

After school one winter day, Jack's mother told him to go out and play in the snow.

"But it's so cold outside, Mother!" Jack **said**.

"Put on your coat and your hat and your mittens," his mother **said**. "You can build a snowman before your father comes home."

"I'm going to need a carrot for the nose," Jack **said**. "And I'll need some things for the snowman's hat and face."



Jack **got** a bucket and **collected** everything he **needed** to decorate his snowman. His mother **promised** she would watch him build the snowman from the window.

Outside, in his front yard, Jack **started** with a very small ball of snow. He **got** on his knees and **rolled** the snow into a big ball.



At another window, someone else was watching Jack play. It was his new neighbour Naoko. Naoko **asked** her mother if she **could** go outside and help Jack build his snowman.

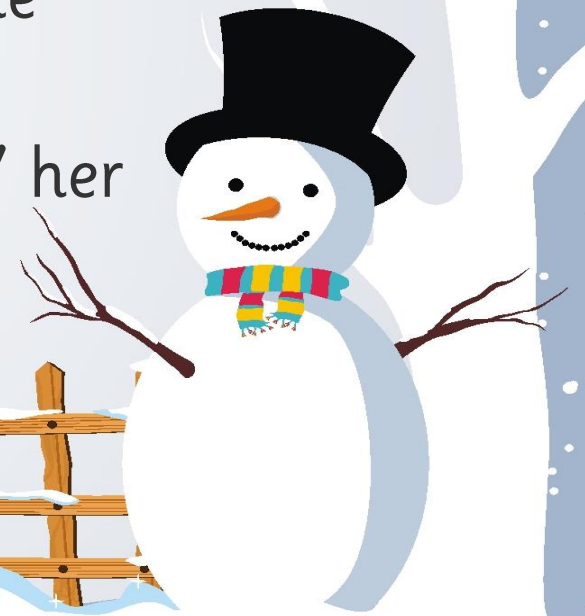


"It's very cold outside. Are you sure you want to go out and play?" her mother **asked**.

"Yes, Mother!" Naoko **said**. "I will wear my coat and my hat and my mittens."

Naoko's mother **helped** her put on her winter clothes and **promised** to watch her from the window.

"You can play until your father comes home," her mother said.



Naoko **ran** outside to Jack's yard and **asked** if she could help him finish his snowman.

"Yes, please help me," Jack **said**. "My father will be home from work very soon."

"Okay. What can I do?" Naoko **asked**.

"I built my snowman's body with two snowballs. I need to roll one more for my snowman's head."

"But snowmen only have two snowballs."



One is for the body and one is for the head," Naoko said.

"No, snowmen always have three snowballs," Jack said.

"I don't think I need you to help me after all."

Jack picked up some snow and made it into a small snowball. He got on his knees and rolled the snow away from Naoko to make the snowman's head.



Naoko **walked** into her own yard and **began** to build her own snowman.

"I don't want to build a snowman with Jack anyway," she **thought** to herself. "I'm going to make my own."

Naoko **rolled** two big balls of snow and **put** them on top of each other. When she **finished** that she **took off** her hat and scarf and **decorated** the snowman.

Lastly, she **found** some sticks and pine cones and **made** her snowman's eyes and mouth and arms.



Her mother **clapped** from the window.
Jack **made** a hat for his snowman with his
bucket. He **used** his mother's sewing buttons
for the eyes and mouth. Lastly, he **added** a
carrot for the snowman's nose. After he
finished, Jack's mother **smiled** and **pointed**.
His father was driving up the street.



Suddenly a terrible thing happened. The head **fell off** Jack's snowman and **crashed** to the ground!

"Oh no! My snowman **fell** apart," Jack **said**,
"and my father is almost home!"

Naoko **heard** Jack's cry and **ran** over to his yard to see what the problem **was**.



"I'll help you roll another snowball," Naoko **said**. "If we do it together we can finish it before your father gets home."

Together, Jack and Naoko **rolled** a new snowball. They **shaped** it with their mittens until it **was** round. Then they **lifted** it **up** onto the snowman's body and **decorated** it with the carrot and bucket and buttons.

"We finished it just in time," Jack said.

"Thank you for your help."



"You're welcome. I like your snowman better," Naoko said.

"Mine doesn't have a nose."

Jack **walked** over to look at Naoko's snowman. He **loved** the pine cone eyes and mouth and the sticks for arms, but he knew it **wasn't** finished. Jack **ran back** to his snowman and **pulled** the carrot out. He **broke** it into two pieces and gave half to Naoko.



"Hurry," Jack **said**. "Your snowman needs a nose and your father is driving up the street too."

"Thank you," Naoko said.

"You're welcome," Jack said. "I think our snowmen make good neighbours."

