

# READERS THEATER SCRIPT

Readers Theater Script  
based on the book

## UNDER THE SNOW

Written by Melissa Stewart  
Illustrated by Constance R. Bergum

ISBN: 978-1-56145-493-8 / HC / \$16.95  
Ages 4–8 / Nonfiction / Nature

Book Level Score:  
AR • F&P  
GRL L; Gr 2



### ABOUT THE BOOK

Using clear, simple language, *Under the Snow* offers young readers a lyrical look at the surprising ways animals living in fields, forests, ponds, and wetlands spend the chilly winter months. Some fish and insects rest, but others stay active. Voles spend their days burrowing through the snow. Red-spotted newts dodge and dart, whiz and whirl just below the ice.

### GETTING STARTED

Many readers theater scripts have just ten or twelve parts, but this script has a role for every student in an average-size class. The script also includes four separate choruses (one for each habitat) and one line read by everyone.

As written, the script includes twenty-two animal parts and a narrator role. The animal parts vary in difficulty, to accommodate children at a variety of reading levels. The narrator text is the most challenging. It can be read by an adult or by an advanced young reader.

If you are working with fewer than twenty-two children, some students can perform two roles. If you have a larger group, some children can share a role or you can divide the narrator role into four parts, one for each habitat (field, forest, pond, wetland).

After you have matched students with parts, ask the class to read through the script a few times. As the children practice, provide as much support and advice as needed.

### PLANNING THE PERFORMANCE

When the children feel confident about their roles, you may want to set out a variety of art supplies and ask them to make identification tags, animal hats, or even animal costumes to wear during the performance. Children acting as narrators may want to wear mittens, hats, and scarves.

During the final reading, the students can stand in four separate groups (one for each habitat) or the script can be performed as four separate acts, so that there is always an audience.

PEACHTREE  PUBLISHERS

## Under the Snow • Readers Theater Script

### **Chorus 1: Under the snow in a field...**

- Narrator: Ladybugs pack themselves into a hole in an old stone wall.
- Ladybug 1: I like spending the winter with all my friends. It's like having a giant slumber party!
- Ladybug 2: Not me. I wish I had a little elbow room.
- Narrator: A snake rests inside another hole in the same wall.
- Snake: I curl up tight and fall a-s-s-s-sleep.
- Narrator: What does a vole do under the snow?
- Vole: I tunnel through the white, fluffy stuff all winter long.
- Narrator: A chipmunk snoozes in an underground nest.
- Chipmunk: *Chip! Chip! Churp! Churp!* Sometimes I wake up to snack on nuts and seeds.

### **Chorus 2: Under the snow in a forest...**

- Narrator: A mourning cloak butterfly rests in a pile of brush.
- Butterfly: I'm saving up all my energy for spring.
- Narrator: What's inside that rotting log? Look, it's a centipede.
- Centipede: Winter weather cools my body so much I can barely move.
- Narrator: A bumblebee queen rests in a nearby crack.
- Bee: It's nice to take a break after such a bzzzzz-y summer.
- Narrator: A wood frog hides in leaves on the forest floor.
- Wood frog: *Quack, squawk, quack!* Winter doesn't bother me. I can freeze solid and still survive.
- Narrator: A woolly bear caterpillar snoozes just a few inches away.
- Caterpillar: I curl up my body, so my head almost touches my tail.
- Narrator: Just below the ground, a spotted salamander waits out the coldest months of the year.

Salamander: If winter's here, can spring be far behind?

Narrator: Deeper underground, a woodchuck sleeps soundly all winter long.

Woodchuck: *Chuck, chuck!* Do you think I'll see my shadow on February 2nd?

**Chorus 3: Under the snow in a pond...**

Narrator: A bluegill circles slowly through the chilly water.

Bluegill: *Glug! Glug!* I sure wish I had enough energy to catch that little bug.

Narrator: The waterboatman swimming nearby has a different point of view.

Waterboatman: Thank goodness that big fish can't chase me down!

Narrator: A carp rests quietly on the muddy bottom.

Carp: I wonder why that bluegill can swim, but I'm stuck down here?

Narrator: Two tiny water striders lie just a few inches away.

Water strider 1: Lucky for us that carp's totally pooped out.

Water strider 2: You can say that again!

Water strider 1: Lucky for us that carp's totally pooped out.

Water strider 2: Oh, puh-lease!

Narrator: A green frog and a painted turtle rest in the mud and wait for winter to end.

Frog: Dude! Dude! I'm sick of this. How long until spring?

Turtle: Not much longer, I hope. My toes are getting wrinkled.

**Chorus 4: Under the snow in a wetland...**

Narrator: A beaver family huddles together inside a cozy log lodge.

Beaver 1: *Whaaad, whaad, wat!* I could use a snack.

Beaver 2: Me too. Let's swim over to our storage pile and grab a stick.

Narrator: Just below the wetland's icy surface, a red-spotted newt dodges and darts, whizzes and whirls.

## **Under the Snow • Readers Theater Script**

Newt: *Whee!* I don't mind if spring never comes.

Narrator: But everyone else is looking forward to warm, sunny days.

**Chorus 1 & 2: And as time passes, the sun's rays slowly grow stronger.**

**Chorus 3 & 4: And each day is a little bit longer...**

**Everyone: ...until finally, spring arrives.**

All Animals: [Jump forward and make your animal sounds.]

THE END



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melissa Stewart is the award-winning author of more than 150 books for children. She holds degrees in biology and science journalism and serves on the board of advisors for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Melissa

speaks frequently at conferences for educators and is available for school visits. [www.melissa-stewart.com](http://www.melissa-stewart.com)  
(Intended audience for school presentations: Grades K–6.)



### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Constance R. Bergum has illustrated a number of children's books, including *When Rain Falls*, *Under the Snow*, *Beneath the Sun*, and *Daniel and His Walking Stick*. She holds an MFA in illustration from Marywood

University and lives in Montana.

### AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR VISITS

We have authors and illustrators who visit schools and libraries.

For information regarding author appearances, please contact Christine at 800-241-0113 or [Christine@peachtree-online.com](mailto:Christine@peachtree-online.com)

### AVAILABLE FROM MELISSA STEWART

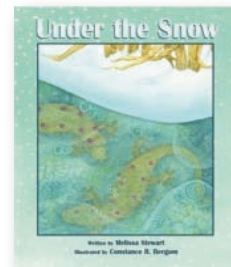
#### Readers Theater Scripts:

*Beneath the Sun*  
*Under the Snow*  
*When Rain Falls*

#### Teacher's Guides:

*Beneath the Sun*  
*Under the Snow*  
*When Rain Falls*

*A Place for Bats*  
*A Place for Birds*  
*A Place for Butterflies*  
*A Place for Fish*  
*A Place for Frogs*  
*A Place for Turtles*



Peachtree Readers Theater Script for  
**UNDER THE SNOW**

prepared by Melissa Stewart

Peachtree's Readers Theater for UNDER THE SNOW order #: 978-1-56145-493-8-RT Copyright©2014 by Peachtree Publishers. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for the printing of complete pages, with the copyright notice, for instructional uses only and not for resale.

phone 404-876-8761 • 800-241-0113  
fax 404-875-2578 • 800-875-8909  
[www.peachtree-online.com](http://www.peachtree-online.com)

updated 3/19/14