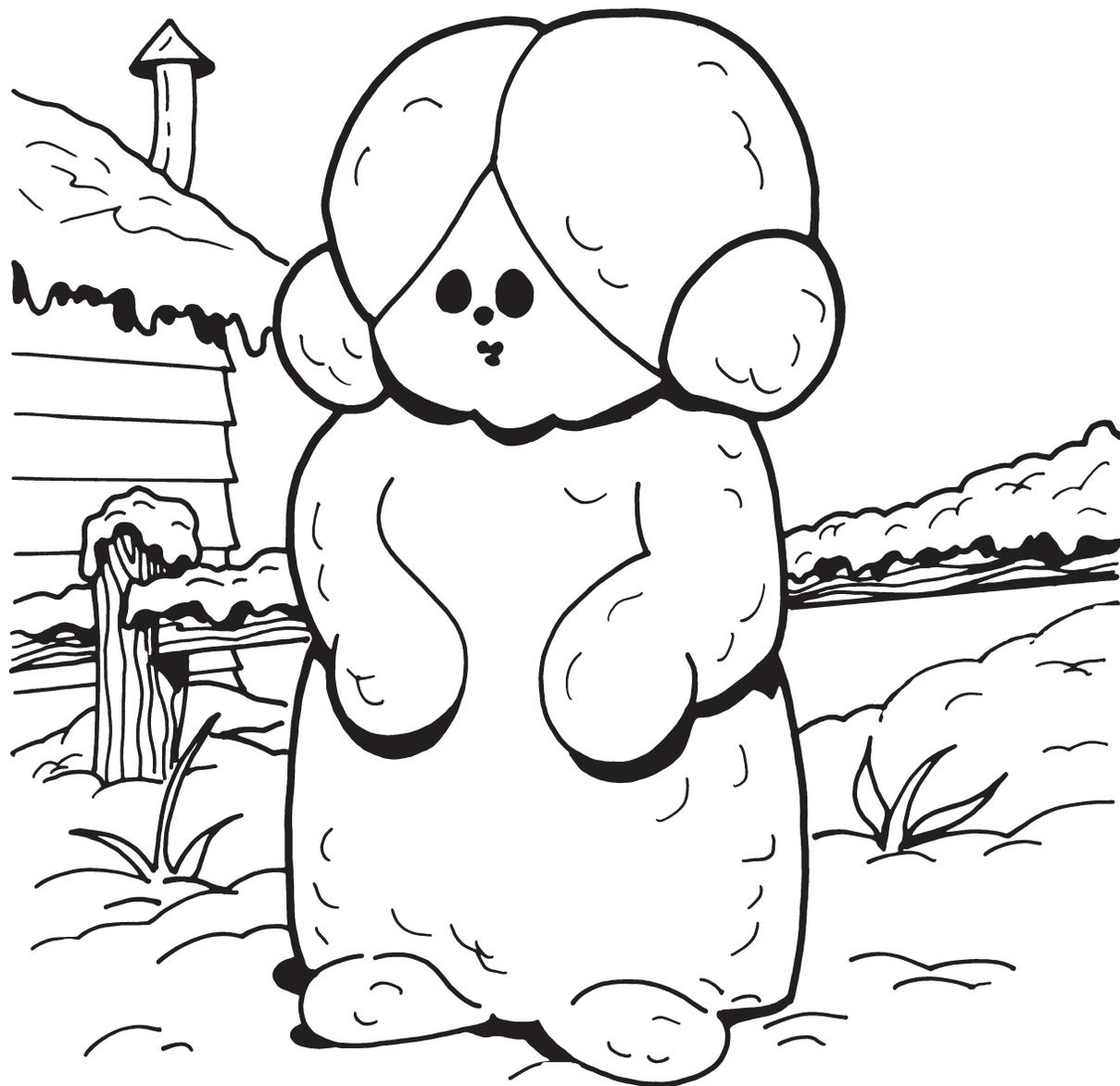


How to Use this Book

- Help the child enjoy this best-loved classic. If the reading level is above the child's present level, read to him or her.
- After reading, have a discussion about the story. Ask some or all of the following questions.
 1. Where did Ivan and his wife live?
 2. Why were Marie and Ivan unhappy?
 3. What did Ivan tell his wife they should do outside in their garden?
 4. What did Marie want to make instead of a snowman?
 5. What happened after the snow maiden was finished?
 6. What did the snow maiden look like after she came to life?
 7. When Ivan asked the little girl where she came from, what did she say?
 8. How did the snow maiden spend the first winter with her parents?
 9. What happened to the snow maiden when the first signs of spring appeared?
 10. What did the snow maiden finally tell her parents when the weather became warm?
 11. How did Ivan and Marie feel about their daughter leaving?
 12. What happened to the snow maiden?
 13. Then what happened one night when winter came again?
 14. Why were Marie and Ivan not so sad when the snow maiden had to leave after the second winter?
 15. Why could the snow maiden live only where there was cold weather?
- Ask: What might be another way this story could have ended?
- Encourage the child to color the delightful illustrations. Taking a hand in the creation of the story may result in increased enthusiasm for reading.

We hope you and your child or student enjoy and learn from this book!

The Snow Maiden





A long time ago, in the land of Russia, a peasant named Ivan and his wife, Marie, lived near the forest. These two good people loved each other dearly. They had many friendly neighbors, but Ivan and Marie were unhappy because they had no children.



They used to look out of the window and watch the children of their neighbors playing and laughing together. They wished with all their hearts that they, too, had a little child of their own.



One winter day, as they stood at the window of their little hut, they saw the neighbors' children playing in the snow. The children were having a good time romping, throwing snowballs at each other, and making a snowman.



Ivan turned to his wife and said, “Look, Wife, the children are having a good time making a man out of snow. Let us go into the garden and make a snowman.”

“That is a fine idea,” said his wife, and the two went out into the garden.

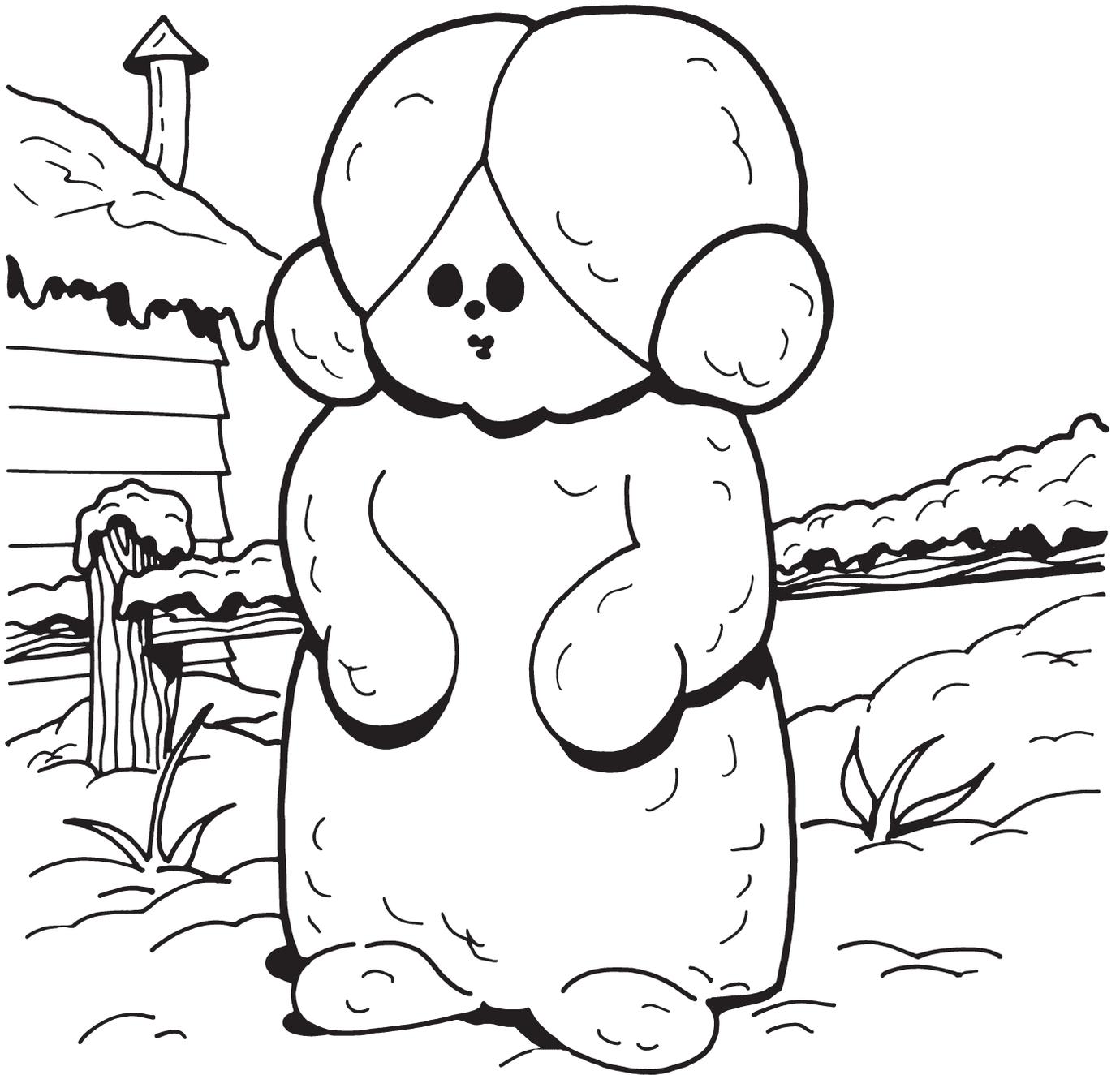


Then Marie turned to her husband. “I’ve been thinking, Husband,” she said. “Since we have no children of our own, let us make a little snowgirl instead of a snowman.”

“That’s a fine idea,” said Ivan, and they started to make a little girl out of snow.

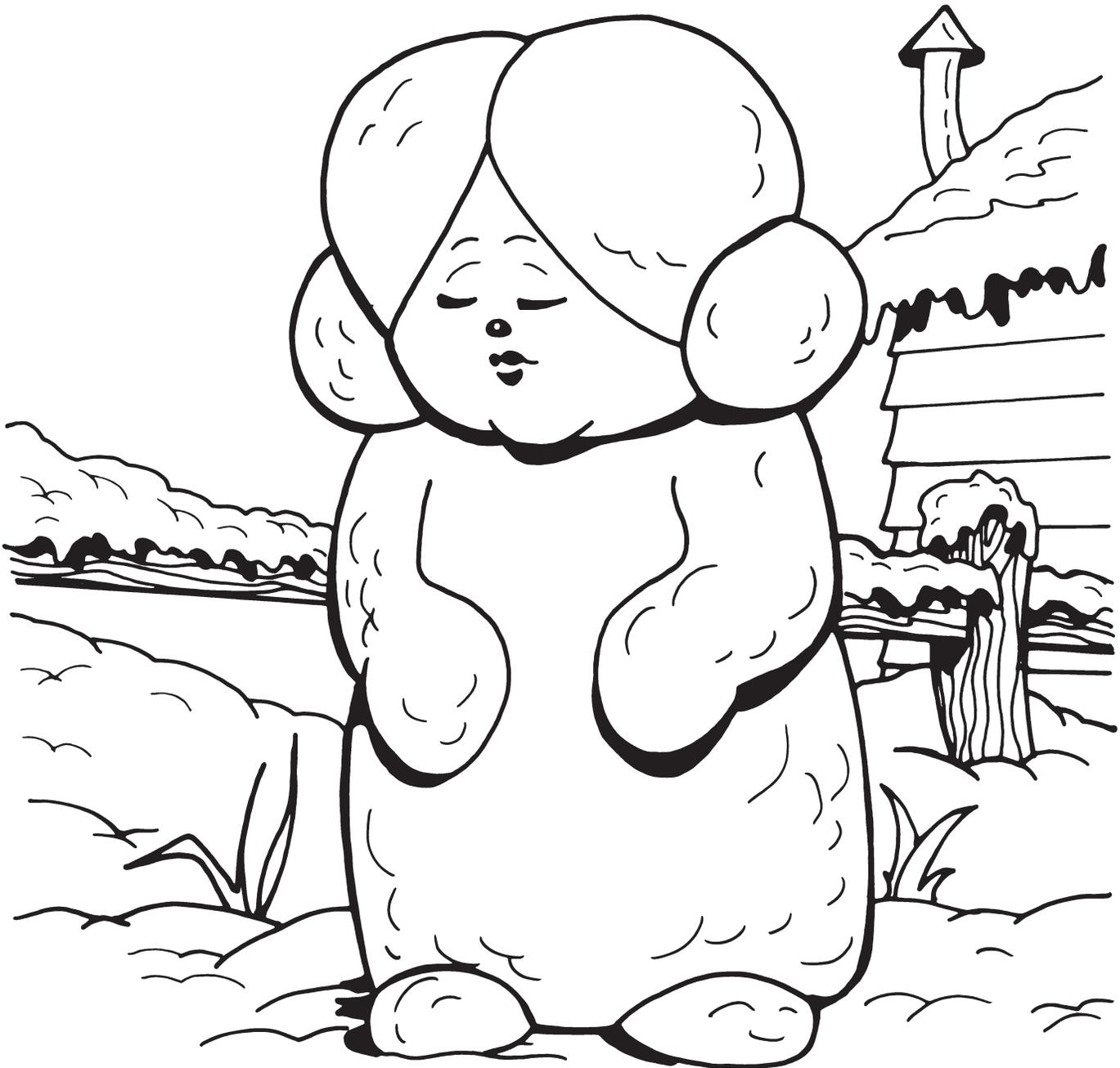


They rolled the snow together, and Ivan made a little body with dainty hands and feet. With much care, Marie fashioned a beautiful head with eyes, nose, mouth, and hair all of snow.



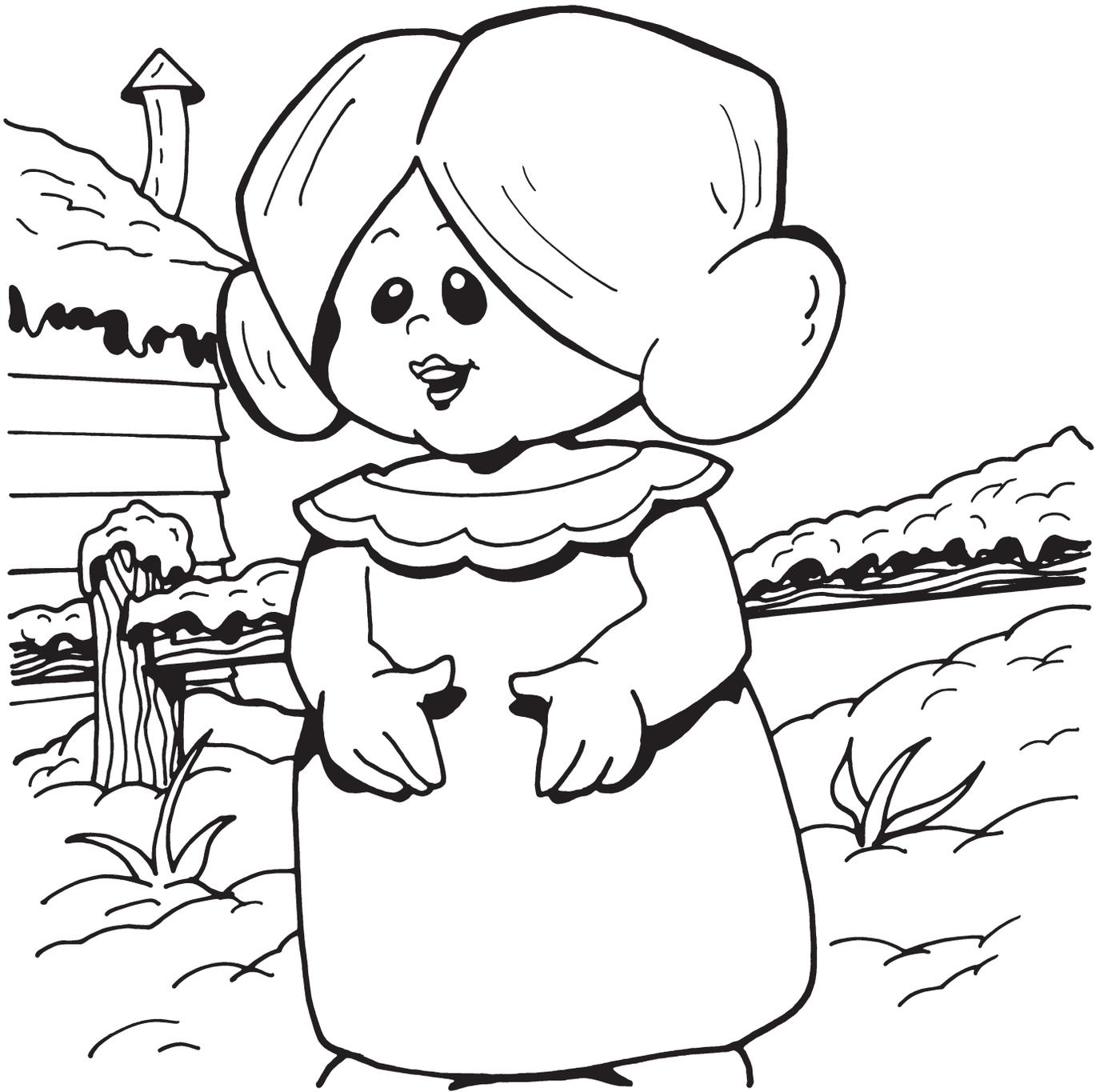
Then, very carefully, they placed the head on the shoulders of the little statue and looked at their little snowgirl. Never had they seen anything so lovely and never had they wished so much for a real little girl of their own.

“Little snow maiden,” Ivan said, “speak to us.”



“Come to life so you can play and romp and laugh like other children!” said Ivan.

A faint, rosy color began to creep into her cheeks. They thought they were dreaming. Then they saw a real little girl with blue eyes and golden hair and rosy cheeks standing before them.



At first they were too surprised to speak and just gazed at the little girl. Then Ivan said, “Where did you come from and who are you?”

“I came from the land of cold and snow,” the child replied. “I am your daughter, your own little girl.”



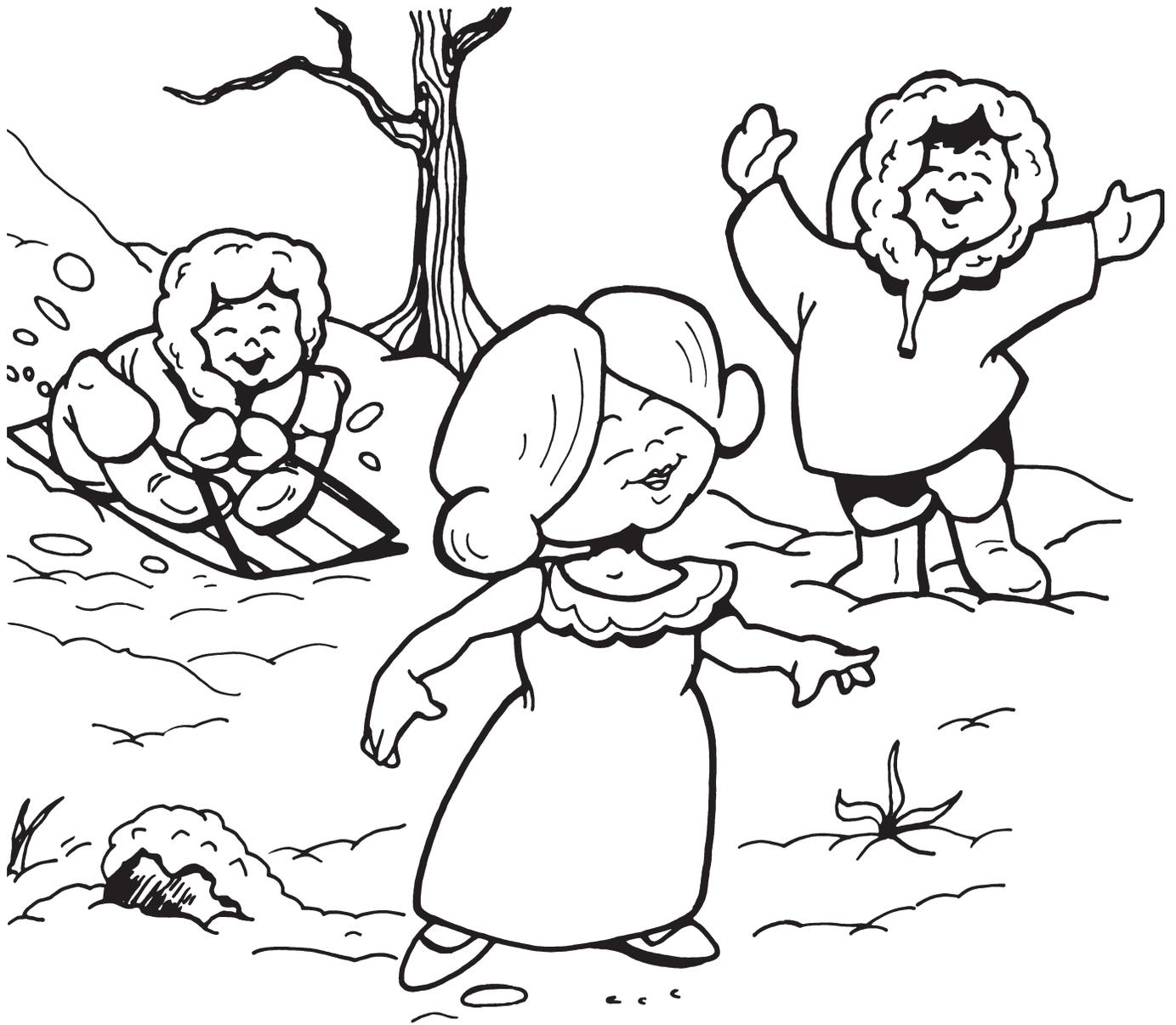
She ran to Marie and Ivan and kissed them, and all three of them wept for joy. Soon they were talking and smiling again, for this was the happiest moment of their lives. They called to their neighbors in the hut nearby.



The neighbors came over to see what was going on. Word of the couple's good fortune soon spread around. All the little girls of the village came to see the lovely little girl, the daughter of Marie and Ivan. Everyone celebrated the happy occasion.



All that winter she played with the other boys and girls while Ivan and Marie would stand outside of their little hut and watch her. Now they were happy, for one of the children playing in the snow was their own child and, it seemed to them, she was the loveliest child of all.



Everyone loved the little snow maiden. Everyone loved to hear her laughing and singing all day long. They loved to watch her running and dancing with the other children.



When the first signs of spring appeared, when the air became warmer and the snow started to melt, the little girl didn't seem as lively as before. She always seemed tired now and unhappy.



One day she came to Ivan and Marie and sang a sad little song:

*“The time has come for me to go
Away up North to the land of snow.”*

These were the words she sang and, as she sang them, her eyes filled with tears.



Her mother and father began to weep when they heard this sound and Marie cried out, “Stay with us, my darling! Do not go away.”

Ivan jumped up and barred the door so she could not get out, and Marie put her arms around the little girl and held her tight.



Even as Marie held her, the snow maiden began to melt away and soon there was nothing left but her cap and coat. Ivan and Marie wept bitter tears. Marie folded away the little clothes, saying, “Maybe she will come back to us someday.”



All that summer they were sad and lonely, thinking of the dear little girl who had gone away.

Then one night when winter came, they heard a happy voice singing, “Mother! Father! Open the door! The snow has brought me back once more!”



Ivan threw open the door and the snow maiden ran into his arms. All that winter she stayed with them and played with the other children of the village.

Ivan and Marie were so very happy that their little girl had returned.



In the spring, she had to go back to the land of cold and snow. Ivan and Marie didn't mind her going this time. They knew that every winter, when it got cold and the snow began to fall, the little snow maiden would come back to Russia again. They knew she would live with them until spring.

snow

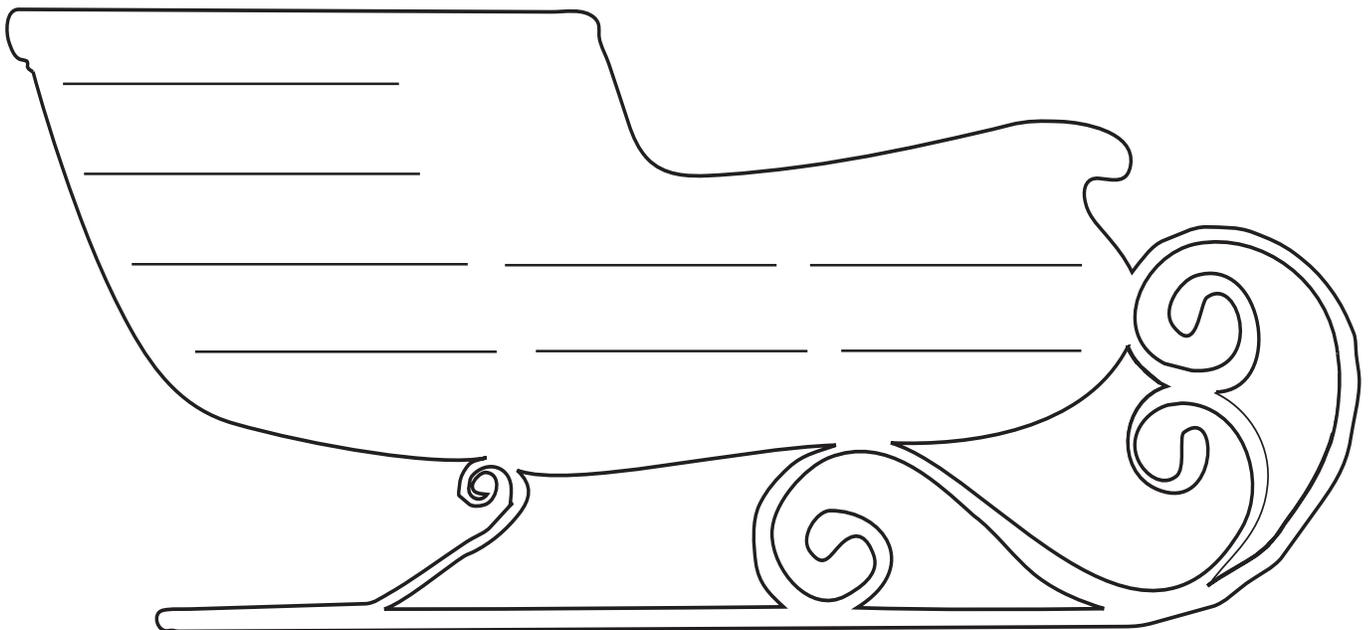
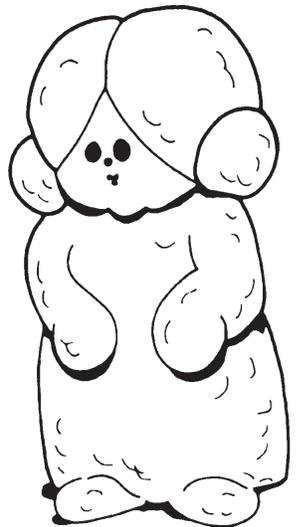
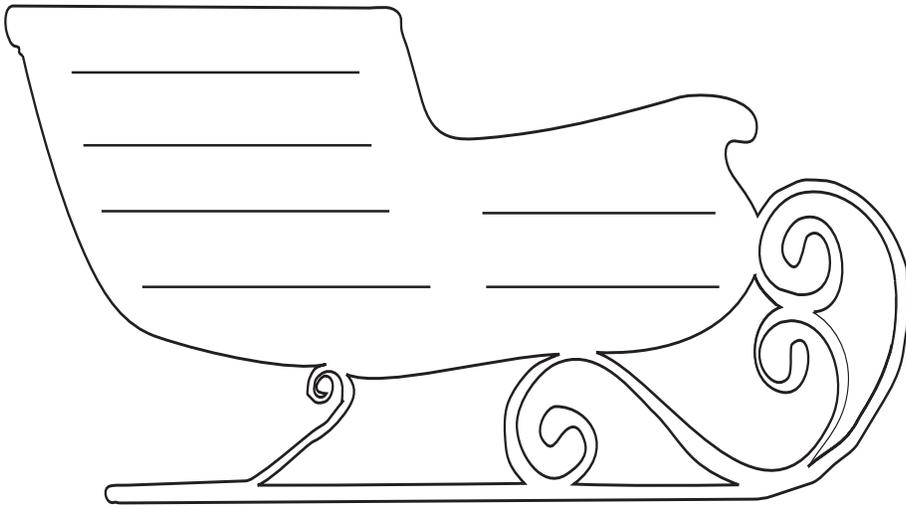
hot

Long and Short Vowels

Write the words with short-vowel sounds on the short sleigh.

Write the words with long-vowel sounds on the long sleigh.

hut	land	name	wife	man	blow	run
go	melt	rosy	smile	faint	little	cheeks



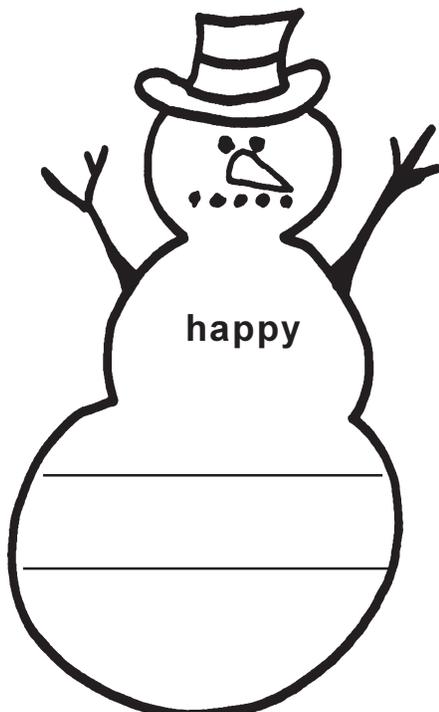
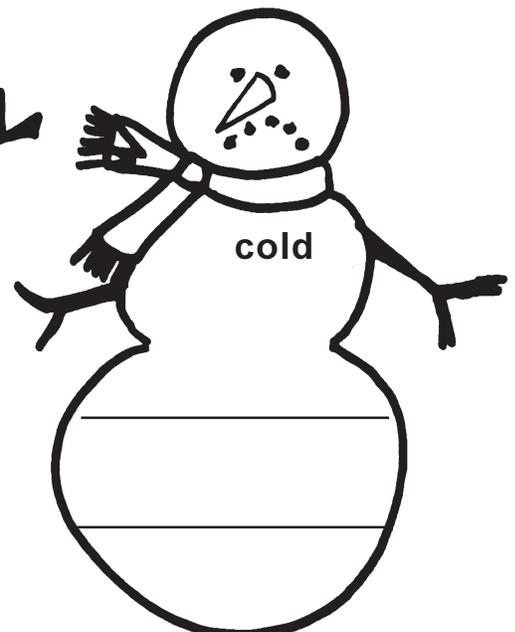
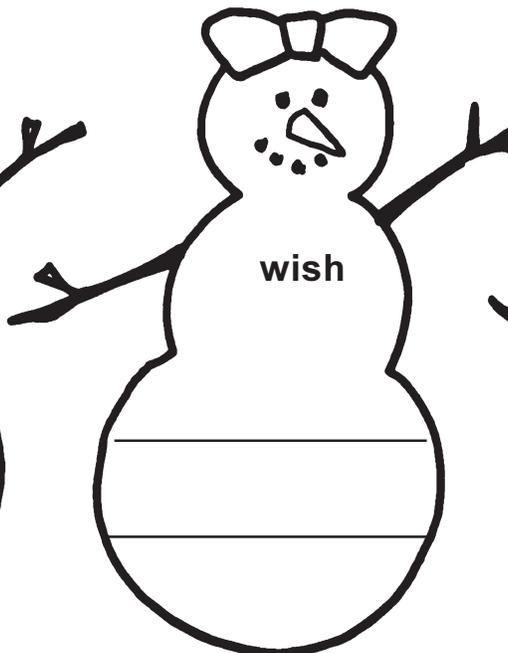
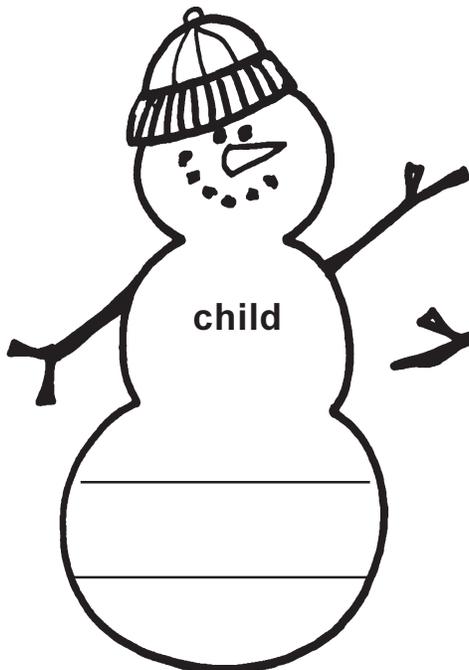
Classification

Groups of words can be classified because they are the same in some way.

Read the word on each snowman. Find words in the box that go with that word.

Write them on the snowmen.

desire	woods	go	toddler	icy	glad
kid	flee	trees	want	chilly	cheerful



Answers

- Follow-up questions:
 1. in Russia
 2. They didn't have a child. They wanted one.
 3. make a snowman
 4. a snowgirl
 5. it became a live girl
 6. She had rosy cheeks, blue eyes, and golden hair.
 7. "I came from the land of cold and snow."
 8. She played in the snow with the other little boys and girls.
 9. She became tired and unhappy.
 10. She would have to leave.
 11. They were sad.
 12. She melted
 13. The snow maiden returned.
 14. They knew she would return the following winter.
 15. Warm weather made her melt.
- Page 21: hut, land, man, run, melt, little; name, wife, blow, go, rosy, smile, faint, cheeks.
- Page 22: beautiful/ugly; best/worst; long/short; together/apart; good/bad; sweet/sour; winter/summer; mother/father; north/south; little/big; happy/sad; floor/ceiling
- Inside Back Cover: **child** kid, toddler; **wish** desire, want; **cold** icy, chilly; **happy** glad, cheerful; **leave** go, flee; **forest** woods, trees