

# LITTLE BEDS FOR LITTLE READERS: An Interactive Story Time



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Turning the pages of Grace Lin's picture book **A Big Bed for Little Snow** (Little, Brown), the reader is led to believe that the book is simply about a boy bouncing on an irresistible feather-stuffed bed. When a tear forms in the seam of the bed and those feathers start to leak out, the reader has their first hint that his jumps have consequences. In a brilliant switch of perspective, the reader discovers that that his bed is a storm cloud and the feathers escaping are snowflakes falling on the city below. In the windows of the city's buildings, you see the upturned faces of children marveling at the snow and, perhaps, at the power of one boy to transform the world.

## A Big Bed for Little Snow

By Grace Lin

Published by Little, Brown

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"A sweet and clever modern myth..."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"A wondrous, wintery read."

—*Horn Book*, starred review



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## ABOUT THE INTERACTIVE STORY TIME

This guide offers suggested dialogue, movements, and paper play to engage your astonishing young readers. The paper play makes Little Beds for Little Readers, or envelopes filled with paper feathers. Your readers will have the opportunity to make a tear in their “beds” and make a snowstorm of flying paper feathers. (Don’t worry, the story time includes a prompt to clean up those fallen feathers.)

Visit GraceLin.com for other activities created for **A Big Bed for Little Snow** (Little, Brown) including a paper snow globe, a sewing/sewing card project, and a snow chart.

## PREPARATION FOR THE EVENT

- \_\_\_ Print and cut out an envelope template (page 7) for each reader.
- \_\_\_ Fold the template on the dashed line and glue all but the top flap closed. When folded, the piece should look much like the cover of the book.
- \_\_\_ Make a pile of paper feathers for readers to stuff or discover inside the envelopes. Look for the feather templates (page 8). There are also feather paper punches available. Look for one at [bit.ly/LittleSnowFeathers](http://bit.ly/LittleSnowFeathers). If you are using a paper punch, know that it can take several sheets of tissue paper at once. White tissue paper makes light airy feathers.
- \_\_\_ You can stuff and seal all the envelopes before readers arrive or have them stuff their own beds with feathers (or a combination).
- \_\_\_ Consider sealing the envelopes with tape (washi tape looks great) so that the reader can reseal the envelope and reenact the activity at home.

## GREETING READERS

Early arrivals could be invited to the craft table to stuff their “Little Beds” with paper feathers. Late arrivals or all the readers could simply be handed their envelopes stuffed with feathers. The Little Beds could be handed out with, “This is Little Snow’s big bed. There is something inside, but don’t open it yet! We’ll open later at a very important part of the story.”

## INTERACTIVE READ ALOUD

You are brilliant at read alouds. Here are simply some suggestions on how to engage with readers as the story progresses.

## COVER

**YOU:** “I see you all have Little Snow and his bed in your hands. Hold onto those and don’t open them yet! We are going to need those little beds later in the story. I am going to read from the picture book **A Big Bed for Little Snow** by Grace Lin. I am going to need some help from you as I read. Okay? Let’s open this story.”

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### SPREAD 1

*BOOK: When winter began, Little Snow's mommy made a new bed for him.*

*"Now you have warm feather to sleep on," Mommy said. Then she looked at her little boy, "Remember Little Snow, this bed is for sleeping, not jumping."*

*Little Snow grinned and nodded.*

**YOU: "Little Snow's Mommy has told him not to jump on his new bed. Do you think Little Snow will jump or not jump?"**

**ACTION: Allow time for readers to give you answers.**

### SPREAD 2

*BOOK: That night, tucked into his bed, Little Snow closed his eyes as Mommy kissed him goodnight.*

**YOU: "Can you give Mommy a goodnight kiss?"**

**ACTION: Air kiss the tops of your fingers and gesture out.**

### SPREAD 3

*BOOK: Thump, thump, thump.*

*Little Snow listened to Mommy's footsteps fade away.*

**YOU: "Can you make the sound of Mommy's footsteps with me?"**

**ACTION: Clap 3 times while saying, "Thump, thump, thump."**

**YOU: "Do you think Little Snow will go to sleep?"**

**ACTION: Allow time for readers to give you answers.**

*BOOK: Finally, it was quiet. Little Snow opened his eyes.*

### SPREAD 4

*BOOK: He rolled out of bed and looked at it.*

**YOU: "What does Little Snow's face say here? Does it say "Hmmm..."? Can you say that with me?"**

**ACTION: Tilt your head, purse your lips, and say, "Hmmm..."**

*BOOK: His new bed was so puffy and big and bouncy!*

**YOU: "What do you think Little Snow is going to do on that puffy, big, bouncy, bed?" [If they need prompting.] "Is he going to sleep on it? Or jump on it?"**

### SPREAD 5

**YOU: "You were right!"**

*BOOK: Little Snow grinned and then jumped, jumped, jumped.*

**YOU: "Can you make sitting jumps with Little Snow? Sitting jumps are jumps with just your arms."**

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**ACTION:** Demonstrate by lifting the book and your arms up and saying, "Jump!" three times. You can bend your knees when you do it for better effect.

**BOOK:** *Tiny feathers squeezed out of his bed and fluttered down.*

**YOU:** "Can you see what is happening here? Little Snow jumped so hard that he made a tiny tear in his bed. Feathers are leaking out!"

### SPREAD 6

**YOU:** "But wait, what does Little Snow hear?"

**BOOK:** *Thump, thump, thump!*

**YOU:** "Let's make Mommy's footsteps."

**ACTION:** Clap 3 times hands while saying, "Thump, thump, thump."

**BOOK:** *Uh-oh! Was Mommy coming?*

*Little Snow flopped down on his bed.*

"Little Snow!" Mommy said. "What are you doing?"

"Nothing!" Little Snow said, and put his head back down on his big bed.

**YOU:** "Let's put our heads down and pretend that we were NOT jumping, only sleeping."

**ACTION:** Tilt your head to the side, put your hand on your cheek, and make snoring sounds.

### SPREAD 7

**BOOK:** *In the morning when Little Snow woke up, he listened for his mommy's footsteps.*

**YOU:** "Do you hear any footsteps?"

**ACTION:** Make listening gesture with hand behind your ear.

**BOOK:** *It was quiet. Little Snow grinned and...*

**YOU:** "What do you think is going to happen next?"

**ACTION:** Allow time for readers to give you answers.

### SPREAD 8

**BOOK:** *jumped and jumped!*

**YOU:** "Let's do two sitting jumps with Little Snow!"

**ACTION:** Bend your knees, lift the book and your arms up and say, "Jump!" two times.

**BOOK:** *More tiny feathers fluttered down.*

**YOU:** "More feathers escaped his bed. I wonder where they are going?"

**ACTION:** Allow time for readers to give you answers.

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### SPREAD 9

**YOU:** "I see someone's feet? What sound do they make?"

**ACTION:** Clap 3 times while saying, "Thump, thump, thump."

**BOOK:** *Uh-oh! Was Mommy coming?*

*Little Snow flopped down on his bed.*

**YOU:** "Let's pretend we were sleeping, not jumping."

**ACTION:** Tilt your head to the side, put your hand on your cheek, and make snoring sounds.

### SPREAD 10

**BOOK:** *All winter, whenever Little Snow was near his big bed, he listened for Mommy's footsteps.*

**YOU:** "Do you hear any footsteps? I *think* it's quiet."

**ACTION:** Make listening gesture with hand behind your ear.

### SPREAD 11

**BOOK:** *If it were quiet, Little Snow grinned and then jumped!*

*Sometimes, Little Snow jumped small, soft jumps.*

**YOU:** "Can you jump four small whispery quiet jumps?"

**ACTION:** Bend your knees, lift the book and your arms up and whisper, "Jump!" four times.

### SPREAD 12

**BOOK:** *Sometimes he jumped big, high, jumps.*

**YOU:** "Let's jump three high loud jumps!"

**ACTION:** Put your arms up high and yell, "Jump!" three times.

### SPREAD 13

**BOOK:** *Once, Little Snow jumped so high and landed so hard, he made a rip in his bed!*

**YOU:** "Oh, no. There are feathers flying everywhere! Can you open up our small Little Snow beds now? What do you find?"

**ACTION:** Allow time for them to open their envelopes.

**YOU:** "Feathers! Throw them up and let them fly through the air!"

**ACTION:** Kids throw the feathers in the air.



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### SPREAD 14

*BOOK: What a lot of feathers fell that day!*

**YOU:** "What happened in this picture. Is it snowing? How is it snowing?"

**ACTION:** Allow time for readers to give you answers.

**YOU:** "We thought Little Snow's bed was on the ground, but there it is up in the sky! What do you think his bed is? Is Little Snow making it snow?"

**ACTION:** Allow time for readers to give you answers.

### SPREAD 15

*BOOK: When winter was over, Mommy came to clean out the feathers from Little Snow's bed. But there were no feathers! Little Snow's bed was empty.*

**YOU:** "Why is Little Snow's bed empty?"

**ACTION:** Allow time for readers to give you answers.

*BOOK: "Little Snow!" Mommy said, "Did you jump all the feathers out of your bed again?"*

### SPREAD 16

*BOOK: "Yes," Little Snow said, but he grinned, "Aren't you glad? Now all we have to do is fill it up again next winter!"*

**YOU:** "What do you think will happen next winter? Will Little Snow make it snow again?"

**ACTION:** Allow time for readers to give you answers.

"Let's fill our Little Snow beds up again for next year and put all our feathers back in your envelopes. Then you can take them home to make it snow."

**ACTION:** Allow time for them to collect the feathers.

# LITTLE BEDS FOR LITTLE READERS: Envelope/Bed Template



# LITTLE BEDS FOR LITTLE READERS: Feather/Snow Template

