

Name: _____



Snow Elephants

By Donna Latham

“**Y**ay, Nick’s home from college!” Ella rapped on the window when she saw her brother.

Nick waved to her from inside his car. “My first wish came true! Nick’s home! Now, if only it would snow...” Suddenly, Ella scowled and wondered, “Who’s that guy with Nick?”



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Mom shrugged and smiled. “So far, we’ve had nothing.

“That doesn’t stop us from wishing for snow, right, Ella?” Nick winked.

“Blah,” Ella muttered. “Winter’s not much fun without snow.”

“Would you like a snack?” Mom asked. “Ella and I baked yummy cookies this morning.”

Ella twirled her hair glumly. She thought to herself, “Narong spoiled everything. Nick was supposed to come home to spend time with me. Why should I share him with Narong?”

Narong sat shyly at the kitchen table. He pointed to a plate of

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cookies. “Are those elephant cookies?”

Ella quietly grumbled, “Elephants are my favorite animal.”

“Miss Ella, the Thai people cherish elephants.” Narong’s eyes danced. “White elephants are a symbol of



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snow. Like you.”

“Snow elephants taste yummy,” Nick said as he crunched a cookie at the kitchen table.

Mom peeked out the window and saw swirling snowflakes tumbling softly from the sky. “Ella, look out the window! Your second wish finally—” Mom looked back towards the kitchen table. “Where did everyone go?”

Outside, Ella padded powdery snow into a ball. She placed it in Narong’s hand. Her wishes had come true, and she realized that she had made a new friend.

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1. What two things did Ella wish for?

2. How did Nick treat Ella?

a. He acted excited to see her



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4. When did Ella first smile in this story?

5. How did Ella's feelings toward Narong change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story?

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Vocabulary

Choose the correct definition of each underlined vocabulary word.

1. Ella rapped on the window when she saw her brother.
- a. leaned b. tapped
c. covered with paper d. waved

2. Ella twirled her hair alumply.



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4. White elephants are a symbol of royalty.
- a. hard work b. religion
c. strength d. having to do with kings and queens
5. Suddenly, Ella scowled and wondered, "Who's that guy with Nick?"
- a. looked confused b. smiled
c. made an angry face d. laughed out loud
6. I whipped up the snow-white frosting on these cookies.
- a. hit hard b. made
c. added color d. ate

ANSWER KEY

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1. What two things did Ella wish for?

Ella wished her brother Nick would come home and

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5. How did Ella's feelings toward Narong change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story?

At the beginning of the story, Ella was jealous of Narong. At the end of the story,

she realized they had some things in common and she liked him.

ANSWER KEY

Snow Elephants Vocabulary



Choose the correct definition of each underlined vocabulary word.

1. Ella rapped on the window when she saw her brother.



6. I whipped up the snow-white frosting on these cookies.
- a. hit hard **b. made**
c. added color d. ate