

# Blizzard

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Winter Weather, Problem Solving, Kindness

**Book Brief:** What would you do if it snowed for two whole days and you woke up to snow piled up past your front door? In this book, the author takes you on a journey back to when it snowed forty feet in his Rhode Island town in 1978. No school, no snow plows, and lots and lots of snow. It's a chilly read!

**Author and Illustrator:**

John Rocco

**Content Connections:**

Social Studies,  
Science, Math



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** What does the term blizzard mean? How is a blizzard different than a regular snowfall? If you don't know, what would you guess based on the cover picture?

**The Pictures:** Flip briefly through the pages and point out the sequencing in the text through the pictures.

**Prior Knowledge:** What is typical winter weather like in your area? Is there regular snowfall? Have your

students ever seen snow? What is the typical snowfall amount for your area?

**Vocabulary:** blizzard, subzero, landmarks, perilous, civilization

**Purpose for Reading:** As we read, think about the overall theme of this story. Also, think about any connections you can make between the boy in the story and either yourself or a character from another book you have read.



## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ How does the author help set the time period through pictures?
- ◆ Do you think they had fun in all that snow?
- ◆ What is the boy reading? Why is this significant?

- ◆ Do you think they still had power after the blizzard?
- ◆ What was the boy's major concern?
- ◆ Would you have gone out alone to the store?
- ◆ What did he use for snowshoes?
- ◆ What did the snowplows represent?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** What would you say was the overall theme of this story? Did you make any text to self or text to text connections? Share and explain.

**Extending Our Thinking:** What three items would you want to have if there were a blizzard? Explain your choices. How do people prepare for severe weather? How has technology changed how we predict and prepare for severe weather? Visit [www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/snow-ice](http://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/snow-ice) to learn how climate change has affected winter weather. How does the snowfall in your area over the last five years compare to historical records? As a class, brainstorm simple ways students can help stop climate change.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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