



# The Mitten

by Jan Brett

## *Classroom Discussion & Literacy Guide*

The Mitten is a classic retelling of a Ukrainian folktale about a boy named Nicki who loses his white mitten in the snow. One by one, woodland animals crawl inside the mitten to stay warm, creating a cumulative tale rich with opportunities for sequencing, prediction, and discussions about cooperation. Jan Brett's detailed illustrations provide strong visual support for comprehension and storytelling.

### **Instructional Focus**

- Narrative sequencing
- Prediction and inference
- Cause and effect
- Cooperation and sharing
- Using illustrations to support comprehension

### **Read-Aloud & Discussion Prompts**

- What happens when Nicki loses his mitten?
- Which animal enters the mitten first, and why?
- How does the mitten change as more animals climb inside?
- What clues in the pictures help us understand the story?
- What causes all the animals to leave the mitten at the end?

### **Author Study & Video Resources**

Jan Brett shares insights into her writing and illustrating process, including how she researches animals and develops her detailed borders and artwork. These videos are helpful for introducing students to the author's craft and creative process.

- Jan Brett Author Videos and Resources: <https://www.janbrett.com>

### **Why This Book Matters**

The Mitten is an engaging mentor text that supports early literacy development through repetition, structure, and rich illustrations. It encourages students to practice sequencing, make predictions, and explore themes of sharing and cooperation, making it an excellent choice for whole-group instruction and discussion.

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