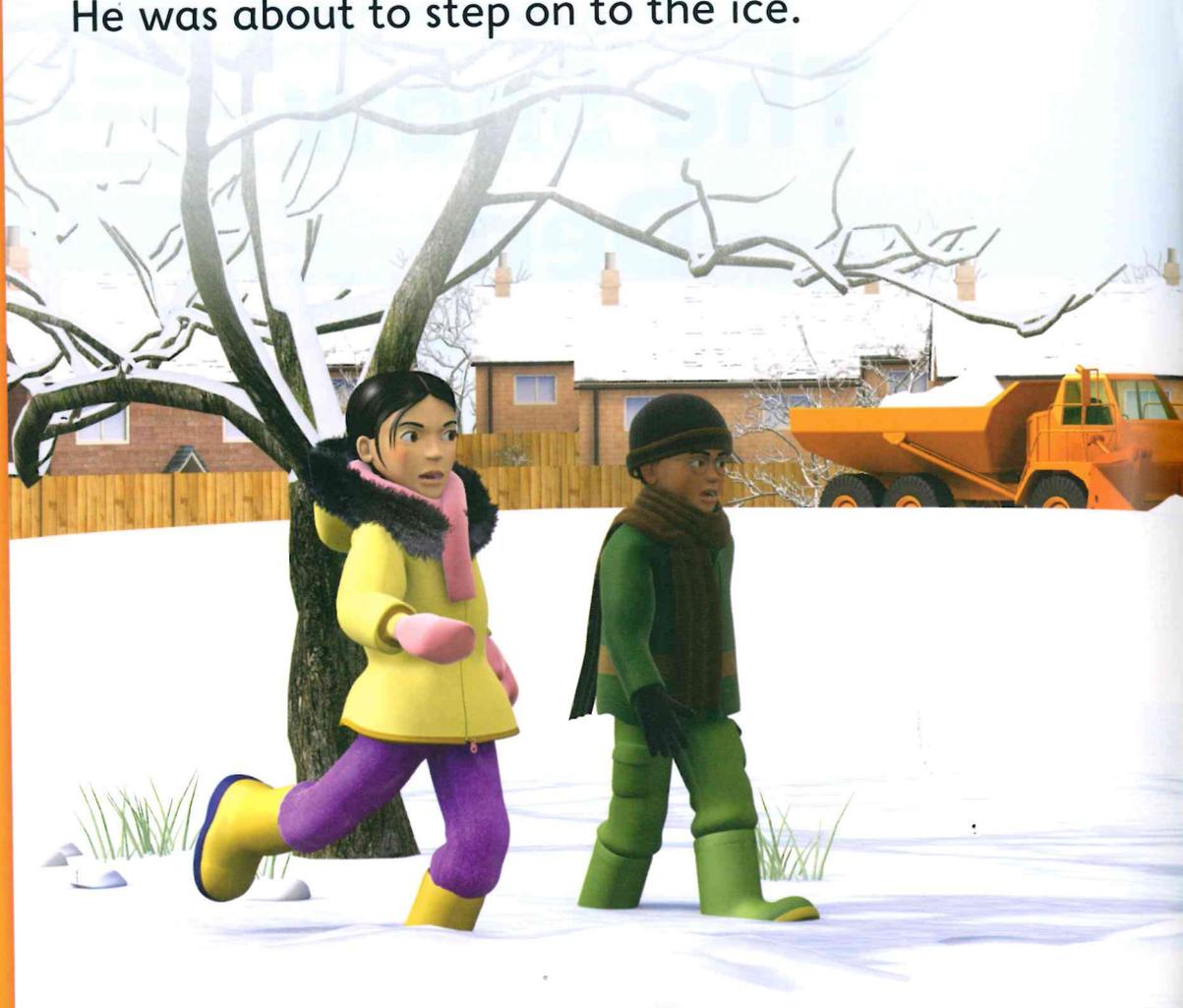


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Max yelled and waved his arms, "Tiger! Stop!"

Tiger stood by the edge of the ice-covered pond. His left foot was frozen in mid air.

He was about to step on to the ice.



Max grabbed Tiger. He pulled him away from the edge of the pond.

“I want to slide on the ice,” said Tiger.

“No!” said Max. “It’s dangerous.”



Ant jabbed the ice with a stick. The ice broke easily.

“You could have fallen in,” Ant said.

“I’m a good swimmer!” Tiger boasted.



“Don’t be silly, Tiger,” Cat said. “You could have got stuck under the ice.”

Tiger picked up some of the broken ice. “It’s just like glass,” he said.





Cat shivered, “Brrrr! It’s freezing out here.
Let’s go to the micro-den.”

The four friends stumbled along in the
deep snow.



Just as they got near to their micro-den ...
WHOOSH!

A snow plough went past. It sprayed snow
all over the tree stump.

“Oh, no! Our den is covered with snow!”
Tiger moaned. “We’ll never get inside now.”

Cat's teeth were chattering.

"I've got an idea," said Ant. "We could make a snow den – just like an igloo! Igloos are really warm inside."



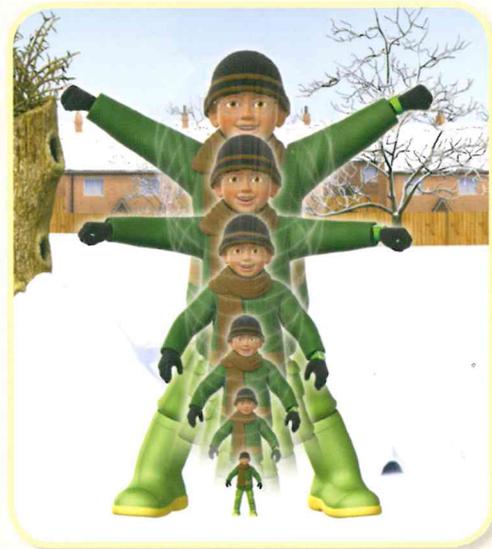
“That will take ages,” wailed Cat.

“Not if it’s a micro-igloo,” said Ant.

The friends began piling up snow. Building the sides of the igloo was easy. Making the roof curve into a dome was harder.



Soon they had made a small but perfect igloo.
“Let’s get inside,” said Cat.
They turned the dials on their watches and ...



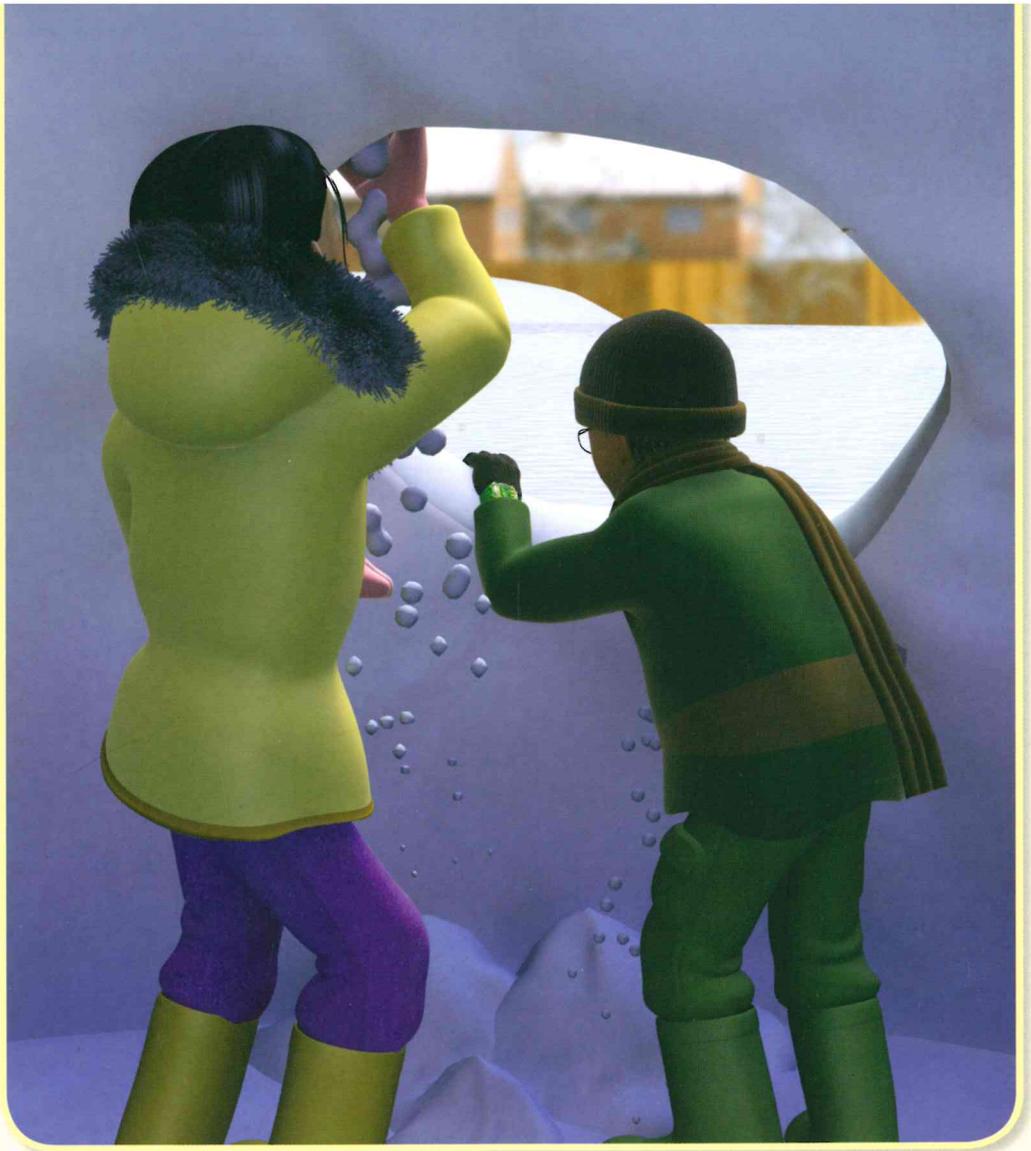


The micro-friends went inside their snow den.
“It’s dark,” said Cat.

“We need some windows,” said Max.

“Let’s use the ice I got out of the pond,”
said Tiger.



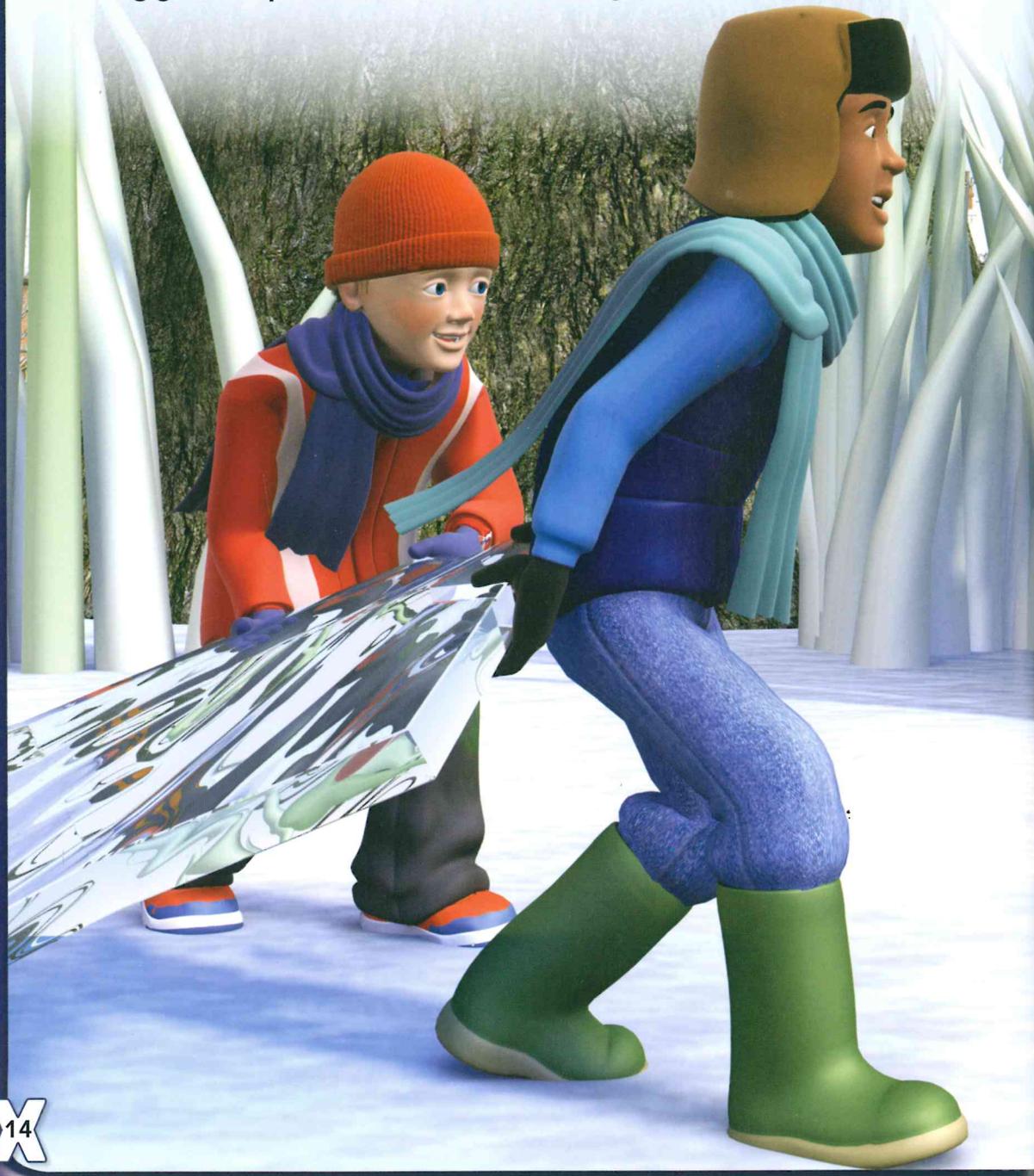


Max and Tiger went to get the ice. Cat and Ant made holes in the side of the igloo.

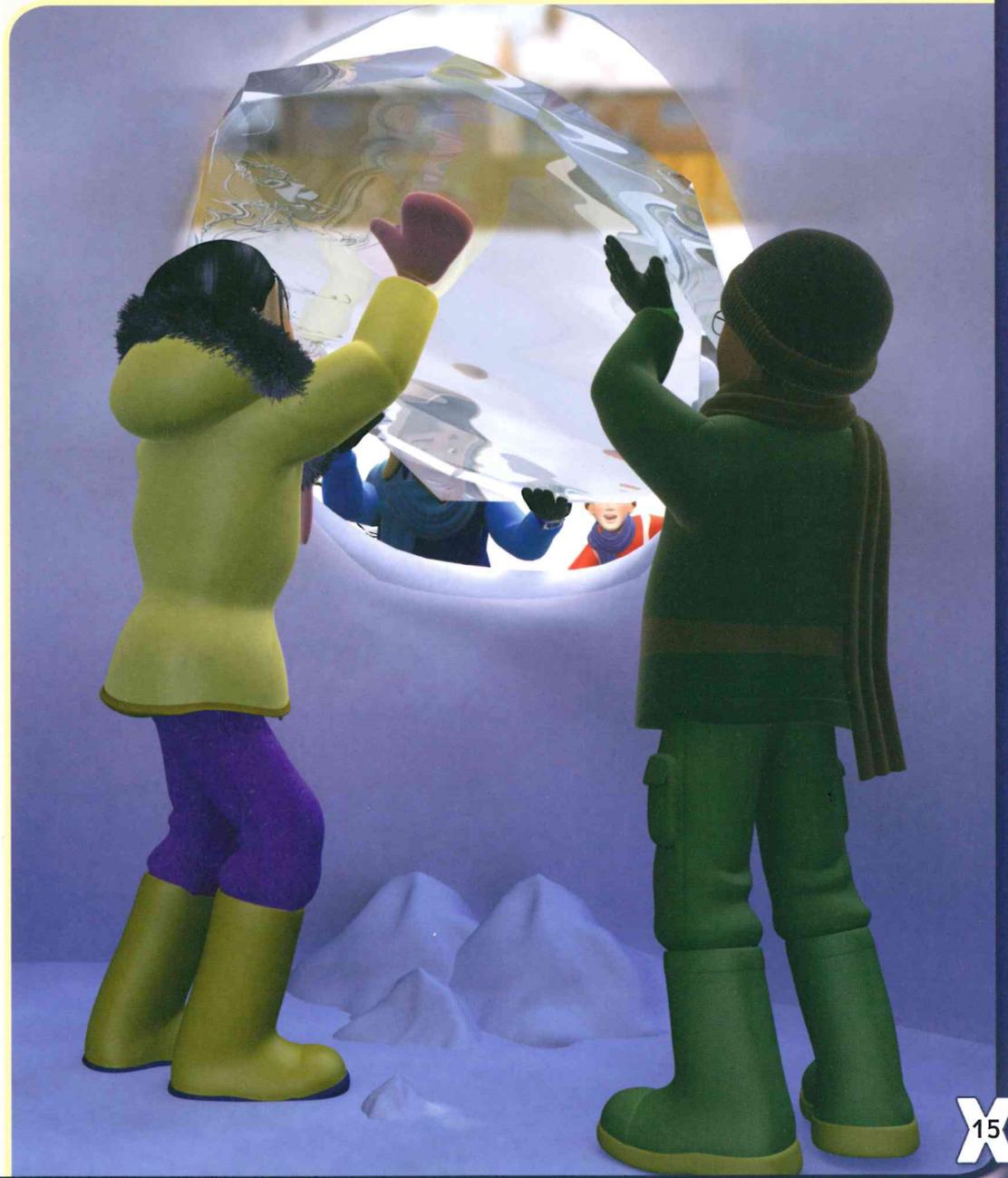
“Why doesn’t the igloo fall to bits?” Cat asked.

“A dome shape is really strong – even with holes in the side,” Ant explained.

Max and Tiger found the broken ice. They dragged a piece back to the igloo.



Max lifted the ice up. Cat and Ant fixed it into the hole. It made a perfect window.



Outside, Tiger squeezed some snow into a ball. He took aim at Max and ...

Take that!



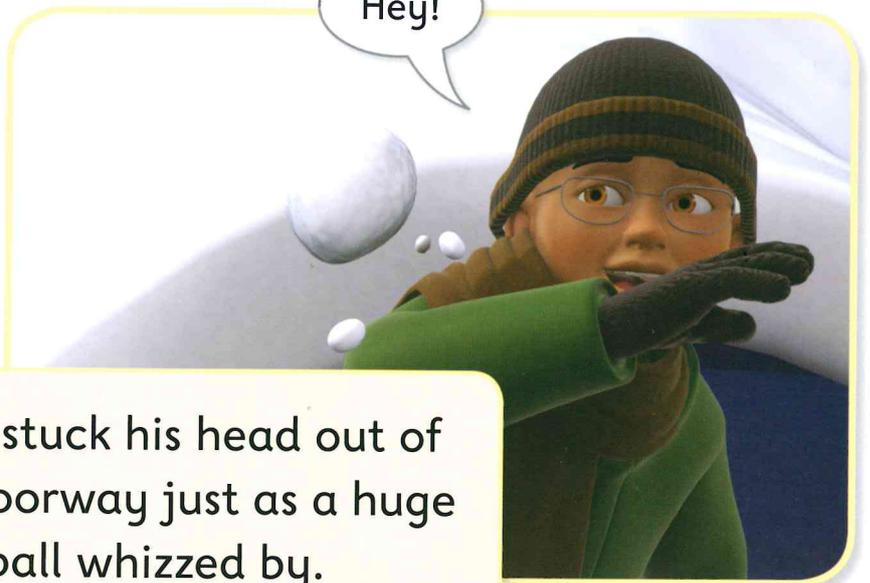
THUMP! The snowball hit Max in the neck. Freezing cold snow dripped down his back.

Max quickly made a snowball of his own. He threw it at Tiger. Soon the two friends were whooping and shouting, throwing snowballs at each other.



Hey!

Ant stuck his head out of the doorway just as a huge snowball whizzed by.



“Come and see inside,” Ant called.

They all went inside the igloo.

“Wow! It’s so bright,” Tiger gasped.

“It’s so cool,” said Max.

“It is cool,” Cat complained. “But I’m still c-c-cold!”

“I know how you can get warm,” Tiger said.

“Follow me!”



There was one piece of ice left on the ground.
“Come on!” cried Tiger. He skidded out across
the ice. “Now we are small, the ice is strong
enough to slide on.”



Soon they were all slipping and sliding around. Tiger's ice rink was great fun. Cat's cheeks were glowing.

"I'm not cold now!" she shouted to Tiger. She zoomed past him on one leg.



The next day, the sun shone. The snow dripped off the trees.

The roof of the igloo had fallen in. The windows had melted. Tiger's ice rink was gone.

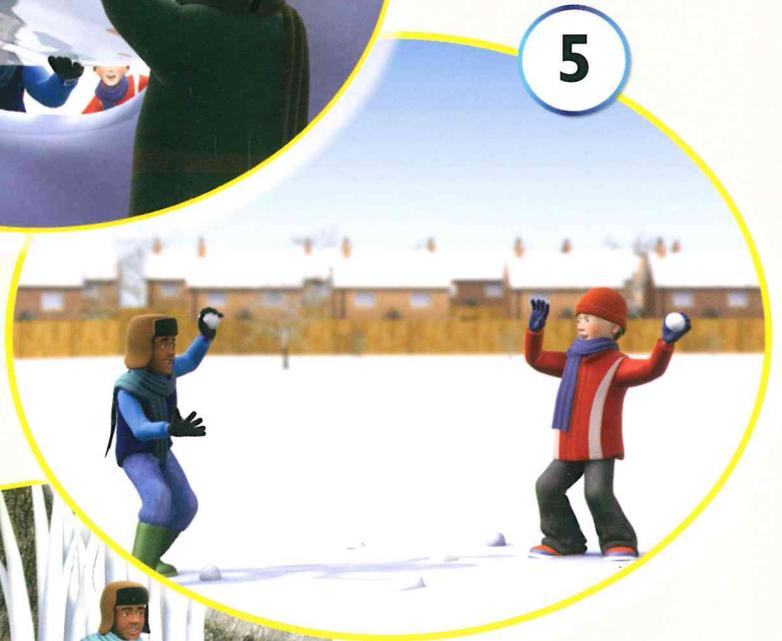
"Come on," said Max. "We can get inside the micro-den now. It needs a bit of tidying up."

"Oh, great," Tiger groaned. "Tidying up ... my favourite!"



Retell the story ...

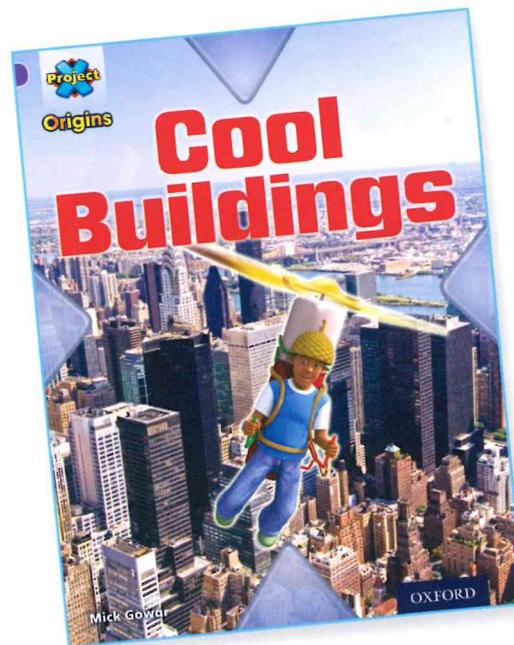
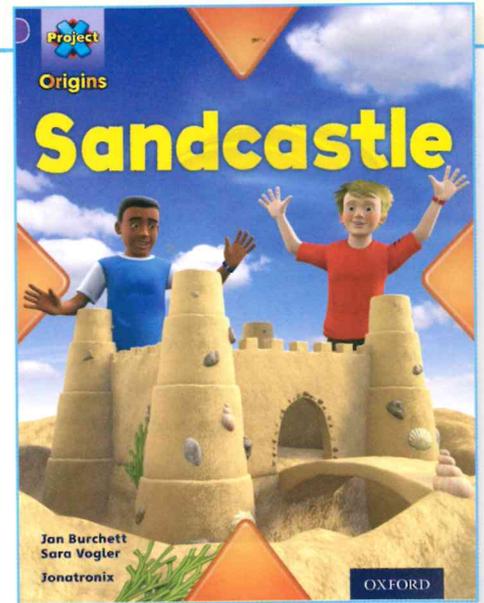




Find out more ...

For more buildings
fun, read ...

Sandcastle



and *Cool Buildings*.

After reading

Talk with your child about the book. Here are some questions you could ask:

- Why did Max stop Tiger from stepping on the ice at the start of the story?
- Why did the children make a snow den?
- What did the children use for windows?
- How did Cat get warm at the end of the story?

Encourage your child to read the story again. This will build their reading confidence and reading fluency.

Other things to do

Talk about a time when your child has seen snow or ice, or talk about what they think it might be like.

Talk about dens and what you could use to build one. They could try making their own den. Or they could draw a picture of an igloo.

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Origins

Book Band 8
Purple

Oxford
Level 8

Letters and Sounds
Phase 6

The Snow Den

Max, Cat, Ant and Tiger build
a new den out of snow.

Great for Guided Reading

Titles on the theme: *Buildings*

Sandcastle (Fiction)

> The Snow Den (Fiction)

Mr Grim's Tower (Fiction)

Cool Buildings (Non-fiction)

Building Wembley (Non-fiction)



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