

Title: *No Two Snowflakes*
Author: Sheree Fitch
For: Grades 1-3

Summary of the book

Lou writes a letter to his friend Araba who lives in Africa. Araba wants to know about snow. Lou spends the whole letter describing snow to his friend. He explains how snow can be light and feathery or sharp and splintery. Snow can be like a thrilling toboggan ride, or like walking on the moon. Snow is used to build snowmen and forts. Sometimes it looks like icing or chandeliers. Lou describes how they make angels in the snow. Lou asks Araba to make angels in the sand on Christmas to celebrate the idea that no two snowflakes are alike. Just like people.

Themes and topics

- Snow
- Nature
- Letter Writing
- Descriptive Writing

CREATE

1. Pick one thing that is found only in Canada or North America. How would you describe it to someone in another country?
2. Research Africa. (The Encarta website has many interesting pictures and facts.) Write a letter from Araba to Lou describing an element only found in Africa.
3. Brainstorm a list of objects that are never alike even though they may be similar at first sight. Create a display of the objects and include descriptions of their differences.
4. Make a list of the descriptive words used in the book. Pick another natural element such as rain, wind etc. Brainstorm words, which describe the element. Write your own poem using the words.
5. Make a poster about the book using any material you choose. You could even create a collage using pictures and words clipped from magazines.
6. As a class, use the book as a script for a choral presentation. The passages can be divided into sections where the class reads as a whole group, as solos, duets or trios - use your imagination. Sound effects can be added if desired.
7. Make a list of what is similar and what is different between each human being. Create a mural illustrating your findings.

DISCUSS

1. Why is it important to learn about people all over the world?
2. How important is it to celebrate our differences as well as our similarities?
3. How can words help us understand what we haven't experienced?

ENCOUNTER

1. Read *No Two Snowflakes* by Sheree Fitch.
2. Read about Sheree Fitch on the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia Website:

<http://www.writers.ns.ca/Writers/sfitch.html>

3. Read other books by Sheree Fitch; *There's a Mouse in My House, If You Could Wear My Sneakers*.
4. Visit web sites with pictures of snowflakes.

<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/>

<http://snowflakebentley.com/snowflakes.htm>

5. Visit web sites on how to make paper snowflakes.

<http://www.highhopes.com/snowflakes.html>

EXTENSION

1. As a class, find a school in another country and become their pen pal. Try composing the letters as a class.

<http://www.kidsmc.com/penpal/>

2. Read about the man who discovered that no two snowflakes are alike. Create a tri-fold with pictures and information about his discoveries.

<http://snowflakebentley.com/index.htm>

Source: http://www.wordfest.com/2003/lp03d1_no_two_snowflakes.html