

Winterquest 2020: A Frosty Foundling.

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Hello and welcome to WinterQuest! This is a streamlined version of our summer reading challenge, encouraging readers to stay active during the frosty winter months. The game works like this: attached is a story that tells you what is happening on each different section of the gameboard. To move through the game you simply read the kind of book we suggest for each section of the board.

The winter version is a take-home game only, there's no mural to move your characters through and we don't keep track of how many books you have read, so there's no need to check in unless you want assistance picking challenges. But we hope you enjoy it and have fun!

1. The Open Window. A broken thermostat and baking treats all day for a bake sale has left the house hot as anything. With the air too stuffy to sleep you leave the window open. It is icy outside and a few flakes of snow drift in through the window. The sprinkle of tiny cold sparks on your face are so pleasant you drift off into a deep and dreamy sleep.

Read an adventure book.

2. The Frost Baby. Bang! Clatter! You wake to a thumping inside your room. What the snow is going on in here? There is a very large blue baby sitting in a puddle on your bed, banging your toys and trying to eat them. Where did he come from? He seems very frustrated as he is trying to swallow an entire book but can only get half of it into his mouth. WHAAAAAAA! He roars a fierce cry. Oh no! Don't let him wake anyone up!

Read a fantasy book or a book about something strange.

3. Bake Sale Goodies. Shhh shh no baby, no baby, are you hungry? You pick him up, aww he's all wet, you wrap him in a towel as an improvised diaper and stagger as you carry him to the kitchen. There are pies and brownie pans, and cookies all around, cooling on the counter tops. The kitchen smells delicious. The baby thinks so too! He eats an entire pan of brownies. Not just the brownies, the pan as well. No baby! Don't eat that! You open the fridge to get him something else. Ooh he seems to love that: he toddles over to the open fridge and stands in the door. **Read an easy book or a funny book.**

4. Big Head Baby. What the fridge? Standing in front of the refrigerator it looks like the baby is growing a bit. How? In fact he is now as tall as the freezer compartment. He pat-pat-pats on the fridge and knocks the freezer open. In the cool mist from the icy

chamber his head grows even faster than his body below. He loses his balance and begins stumbling around crashing into things. He is now larger than the fridge, oh no this won't do! You better get him outside before he gets too big to fit in your home!

Read a book about a different culture someone different than you.

5. Into the Cold Cold World. Pow! You grab your coat (and some cookies to keep him quiet) and push him out the front door. Whew just in time too. He is about the size of a dumpster now. Where did this baby come from? He doesn't seem to be bothered by the cold. In fact he seems to love it. He is toddling up the street, stomping in the snow. Wait, what is that? A few blocks away, looming over the trees you see a pair of blue skinned giants looking at a very small guide book, a localized blizzard surrounds them, making them hard to see when they are up close, but from back here it is clear: yep, big snowy giants. They seem to have made up their minds. When a bus rolls by they hop on the top and roll off down the street. HEY YOU FORGOT YOUR BABY! You shout. As they are turning a corner the giantess glances back in your direction, waves a little 'toodle-oo' sort of wave then is gone from view. **Read a poetry book or a graphic novel.**

6. Frostanosaurus Rex and Tricarrot-tops. No. Way! You have to catch them. But how? You glance back. Okay, here is something strange. On the grass out here you had made a dinosaur zoo out of snow. Not snowmen but snowdinos. The triceratops has carrot horns. The baby seems to love this. As you watch he transforms into a very large snow triceratops. He is a shape changer! Perfect. Come on baby! You hop on his back and throw a cookie down the street for him to chase. WOOO! He gallops along after them. **Read a science or science fiction book or a book with science in it.**

7. A Wild Cookie Chase. A frenzied chase ensues. You hold on as tight as you can. The baby gallops after cookies. After a while you realize you can train him by at first pretending to throw the cookies, then simply promising them to him. The giants are easy to follow, they leave snow drifts behind wherever they have passed. Occasionally you can see them over the tops of houses and low-rise apartments. Come back! **Read a book that teaches you to make or do something, then make or do that thing.**

8. The Winter Zoo! Their trail leads through the park and into the zoo. Though you lose sight of them when the baby stops at the elephant house. He seems to love the elephants. Though the zoo is closed and the elephants are inside, he pauses at an elephant statue and pets it lovingly. Paff! In a flurry of snowflakes he transforms into a giant baby again, but with the head of a mammoth. Come on baby -- we have to find your mom and dad! **Read a book about an animal, or a book that has animals in it.**

9. A Fuzzy Friend. There they go! You see them stepping over the fence to leave the park. Let's go! You hear a moaning rumble behind you. The baby has something behind its back. Come on baby, what do you have? A whole polar bear! No you cannot keep a polar bear! But the baby doesn't want to give up the poor struggling creature. You trade the bear for a cookie and the great shaggy beast gallops away in panic off into the night. Come on! You climb onto the mammoth baby's shoulders and chase after his terrible, terrible parents. **Read an award-winning book.**

10 . Frost Giant Tourists. Apparently they are sight seeing, their personal blizzard leads you on a tour past every statue and monument until finally they stop at some memorial or another. Here you! What is the matter with you! Take back your baby! With a sheepish look they grumble something in giant and scoop the huge tot up into their arms. You are not sure exactly what they say, but they seem to think you were babysitting for them. The mother rumbles some kind of apology or thank you. She scoops a huge diamond out of her purse and hands it to you as payment. Well, that's alright. He was a good baby, and it is nice to get paid for the work you do. You carry the diamond home, and climb into bed. Unfortunately by the time you wake up, the diamond has melted. Sigh, Frost Giants. They really have no sense. **Re-read a favorite book or a book you liked when you were little, and you are done!**

Watch our facebook and library pages for dates for our WinterQuest Wrap up and check the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library website for interactive WinterQuest goodies.

<https://ftpml.org/>