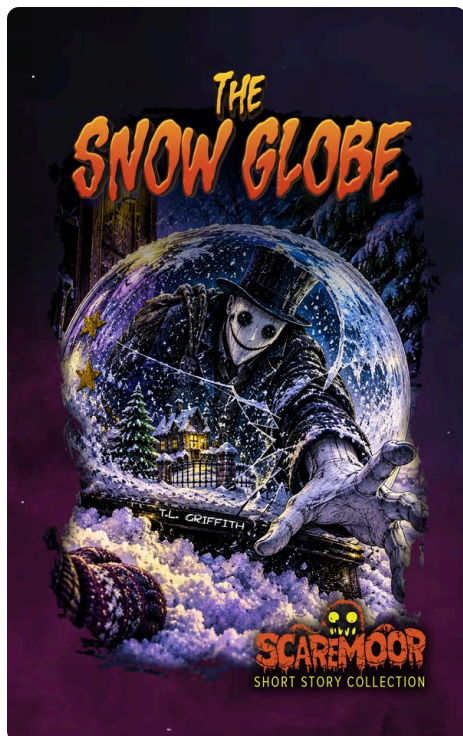




THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Josie and her cousin Gus find an old snow globe in Grandma's attic, in a box marked DON'T. Inside is a tiny man in a tall black hat. Every time the snow falls, he takes a step toward the glass, and he gets bigger. A short, safe-for-school scary story for winter.

Read-aloud time: about 15 minutes • **Themes:** Warnings and rules, Problem solving, Owning your mistakes, Teamwork

WHAT'S INSIDE

The story

Grade 3: Story Elements, What Happened First?, Word Detective, Inside the Globe

Grade 4: Cause and Effect, Theme Detective, Who Is Josie?, The Next Box
Grade 5: Read Between the Lines, Plot Mountain, Figurative Language Hunt, Write a New Ending

Puzzles: Word Search, Crossword, Secret Codes, Word Scramble, Escape Room, Who Said It?, Hidden Message
Answer keys for everything

HOW TO USE IT

Read the story aloud. It's spooky, not gory, and safe for school.

Pick the worksheets for your grade. Each one takes 10–30 minutes and needs no prep.

The puzzles are great for early finishers. Story Bingo for the read-aloud is a separate download, with a different card for every student.

Students can also do every worksheet online at scaremoor.com/worksheets. Answer keys are at the back.



READ-ALoud STORY • GRADES 3–5

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

CHAPTER 1: DON'T

"Don't you two go up in that attic," Grandma says.

So of course that's the first place Gus goes.

Gus is my cousin. He's ten, like me, but he acts like he's six.

He shakes things. Presents. Cereal boxes. Grandma's jar of buttons. If it rattles, Gus has to shake it.

Our parents dropped us off this morning. A whole week at Grandma's before Christmas, while they work.

Grandma's house is tall and skinny and old. The stairs creak. The radiator bangs all night like somebody's hitting it with a spoon.

And an attic.

"Come ON, Josie," Gus whispers from the top of the stairs.

"Grandma said no."

"Grandma said don't go up. She didn't say don't look."

That makes no sense. I go up anyway.

The attic is freezing. It smells like dust and old Christmas. There are boxes everywhere. Boxes of ornaments. Boxes of old clothes. A rocking horse with one eye.

Gus is already digging.

"Whoa. Josie. Look at this one."

It's a small cardboard box, all by itself, way in the back under the window. Somebody wrote

on the top in black marker, faded almost gray.

Just one word.

DON'T.

"Don't what?" Gus says.

"Just don't," I say. "Put it back."

Gus opens it.

Inside, wrapped in a yellowed dish towel, there's a snow globe.

It's old. Heavy. The glass is thick and a little bubbly. The base is black wood, with a tiny brass key on the bottom that doesn't turn.

Inside, the water is clear. White snow lies in a little drift at the bottom.

There's a house in there. A little house with yellow windows, like there's a fire going inside. A pine tree. A front gate.

And by the gate, there's a man.

A tiny man in a long dark coat and a tall black hat. He has a sack over his shoulder.

He's standing with his back to the glass, facing the little house. Like he's about to walk up the path and knock.

"Cool," Gus says.

And before I can say anything, he shakes it.

Hard.

Snow explodes inside the glass. It swirls around and around the little house.

"Gus, stop!"

He shakes it again. And again. And again. Five times.

Then he holds it up to the window, grinning, and we watch the snow come down.

Slowly. Slowly.

It settles.

My skin prickles.

The little man isn't by the gate anymore. He's five steps closer. And he's facing us.

CHAPTER 2: TAP

"He was always like that," Gus says.

"He was NOT. He was facing the house."

"You remember wrong."

I don't remember wrong. I'm the one in our family who remembers everything. I can tell you what we had for dinner at Grandma's last Thanksgiving. (Ham. Gus spilled the gravy.)

The little man is standing halfway down the path now, between the gate and the glass. His back is to the house. His face is tipped down under his hat, so I can't see it.

But he's looking at us. I know he is.

"Fine," Gus says. "I'll turn him back around." He starts to shake it.

I grab it out of his hands.

"Don't!"

The snow inside stirs. Just a little. Just a few flakes.

The little man takes one more step.

I see it. I see him do it. His tiny black boot lifts and comes down, closer, right while the flakes are falling.

Then the snow settles, and he's still.

Gus's mouth falls open.

"Did you...?"

"Yeah," I whisper. "I saw."

We don't tell Grandma.

What would we say? Your snow globe walks?

I put it on the dresser in the room Gus and I share, as far from the beds as I can. I set it down so gently. I don't let one single flake move.

That night, the radiator bangs and bangs. I lie in my sleeping bag and stare at the dresser.

I fall asleep.

Something wakes me up.

Not the radiator.

A rattle. A soft, glassy rattle. Like a jar of marbles shaking.

I sit up.

On the dresser, in the dark, the snow globe is rocking. All by itself. Back and forth. Back and forth. Inside it, in the glow from the streetlight, the snow is swirling.

My heart slams.

"Gus," I whisper. "Gus, wake up."

He doesn't wake up. Gus could sleep through a parade.

The rocking stops.

The snow comes down.

In the morning, the little man is closer to the glass. And he's bigger.

Last night, his hat came up to the bottom branches of the pine tree. Now it's past the top.

I get the sheet of gold star stickers out of my backpack. The ones Mom gave me for my reading chart.

I stick one on the outside of the glass, right over the top of his hat.

"What's that for?" Gus asks.

"So we know," I say. "So we know exactly how fast he's coming."

"Josie." Gus's voice is small. "What happens when he gets to the glass?"

I don't answer. I don't know.

I don't want to know.

I hide it in my sock drawer. Under every sock I brought.

All day, nothing happens. Gus and I sit on the floor in front of the dresser and watch the drawer. We play cards. We eat Grandma's cookies. We watch.

Nothing.

"It's a trick," Gus says. "Like a magnet. Somebody's messing with us."

"Who?"

He doesn't have an answer.

That night, I don't sleep at all. I lie there with my flashlight and stare at the drawer.

Around midnight, the drawer starts to rattle.

Tap. Tap. Tap. It's coming from inside the glass.

CHAPTER 3: HALFWAY

In the morning, there's a blizzard.

Snow is coming down so hard you can't see the house across the street. The radio in Grandma's kitchen says the schools are closed, the roads are closed, everything is closed. It says tonight is going to be the coldest night of the year.

"Way below zero, folks," says the radio man. "Bundle up. Stay inside."

Grandma hums and bakes. She has no idea.

After breakfast, Grandma comes upstairs with a basket of laundry.

The snow globe is sitting on the dresser. I took it out of the sock drawer to check on it, and I forgot to put it back.

"Oh, my goodness," Grandma says. She sets down the basket. "My grandmother's snow

globe. I haven't seen this since I was your age. Where did you find it?"

She picks it up.

She turns it in her hands, smiling. And she starts to shake it, the way everybody shakes a snow globe.

"DON'T!"

I lunge. Grandma jumps. She sets it back down on the dresser with a thump.

The snow stirs. A few flakes drift down past the little house.

Inside, a black boot lifts and comes down.

"Josie Marie," Grandma says, with her hand on her heart. "You scared me half to death."

"Sorry," I say. "It's just... it's really old. It might break."

Grandma looks at me for a long second. Then she picks up her basket.

"Then put it somewhere safe, sweetie," she says, and goes back downstairs.

Somewhere safe.

Where is safe from this?

Gus and I sit down in front of the dresser and look at the snow globe very, very closely.

Gus gasps.

My gold star is way down by the little house now. The man's hat is nowhere near it. It's up high and close to the glass, and I have to put the next star almost at the top.

The little man isn't little anymore.

He's halfway to the glass. And he's as tall as the house. His hat is up by the roof. His sack hangs off his shoulder, huge and floppy, and empty.

And for the first time, I can see his face.

It's white. Smooth white, like a candle. He has two small black eyes, shiny like buttons.

And he's smiling.

A long, thin smile, too wide for his face.

I almost drop it.

"Careful!" Gus grabs my hands, and the snow barely moves, and the man doesn't move either. We both breathe out.

"What's the sack for?" Gus whispers.

I look at it. Empty. Big.

Big enough for a kid.

"I don't want to find out," I say.

Gus sits on his bed and doesn't say anything for a long time. Then he says, "Josie?"

"What?"

"I shook it on purpose. The first time. To scare you." His face is red. "I'm sorry. I didn't know."

"I know you didn't know."

"How many more nights until he gets to the glass?"

I look at the globe. Two gold stars. One night between them, and he went so far.

He's halfway there.

"Two," I say. "Maybe one."

Gus puts his face in his hands.

"Can't we just smash it?"

"If we smash it, he gets out."

"Throw it away?"

"Throwing it is shaking it. The garbage truck would shake it all the way to the dump."

"Then what?"

I look out the window at the blizzard.

All that snow.

And then I look at the snow inside the globe.

"Snow globes are just water," I say slowly. "With fake snow in it."

"So?"

"So he only moves when the snow is falling.

What if the snow can't fall?" I turn around.

"What if the water is frozen solid?"

Gus stares at me. "Put it in the freezer!"

"Grandma's freezer is the size of a lunchbox.

It's full of cookie dough. And she opens it about a hundred times a day."

"Oh. Yeah."

The radio downstairs says it again. Coldest night of the year.

"Tonight," Gus says.

"Tonight."

We look at the globe.

The little man has his hand up. His palm is flat on the inside of the glass, like he's trying to feel how thick it is.

And right under his hand, there's a crack.

CHAPTER 4: FROZEN

It rattles twice after dark. Both times, the snow swirls, and he gets closer.

At midnight, the whole house is asleep except for us.

Gus has the flashlight. I have the snow globe in both hands, held straight out in front of me, flat as a tray of water.

Two flights of stairs.

Every stair creaks.

Every step, I'm sure I'm going to tip it.

The man fills the whole globe now. His hat is squashed against the top of the glass. His face is pressed to the front of it, white and smiling, his black button eyes an inch from my hands. The little house is behind him, tiny, like a toy he's done playing with.

And the crack is longer. It runs from his hand halfway around the glass.

"Slow," Gus whispers. "Slow, slow, slow."

My foot slips on the last stair.

The globe tips.

Just a little. Just enough.

The snow swirls.

The man takes a step.

There's a sound like a tiny piece of ice snapping. The crack gets longer.

I freeze. I don't breathe. The snow settles.

"Go," Gus says. "Go, go."

The back door sticks. Gus has to shove it with his shoulder.

Then we're outside.

The cold hits me like a wall. It's so cold my nose hurts. My eyes water and the tears go stiff on my cheeks. The snow in the backyard is up past my knees.

There's a big snowbank by the back steps where Grandma's driveway got plowed.

I kneel down in the snow and set the globe in the snowbank.

Gently.

So, so gently.

"Pack it," I gasp. "All around it."

Gus scoops snow with both arms and packs it around the globe. Around the base. Around the glass. Up the sides. I pack too, until only the very top is showing.

Under the flashlight, the water inside starts to change.

It goes cloudy at the edges. White. Like a pond in winter.

It's working.

"It's working!" Gus says.

Then the globe starts to rattle.

It rocks in the snowbank. Back and forth. Back and forth. The snow inside, where the water isn't frozen yet, starts to swirl.

The man takes a step.

The crack spreads.

He takes another.

Crack.

Something comes through the glass.

A finger.

A thin white finger, poking out through the crack. Then another. Then a whole hand, squeezing out, and as it comes out it gets bigger. And bigger. Until it's as big as a grown-up's hand.

It grabs my finger.

It's colder than the snow. Colder than anything. It squeezes, hard, and it *pulls*, and my arm goes toward the globe, toward the crack, toward the dark coat and the smiling face and the big empty sack.

I scream.

Gus grabs me around the waist and pulls the other way.

"Josie, PULL!"

The ice is spreading. I can see it in the flashlight. White, creeping in from the edges of the glass toward the middle. Over the little house. Over the tree. Over the man's boots.

But the crack is spreading too.

It's the ice. The ice is pushing on the glass. Getting bigger, the way ice does, the way it breaks the birdbath every winter. I didn't think of that. I didn't know.

The hand pulls. My finger goes numb. My whole hand goes numb.

The ice reaches his knees.

His coat.

His shoulders.

His smile.

The hand stops pulling.

It just holds on. Stiff. Frozen.

I yank my finger out of it.

It comes free with a sound like a popsicle stick snapping off.

I fall backward into Gus, and we both land in the snow, and we lie there, breathing so hard our breath makes clouds.

The globe sits in the snowbank. Frozen solid. White all the way through.

A white hand sticks out of the crack in the glass, reaching for the sky. Not moving.

Inside, through the ice, I can just see the smile.

We bury it.

We pack snow over it until it's gone. Then we pile more on top, a whole mountain, behind Grandma's garage, where the plow pushed the biggest snowbank of all.

My finger is white at the tip for three days. Grandma says it's frostnip and makes me hot cocoa.

On Christmas morning, Gus doesn't shake a single present. Not one.

After New Year's, our parents come and get us, and we drive home, and I don't think about it.

I don't let myself think about it.

In March, the phone rings.

It's Grandma. She calls every Sunday.

"Josie, sweetie, guess what? Spring finally came. All the snow melted. You should see the mud."

My stomach drops.

"And you'll never guess what I found behind the garage," Grandma says. "That old snow globe. The one from the attic. How on earth did it get out there?"

I can't talk.

"Josie? Are you there?"

"I'm here," I whisper.

"Well, I'm sorry to say it's broken. The glass is all cracked." She laughs. "And the funny thing is, it's empty."

"Empty?"

"Just the little house and the tree. The little man is gone."



GRADE 3 · STORY ELEMENTS

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

STORY ELEMENTS

Every story has characters, a setting, a problem, and a solution. Fill in each box with details from The Snow Globe.

CHARACTERS

Who is in the story?

SETTING

Where and when does it happen?

PROBLEM

What goes wrong?

SOLUTION

How does it end?





GRADE 3 · WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

These events are mixed up. Number them 1 to 7 in the order they happened in the story.

☐

Josie figures out that if the water freezes, the snow can't fall.

☐

Josie and Gus pack the globe in a snowbank, and a white hand grabs Josie's finger.

☐

Gus shakes the globe five times, and the little man turns to face them.

☐

Gus opens a box marked DON'T and finds an old snow globe.

☐

In March, Grandma finds the globe cracked and empty.

☐

Grandma starts to shake the globe, and Josie yells, "DON'T!"

☐

The globe rocks by itself in the night, and in the morning the man is bigger.





GRADE 3 • WORD DETECTIVE

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

WORD DETECTIVE

Read each sentence from the story. Use the clues around the bold word to figure out what it means.

1. Inside, the water is clear. White snow lies in a little **drift** at the bottom.

I think **drift** means:

2. Slowly. Slowly. It **settles**.

I think **settles** means:

3. I **lunge**. Grandma jumps. She sets it back down on the dresser with a thump.

I think **lunge** means:

4. My finger is white at the tip for three days. Grandma says it's **frostnip** and makes me hot cocoa.

I think **frostnip** means:





GRADE 3 • INSIDE THE GLOBE

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

INSIDE THE GLOBE

Draw it. Then write about it.

Draw the inside of the snow globe at the start of the story: the little house with yellow windows, the pine tree, the front gate, and the little man by the gate. Then write 2–3 sentences: what would you do if the little man turned around?

Draw here





GRADE 4 · CAUSE AND EFFECT

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Each thing that happens causes something else. Read each cause, then write the effect.

CAUSE

Gus shakes the snow globe five times.



The globe rattles by itself at night.



Josie's foot slips on the last stair, and the globe tips.



The water inside the globe freezes solid.



EFFECT





GRADE 4 • THEME DETECTIVE

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

THEME DETECTIVE

The theme is the big lesson of a story. Answer each question to find the theme of The Snow Globe.

1. Grandma says, “Don’t you two go up in that attic,” and the box says DON’T. What happens because Gus doesn’t listen?

2. Gus tells Josie, “I shook it on purpose. The first time. To scare you.” Why do you think he tells the truth? How does he help after that?

3. What lesson does the author want readers to learn? Use one detail from the story to explain.





GRADE 4 · WHO IS JOSIE?

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHO IS JOSIE?

A trait is a word that describes what someone is like. Write three of Josie's traits and the evidence from the story that proves each one.

TRAIT 1 _____

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY

TRAIT 2 _____

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY

TRAIT 3 _____

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY



**GRADE 4 • THE NEXT BOX**

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name:

Date:

THE NEXT BOX

Write a short story. Use details that help the reader see, hear, and feel what happens.

You find another box in Grandma's attic. It has just one word written on it. What is the word? What is inside? Write what happens when you open it.

CHECK YOUR WORK

- ☐ Has a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- ☐ Describes what the narrator sees, hears, or feels.
- ☐ The word on the box matters to what happens.





GRADE 5 · READ BETWEEN THE LINES

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

An inference is a smart guess that uses clues from the story. Answer each question and include your clue.

1. Grandma says the globe was her grandmother's. Who do you think wrote DON'T on the box, and why?

2. What do you think the man's big, empty sack is for? What clue makes you think so?

3. At the end, Grandma says the globe is cracked and "it's empty." What happened, and why is that scary?





GRADE 5 • PLOT MOUNTAIN

THE SNOW GLOBE

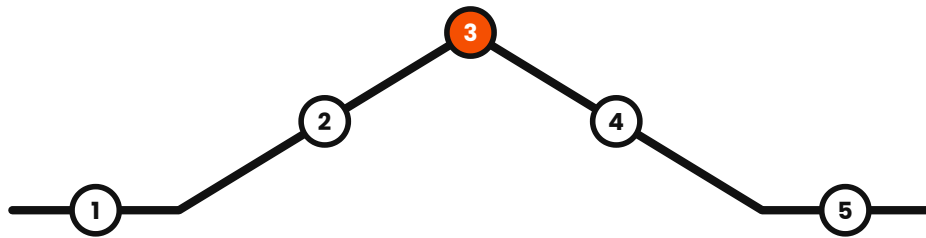
Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

PLOT MOUNTAIN

Every plot climbs to a climax and comes back down. Write what happens at each part of the mountain.



1. EXPOSITION (The beginning)

2. RISING ACTION (Trouble builds)

3. CLIMAX (The scariest moment)

4. FALLING ACTION (Things calm down)

5. RESOLUTION (How it ends)





GRADE 5 • FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

Authors use special language to help us picture things. For each quote, write the type (simile, metaphor, personification, or hyperbole) and what it means.

QUOTE FROM THE STORY	TYPE	WHAT IT MEANS
<i>"The radiator bangs all night like somebody's hitting it with a spoon."</i>	_____	_____ _____ _____
<i>"Gus could sleep through a parade."</i>	_____	_____ _____ _____
<i>"It's white. Smooth white, like a candle."</i>	_____	_____ _____ _____
<i>"The cold hits me like a wall."</i>	_____	_____ _____ _____





GRADE 5 • WRITE A NEW ENDING

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name:

Date:

WRITE A NEW ENDING

Rewrite the ending. Keep Josie, Gus, and the globe, but change the plan.

Go back to the moment Josie asks, “What if the water is frozen solid?” Write a new ending where she and Gus try a different plan to stop the little man. Does it work?

CHECK YOUR WORK

- ☐ Starts with Josie and Gus making a plan.
- ☐ The plan is different from the one in the story.
- ☐ The new ending shows whether the plan works.
- ☐ Keeps the story's spooky mood.





WORD SEARCH · VERSION A

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Find the 11 words from the story. They go across, down, and diagonally. **2.** Circle each word and cross out its letters. **3.** The letters left over, read in order, spell a line from the story.



FIND THESE

- ☐ Attic
- ☐ Blizzard
- ☐ Cousin
- ☐ Crack
- ☐ Frozen
- ☐ Globe
- ☐ Grandma
- ☐ Josie
- ☐ Radiator
- ☐ Snowbank
- ☐ Sticker

SECRET MESSAGE





CROSSWORD · VERSION A

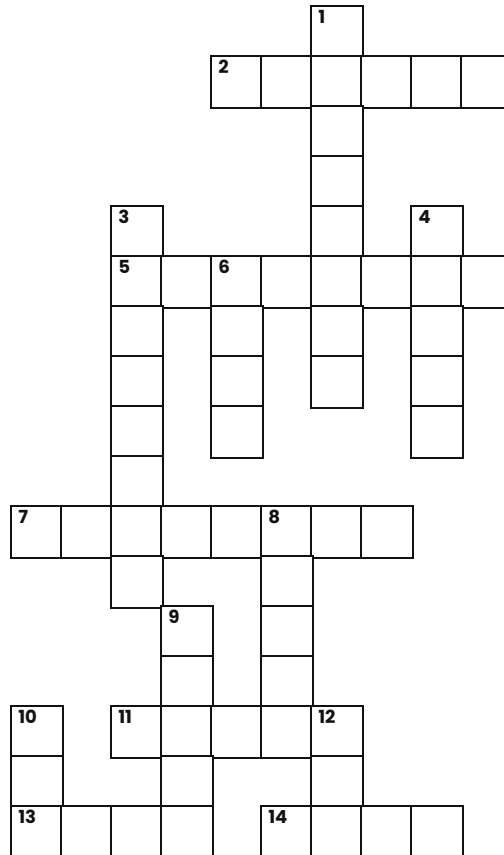
THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Read each clue. 2. Write one letter in each square. Every answer comes from the story.



ACROSS

- 2. The man's face is smooth white, like a ____
- 5. It bangs all night at Grandma's house
- 7. The big snowstorm that closes the roads
- 11. The month Grandma calls with news
- 13. The man carries it over his shoulder. It's big enough for a kid.
- 14. Josie sticks a gold one on the glass to track him

DOWN

- 1. Where Josie and Gus pack the globe in snow
- 3. What Grandma says is wrong with Josie's finger
- 4. The girl telling the story
- 6. The one word written on the box
- 8. "Don't you two go up in that ____."
- 9. It spreads across the glass
- 10. Josie's cousin, who shakes everything
- 12. The little man wears a tall black one





SECRET CODES

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Three messages from the story are written in code. Use each code's key to crack it, one letter at a time.

CODE 1: SHIFT CODE

Every letter moved 3 places forward in the alphabet. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W

S X W L W E D F N

CODE 2: MIRROR CODE

The alphabet is flipped: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

S V L M O B N L E V H D S V M G S V H M L D R H

U Z O O R M T

CODE 3: BACKWARDS CODE

Each word is written backwards. Read every word from right to left.

T A H W F I E H T R E T A W S I N E Z O R F

D I L O S



WORD SCRAMBLE • VERSION A

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Each word from the story got scrambled. Use the clue to put the letters back in order.

N G A M A D R

1. Clue: She hums, bakes, and plays the radio

I R O A T R D A

2. Clue: It bangs all night like a spoon

I R Z Z L A B D

3. Clue: It closes the schools and the roads

E I R C S K S T

4. Clue: Gold stars from Josie's reading chart

L F L I S T H A H G

5. Clue: Gus holds it on the way outside

B N N W A O K S

6. Clue: Where the globe gets packed in snow

N S O E N R T A M

7. Clue: The attic has boxes full of them

O A C O C

8. Clue: Grandma makes Josie hot ____





HIDDEN MESSAGE

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Answer each question from the story. **2.** Write the **first letter** of each answer in the matching numbered blank below. **3.** Read the hidden message!

1. What does the little man carry over his shoulder? _____

The attic has boxes of ____ and boxes of old clothes.

2.

In what month does Grandma call about the globe?

3.

4. The rocking horse in the attic has only one ____.

5. The DON'T box is way in the back, under the ____.

6. The little man wears a tall black ____.

7. At the end, Grandma says the globe is ____.

What tells Grandma it will be the coldest night of the year?

8.

The schools are closed, the roads are closed, ____ is closed.

9.

10. Josie sticks a gold ____ on the glass over his hat.

11. Grandma says, "Don't you two go up in that ____."

How many times does Gus shake the globe the first time?

12.

13. When Gus shakes it, snow ____ inside the glass.

HIDDEN MESSAGE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13





ESCAPE ROOM

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Team: _____

Date: _____

ESCAPE GRANDMA'S ATTIC

The attic door just clicked shut behind you. Somewhere in the dark, a snow globe is rattling, and the little man is getting closer. Work as a team. Open all four locks to escape.

LOCK 1: THE NUMBER LOCK

Answer each question with a number from the story. Put the three numbers together, in order, to make the code.

1. How many times does Gus shake the globe the first time?
2. How many days is Josie's finger white at the tip?
3. How many flights of stairs does Josie carry the globe down?

CODE

LOCK 2: THE WORD LOCK

This word from the story is in Mirror Code: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it. Hint: The radiator bangs like somebody's hitting it with one.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

IN CODE: **H K L L M**

CODE





ESCAPE ROOM · PART 2

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

LOCK 3: THE ORDER LOCK

These events are mixed up. Put them in story order, then read the letters in that order to get the code word.

- L** Grandma calls in March with news. _____
- C** Gus opens the box marked DON'T. _____
- H** The globe rocks by itself in the night. _____
- I** Grandma starts to shake the globe. _____
- L** A white hand grabs Josie's finger in the snowbank. _____

CODE

LOCK 4: THE FAKE FACT LOCK

Five of these happened in the story. One is made up. The number of the fake one opens the lock.

1. A rocking horse in the attic has one eye.
2. Josie sticks gold star stickers on the glass.
3. The little man carries a lantern.
4. Josie hides the globe in her sock drawer.
5. Grandma's freezer is full of cookie dough.
6. Gus has to shove the back door with his shoulder.

CODE

All four locks open? Bring your codes to your teacher. If they're right, you escaped!





WHO SAID IT?

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Read each line from the story. 2. Write the name of the character who said it. Some characters say more than one line.

CHARACTERS

Grandma Gus Josie The radio man

1. *"Don't you two go up in that attic."*
2. *"Grandma said don't go up. She didn't say don't look."*
3. *"Put it back."*
4. *"Way below zero, folks."*
5. *"What's the sack for?"*
6. *"I shook it on purpose. The first time. To scare you."*
7. *"Snow globes are just water."*
8. *"And the funny thing is, it's empty."*





GRADE 3 · ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

STORY ELEMENTS

CCSS RL.3.1, RL.3.3 · VA SOL 3.5

Characters: Josie, her cousin Gus, Grandma, and the little man in the snow globe

Setting: Grandma's tall, old house (the attic, the bedroom, and the snowy backyard) the week before Christmas

Problem: Every time the snow in the globe falls, the little man takes a step closer to the glass and gets bigger. When he reaches the glass, he will get out.

Solution: On the coldest night of the year, Josie and Gus pack the globe in a snowbank. The water freezes, and the man freezes halfway out. They bury the globe behind Grandma's garage.

WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

CCSS RL.3.2, RL.3.3 · VA SOL 3.5

- 1:** Gus opens a box marked DON'T and finds an old snow globe.
- 2:** Gus shakes the globe five times, and the little man turns to face them.
- 3:** The globe rocks by itself in the night, and in the morning the man is bigger.
- 4:** Grandma starts to shake the globe, and Josie yells, "DON'T!"
- 5:** Josie figures out that if the water freezes, the snow can't fall.
- 6:** Josie and Gus pack the globe in a snowbank, and a white hand grabs Josie's finger.
- 7:** In March, Grandma finds the globe cracked and empty.

WORD DETECTIVE

CCSS RL.3.4, L.3.4a · VA SOL 3.4

drift: a pile of snow that has been pushed together

settles: comes to rest at the bottom

lunge: jump forward fast and all at once

frostnip: a small hurt to the skin from being out in the cold

INSIDE THE GLOBE

CCSS RL.3.7, W.3.3 · VA SOL 3.5, 3.7

Answers will vary. Look for: The drawing shows the house, the tree, the gate, and the man. The details match the story. The sentences tell what the writer would do.





GRADE 4 · ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

CCSS RL.4.1, RL.4.3 · VA SOL 4.5

Gus shakes the snow globe five times.: The little man moves five steps closer and turns to face them.

The globe rattles by itself at night.: The man gets closer and bigger even when nobody touches it.

Josie's foot slips on the last stair, and the globe tips.: The snow swirls, the man takes a step, and the crack gets longer.

The water inside the globe freezes solid.: The man is stuck and the hand stops pulling, so Josie can pull her finger free.

THEME DETECTIVE

CCSS RL.4.2 · VA SOL 4.5

1. Grandma says, "Don't you two go up in that attic," and the box says DON'T. What happens because Gus doesn't listen?: He opens the box and shakes the globe five times, and the little man starts coming toward the glass.

2. Gus tells Josie, "I shook it on purpose. The first time. To scare you." Why do you think he tells the truth? How does he help after that?: He feels bad and wants to make it right. He holds the flashlight, packs snow around the globe, and pulls Josie away from the hand.

3. What lesson does the author want readers to learn? Use one detail from the story to explain.:
Possible answers: Warnings are there for a reason (the box says DON'T). Or: when you make a mistake, own it and help fix it (Gus says sorry and helps). Or: stop and think to solve a hard problem (Josie figures out that frozen water stops the snow).

WHO IS JOSIE?

CCSS RL.4.1, RL.4.3 · VA SOL 4.5

careful: She sets the globe down so gently that not one single flake moves.

smart: She figures out that snow globes are just water, so freezing it will stop the snow from falling.

observant: She remembers everything, and she puts gold star stickers on the glass to track how fast he's coming.

Other traits are fine if the evidence supports them.

THE NEXT BOX

CCSS W.4.3 · VA SOL 4.7

Answers will vary. Look for: Has a clear beginning, middle, and end. Describes what the narrator sees, hears, or feels. The word on the box matters to what happens.





GRADE 5 • ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

CCSS RL.5.1 • VA SOL 5.5

1. Grandma says the globe was her grandmother's. Who do you think wrote DON'T on the box, and why?: Someone in Grandma's family who knew what the globe did, maybe her grandmother. They wanted to warn anyone who found it never to shake it.
2. What do you think the man's big, empty sack is for? What clue makes you think so?: To carry off a kid. Josie says the sack is "Big enough for a kid," and the hand pulls her toward "the big empty sack."
3. At the end, Grandma says the globe is cracked and "it's empty." What happened, and why is that scary?: In spring, the snow melted and the ice inside the globe thawed, so the man could move again. He got out through the crack, and now he is loose somewhere.

PLOT MOUNTAIN

CCSS RL.5.2, RL.5.5 • VA SOL 5.5

Exposition: Josie and her cousin Gus spend the week before Christmas at Grandma's and find a snow globe in a box marked DON'T.

Rising action: Every time the snow falls, the little man steps closer and grows. The globe shakes itself at night, Grandma almost shakes it, and a crack appears under his hand.

Climax: In the snowbank, the man's hand squeezes out through the crack, grabs Josie's finger, and pulls.

Falling action: The ice spreads over the man and freezes him, and Josie pulls her finger free. They bury the globe behind the garage.

Resolution: In March, the snow melts. Grandma finds the globe cracked and empty. The little man is gone.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

CCSS RL.5.4, L.5.5a • VA SOL 5.4

"The radiator bangs all night like somebody's hitting it with a spoon.": **simile:** The old heater makes loud clanging noises all night.

"Gus could sleep through a parade.": **hyperbole:** Gus sleeps so deeply that almost nothing wakes him up.

"It's white. Smooth white, like a candle.": **simile:** The man's face is pale and waxy. It doesn't look like a real person's face.

"The cold hits me like a wall.": **simile:** The cold outside is sudden and strong, like running into something hard.

WRITE A NEW ENDING

CCSS W.5.3 • VA SOL 5.7

Answers will vary. Look for: Starts with Josie and Gus making a plan. The plan is different from the one in the story. The new ending shows whether the plan works. Keeps the story's spooky mood.



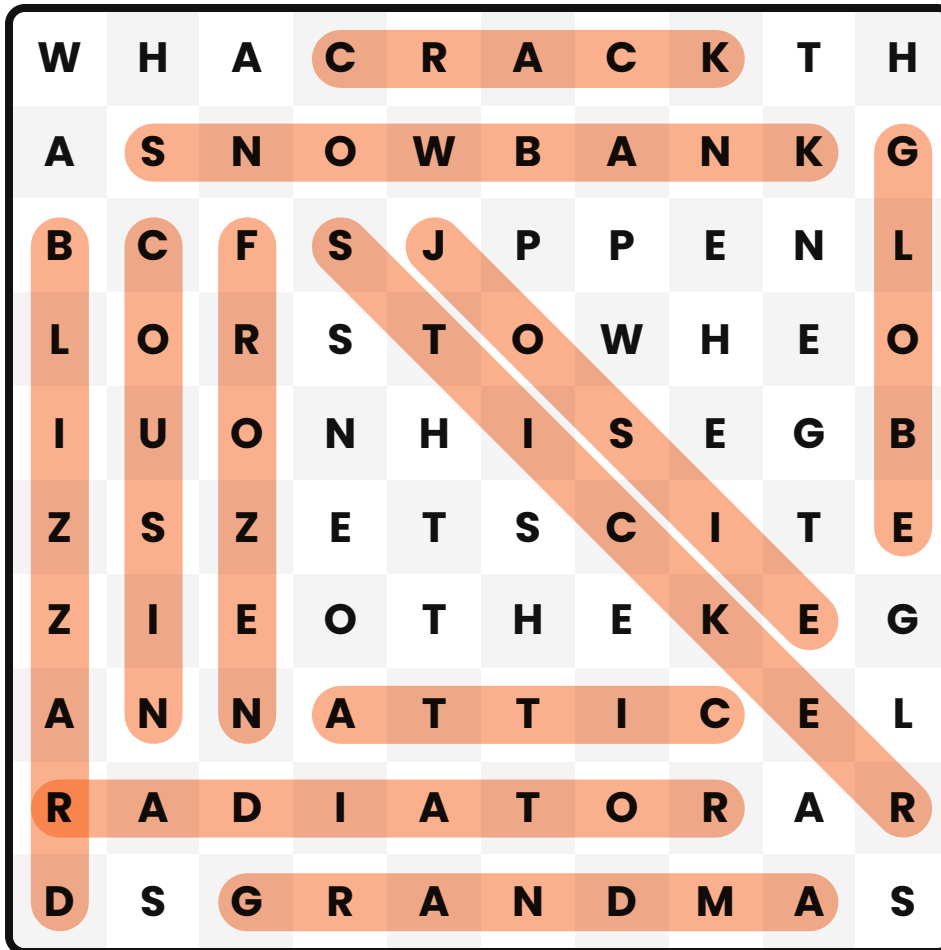


WORD SEARCH · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

1. Find the 11 words from the story. They go across, down, and diagonally. 2. Circle each word and cross out its letters. 3. The letters left over, read in order, spell a line from the story.



FIND THESE

- ☐ Attic
- ☐ Blizzard
- ☐ Cousin
- ☐ Crack
- ☐ Frozen
- ☐ Globe
- ☐ Grandma
- ☐ Josie
- ☐ Radiator
- ☐ Snowbank
- ☐ Sticker

SECRET MESSAGE

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE GETS TO
THE GLASS



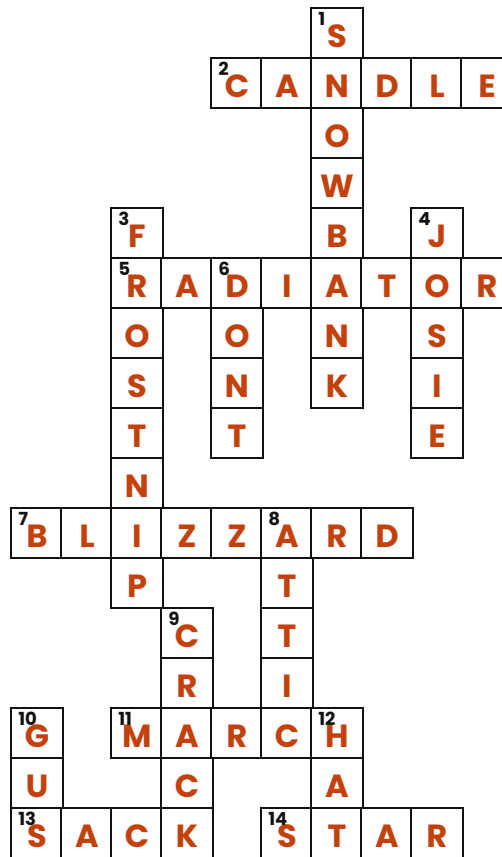


CROSSWORD · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

1. Read each clue. 2. Write one letter in each square. Every answer comes from the story.



ACROSS

2. The man's face is smooth white, like a ____
CANDLE
5. It bangs all night at Grandma's house **RADIATOR**
7. The big snowstorm that closes the roads
BLIZZARD
11. The month Grandma calls with news **MARCH**
13. The man carries it over his shoulder. It's big enough for a kid. **SACK**
14. Josie sticks a gold one on the glass to track him
STAR

DOWN

1. Where Josie and Gus pack the globe in snow
SNOWBANK
3. What Grandma says is wrong with Josie's finger
FROSTNIP
4. The girl telling the story **JOSIE**
6. The one word written on the box **DONT**
8. "Don't you two go up in that ____." **ATTIC**
9. It spreads across the glass **CRACK**
10. Josie's cousin, who shakes everything **GUS**
12. The little man wears a tall black one **HAT**





SECRET CODES · ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Three messages from the story are written in code. Use each code's key to crack it, one letter at a time.

CODE 1: SHIFT CODE

Every letter moved 3 places forward in the alphabet. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W

S X W L W E D F N

P U T I T B A C K

CODE 2: MIRROR CODE

The alphabet is flipped: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

S V L M O B N L E V H D S V M G S V H M L D R H

H E O N L Y M O V E S W H E N T H E S N O W I S

U Z O O R M T

F A L L I N G

CODE 3: BACKWARDS CODE

Each word is written backwards. Read every word from right to left.

T A H W F I E H T R E T A W S I N E Z O R F

W H A T I F T H E W A T E R I S F R O Z E N

D I L O S

S O L I D





WORD SCRAMBLE · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

Each word from the story got scrambled. Use the clue to put the letters back in order.

1. **N G A M A D R**
Clue: She hums, bakes, and plays the radio

GRANDMA

2. **I R O A T R D A**
Clue: It bangs all night like a spoon

RADIATOR

3. **I R Z Z L A B D**
Clue: It closes the schools and the roads

BLIZZARD

4. **E I R C S K S T**
Clue: Gold stars from Josie's reading chart

STICKERS

5. **L F L I S T H A H G**
Clue: Gus holds it on the way outside

FLASHLIGHT

6. **B N N W A O K S**
Clue: Where the globe gets packed in snow

SNOWBANK

7. **N S O E N R T A M**
Clue: The attic has boxes full of them

ORNAMENTS

8. **O A C O C**
Clue: Grandma makes Josie hot ____

COCOA





HIDDEN MESSAGE • ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

1. Answer each question from the story. 2. Write the **first letter** of each answer in the matching numbered blank below. 3. Read the hidden message!

1. What does the little man carry over his shoulder?

SACK

The attic has boxes of ____ and boxes of old clothes.

2.

ORNAMENTS

In what month does Grandma call about the globe?

3.

MARCH

4. The rocking horse in the attic has only one ____.

EYE

5. The DON'T box is way in the back, under the ____.

WINDOW

6. The little man wears a tall black ____.

HAT

7. At the end, Grandma says the globe is ____.

EMPTY

What tells Grandma it will be the coldest night of the year?

8.

RADIO

The schools are closed, the roads are closed, ____ is closed.

9.

EVERYTHING

10. Josie sticks a gold ____ on the glass over his hat.

STAR

11. Grandma says, "Don't you two go up in that ____."

ATTIC

How many times does Gus shake the globe the first time?

12.

FIVE

13. When Gus shakes it, snow ____ inside the glass.

EXPLODES

HIDDEN MESSAGE

S O M E W H E R E S A F E

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13





ESCAPE ROOM · ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

ESCAPE GRANDMA'S ATTIC

The attic door just clicked shut behind you. Somewhere in the dark, a snow globe is rattling, and the little man is getting closer. Work as a team. Open all four locks to escape.

LOCK 1: THE NUMBER LOCK

Answer each question with a number from the story. Put the three numbers together, in order, to make the code.

1. How many times does Gus shake the globe the first time? **5**
2. How many days is Josie's finger white at the tip? **3**
3. How many flights of stairs does Josie carry the globe down? **2**

CODE

5

3

2

LOCK 2: THE WORD LOCK

This word from the story is in Mirror Code: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it. Hint: The radiator bangs like somebody's hitting it with one.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

IN CODE: **H K L L M**

CODE

S

P

O

O

N





ESCAPE ROOM · PART 2 · ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

LOCK 3: THE ORDER LOCK

These events are mixed up. Put them in story order, then read the letters in that order to get the code word.

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| (L) | Grandma calls in March with news. | <u>5</u> |
| (C) | Gus opens the box marked DON'T. | <u>1</u> |
| (H) | The globe rocks by itself in the night. | <u>2</u> |
| (I) | Grandma starts to shake the globe. | <u>3</u> |
| (L) | A white hand grabs Josie's finger in the snowbank. | <u>4</u> |

CODE

C H I L L

LOCK 4: THE FAKE FACT LOCK

Five of these happened in the story. One is made up. The number of the fake one opens the lock.

1. A rocking horse in the attic has one eye.
2. Josie sticks gold star stickers on the glass.
- 3. The little man carries a lantern. (fake)**
4. Josie hides the globe in her sock drawer.
5. Grandma's freezer is full of cookie dough.
6. Gus has to shove the back door with his shoulder.

CODE

3

When a team opens all four locks, they escape. Read them the last line: "The little man is gone."





WHO SAID IT? • ANSWER KEY

THE SNOW GLOBE

Every time the snow falls, he takes one step closer.

1. Read each line from the story. 2. Write the name of the character who said it. Some characters say more than one line.

CHARACTERS

Grandma Gus Josie The radio man

1. *"Don't you two go up in that attic."*

Grandma

2. *"Grandma said don't go up. She didn't say don't look."*

Gus

3. *"Put it back."*

Josie

4. *"Way below zero, folks."*

The radio man

5. *"What's the sack for?"*

Gus

6. *"I shook it on purpose. The first time. To scare you."*

Gus

7. *"Snow globes are just water."*

Josie

8. *"And the funny thing is, it's empty."*

Grandma

