

# Mrs. Swansbrough's Reading Tips for Parents January 2009

## Snow Day



## Literacy Survival Kit

When a storm comes and schools are closed, even though you might not be staying home, you can still offer your child fun experiences which promote reading and writing.

- ❖ Declare a **family challenge**: today everyone avoids using the word “snow”. When the family is together at the end of the day, it will be so much fun to share the many clever ways used to describe snow.
- ❖ February is Black History Month and we will also celebrate Presidents’ Day. This is a great time to explore African American **authors** and to **read** about this lives of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.
- ❖ Plan a **dream vacation** to sunny beaches or snowy slopes. Have your teen read the travel pages or search travel sites for information. What are the outstanding attractions and activities? How to dress, where to stay, and what to eat are important, too.
- ❖ Curious about what happened **Today in History**? On a snow day your child has time to discover more about the past. He can find out lots by exploring this site:  
[www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/index.html](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/index.html).
- ❖ **Record a little family history**. Looking through photos might encourage your teen to write captions or record a special family story before it is forgotten. Your child could even add to the family history by making a photo-story of his snow day. He could use a camera or a cell phone to capture a few events of the day and have dialogue to share with you that evening.
- ❖ **Play word games** after dinner. Scrabble and Boggle come to mind, but many board games also provide reading opportunities. **Crossword puzzles** can challenge the whole family. As you work together on a puzzle or a game, talk about your thinking. Remember: making guesses is a natural, important part of our thinking. Enjoy it!
- ❖ Whatever you do on a snow day, make reading part of the fun!



The snow fell gently all the night.  
It made a blanket soft and white.  
It covered houses, flowers and ground  
But did not make a single sound.

