

Playtime in the Snow

by Aditi Sriram



George loves to play outdoors. He takes his toy trucks and cars into the garden, and he races them everywhere.

One day in the fall, Mom tells George that she's going to plant seeds in their garden. "You can help me plant cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower," Mom says. "They are all of your favorite vegetables."

Once they have planted them, Mom tells George not to run around in the garden. "You don't want to hurt the baby seeds," she says. "Let's play in the playground instead."

George loves the playground, too. He kicks his legs and swings up high. He and Mom go up and down, down and up on the seesaw. He goes across the monkey bars and falls into Mom's arms. The playground is so much fun!

George's favorite is the slide. He climbs carefully up the ladder and feels the wind rush past as he slides quickly down. Mom waits for him at the bottom. Sometimes he comes down so quickly that she catches him as he flies off the slide.

It begins to get colder, so Mom dresses George in his coat, hat, gloves, and boots. By winter, the garden has a few small shoots poking out of the ground. George cannot believe that these tiny plants will grow into fat heads of cauliflower and long stems of broccoli.

One day George wakes up to a "white morning." He watches the snow glitter in the sun. He wants to see what the playground looks like with all the snow. Mom dresses him up, and they go to take a look. There is snow on the swing, the monkey bars, and the seesaw. The slide is completely covered, and it looks like a mountain! George wants to go down the slide, but how can he with all the snow?

"I have an idea," Mom says. She takes George back to the house, where they pick out a long, flat baking tray from the kitchen. They return to the playground, and Mom puts the baking tray at the top of the slide.

"Sit on it," Mom tells George.

George is a little nervous, but he listens to Mom and gets on the tray. It feels a bit wobbly, so he holds onto the sides of the slide. Once he feels steady, he pushes off and down he goes. Whoosh!

"Was that fun?" she asks him.

"Yes!" George says.

"We made you a sled for the slide," Mom says. "Now even snow won't stop you from going down the slide."

"How did you come up with that?" George asks Mom.

"I ate my vegetables when I was a little girl, and they made me smart!"

George laughs. He is excited to eat the vegetables in his garden and sled down the slide and grow smarter and stronger.

Vocabulary

cover

verb

definition: When something covers another thing, it lies on top of it.

We have a big blue rug that covers almost all of the living room floor.

When we woke up, snow covered the whole ground.

Spanish: cubrir, tapar

forms: covered, covering, covers

instead

adverb

definition: We use the word "instead" when one thing is changed for another thing. If you planned to go to the mountains, but you go to the beach instead, it means that you don't go to the mountains. Going to the mountains has been changed to going to the beach.

Connor didn't want to play inside, so we rode our bikes instead.

Spanish: en lugar de, en vez de

plant

verb

definition: When you plant something, you put it into the ground to grow.

My dad and I planted seeds for tomatoes in our backyard.

Spanish: plantar, sembrar

forms: planted, planting, plants

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where does George love to play?

- A. at school
- B. outdoors
- C. indoors

2. What are the two main settings of the story?

- A. outside in the garden and playground
- B. inside George's bedroom and kitchen
- C. outside in the garden

3. George loves the playground. What evidence from the story supports this statement?

- A. The slide in the playground looks like a mountain when it is covered with snow.
- B. George plants vegetables with his mom in the garden.
- C. George enjoys going on the seesaw and going across the monkey bars.

4. What problem does George face?

- A. George wants to go down the slide but it is covered in snow.
- B. George doesn't want to use the baking tray to go down the slide.
- C. George's mom won't let him play in the garden even though he wants to.

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A. how George enjoys playing outdoors
- B. a playground that is covered in snow
- C. why baking trays are good sleds

6. Read the following sentences: "George is a little nervous, but he listens to Mom and gets on the tray. It feels a bit wobbly, so he holds onto the sides of the slide. Once he feels **steady**, he pushes off and down he goes."

What does the word **steady** most nearly mean?

- A. scared
 - B. balanced
 - C. unsafe
7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The slide was covered with snow, _____ George was still able to go down the slide.

- A. because
 - B. but
 - C. so
8. What stops George from going down the slide when it snows?
9. What does George's mom give George to go down the slide covered with snow?
10. Explain whether George's mom solves George's problem in the story? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.