

# *Blizzard*

by John Rocco

It starts with one flake, then another . . . and another! Inches become feet.  
Days turn into a week . . . will we ever make it out?

## **Audience:**

- K - 3

## **Synopsis:**

“Do you remember the Blizzard of . . . ?” Everyone has their own experience of early dismissals from school, snow days, and unexpected mid-winter breaks. It’s a magical wonderland until you can’t get out your front door, you’re running out of food and there isn’t a snowplow in sight! Problem-solving goes a long way (over a mile!) in this autobiographical tale of the historical Blizzard of 1978. A young boy becomes the unlikely hero of his snowbound neighborhood with an ingenious idea. Snuggle up with a cup of hot cocoa for a read you’ll never forget!

## **Author Website:**

- <http://www.roccoart.com>
- The Children’s Book Review John Rocco Interview: “Caldecott Honor-Winning John Rocco Talks About Blizzard”  
<http://www.thechildrensbookreview.com/weblog/2014/11/caldecott-honor-winning-john-rocco-talks-about-blizzard.html/>

## **Curricular Connections:**

- Reading Literary Text
- Narrative Writing
- Text-to-Self
- Text-to-World
- Autobiographical Writing
- Problem/Solution

## **Lesson Ideas:**

- Educator Resource/Activities Guide by Vermont Center for the Book  
<http://www.mothergooseprograms.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/blizzard.pdf>
- The Snowed-In Winter Book Festival (website) by Valerie Budayr  
<http://www.jumpintoabook.com/2015/12/winter-snow-festival/>
- Book Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/107765816>

## **Common Core Anchor Standards:**

- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.1  
Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.2

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.3  
Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of text.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.4  
Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.5  
Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.6  
Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.7  
Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.9  
Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

**Suggested Companion Titles:**

- The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
- Non-fiction e-book/print titles in School/Public Library collections tagged under subject: Weather/Snow/Blizzard
- More Companion Titles listed in Vermont Center for the Book Educator Resource Guide