





Talk About It

What do you think has happened in this photograph?



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PRECIPITATION

Vocabulary

technique	microscope
foolishness	magnify
inspire	negatives
evaporate	blizzard



Dictionary

Multiple-Meaning Words

have more than one meaning. Use a dictionary to find meanings for the word *negatives*.

Let It Snow

by Cynthia Robey

Do you have a **technique** for catching snowflakes? Some people run in circles trying to catch them. Others stand perfectly still with their tongue sticking out. It might look like **foolishness**, but it's fun!

Crystals to Flakes

A snowflake's shape is formed long before it lands on Earth. First, an ice crystal forms around a tiny piece of dirt in a cloud. Now it's a snow crystal. The crystal's shape depends on the temperature of the cloud.

Finally, as the crystals fall from the clouds, they stick together to form snowflakes. Each snowflake is made up of 2 to 200 separate snow crystals.

Studying Snowflakes

Snow crystals form into one of seven shapes. You probably know the stellar crystal best. These star-shaped crystals are not the most common, but they're the kind that **inspire** the work of most artists.

How can you study snowflakes before they **evaporate** and disappear? First, go outside when it's not windy and about 25° F. Second, bring a piece of dark cloth with you. This will make it easier to see the crystals. Finally, you will need to use a **microscope** to **magnify** the crystal to get a good look at it.

Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley learned how to make the crystals show up in photographs. He cut away the dark parts of the **negatives**.



Dangerous Snowflakes

If conditions are just right, beautiful snowflakes can turn into a dangerous storm called a **blizzard**. In blizzards, strong winds can blow the snow around. This causes "whiteout" conditions, making it very difficult to see where you're going.

Always pay attention to the weather. That way you can safely catch and study all the snowflakes you want.

Reread for Comprehension



Evaluate

Summarize When you summarize what you read, include only the important details. To decide which details are important, think about the main idea of the selection. Then ask yourself, "Do these details support the main idea?"

A Main Idea Web can help you decide which details are important. Reread the selection and summarize the main idea and the important details that support it.

