

# Plays for Young Audiences

A PARTNERSHIP OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY-MINNEAPOLIS

2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55404  
612-872-5108  
FAX 612-874-8119

## *The Snowy Day* *And other stories by Ezra Jack Keats*

By  
**Jerome Hairston**

Based on the books by  
**Ezra Jack Keats**

*The Snowy Day* was originally produced by the Children's Theatre Company in 2016

*The license issued in connection with PYA perusal scripts is a limited license, and is issued for the sole purpose of reviewing the script for a potential future performance. All other rights regarding perusal scripts are expressly reserved by Plays for Young Audiences, including, but not limited to, the rights to distribute, perform, copy or alter scripts. This limited license does not convey any performance rights of any kind with this material. By accepting any perusal script(s), Licensee agrees to and is bound by these terms.*

SCENE 1 THE SNOWY DAY  
SCENE 2 WHISTLE FOR WILLIE  
SCENE 3 GOGGLES!  
SCENE 4 A LETTER TO AMY

*Note: All characterizations and narration are performed by three actor/puppeteers*

*FEMALE PLAYER – Mom, Archie, Amy, various kid voices.*

*MALE PLAYER 1 - Little Peter, Peter, various kid voices*

*MALE PLAYER 2 - Dad, Willie, 2 Voices, Pepe, Boys and various kid voices*

#### MICRO SONGS

p. 3 Sliding Sliding  
p. 5 The Snow Isn't There  
p. 6 Toes Out Toes In  
p. 7 New Snow  
p. 8 Down and Up and Round and Round  
p. 9 I'm Gonna Whistle  
p.12 You Can Do It, You Can Whistle  
p. 13 I Can Whistle  
p. 14 Hide and Seek  
p. 14 We Got Some Goggles  
p. 16 Go Willie Go  
p. 20 Goggles Reprise  
p. 21 I'm Writing a Letter  
p. 22 I'm Gonna Mail a Letter  
p. 27 Happy Birthday

*A window. Gentle snow falls before it.*

ALL 3 ACTORS

One winter morning,

FEMALE PLAYER and MALE PLAYER 2

Peter...

MALE PLAYER

Peter.

FEMALE PLAYER

Peter woke up and looked out the window.

LITTLE PETER

Wow!

FEMALE PLAYER

Snow had fallen during the night. It covered everything as far as he could see.

LITTLE PETER

Snow!

MOM

Peter, breakfast!

*LITTLE PETER bounds out of bed.*

PETER

Coming!

MALE PLAYER 2

After breakfast, Peter put on his snowsuit. Peter put on his snowsuit!

*LITTLE PETER peels out of his PJs and hurries into the snowsuit. He pulls on his hood and runs:*

*Outside. A glorious cityscape blanketed in white.*

FEMALE PLAYER

He ran outside. The snow was piled up very high along the street to make a path for walking.

*LITTLE PETER steps forward.*

FEMALE PLAYER

Crunch! Crunch! Crunch!

*LITTLE PETER stops short at the sound, whatthe?*

FEMALE PLAYER

His feet sank into the snow. He walked with his feet pointing out.

LITTLE PETER

Like this.

*LITTLE PETER steps with his feet pointing out.*

FEMALE PLAYER

He walked with his feet pointing in.

*LITTLE PETER again demonstrates:*

LITTLE PETER

Like that.

*LITTLE PETER spies a broken stick.*

FEMALE PLAYER

Then he found something in the snow-

LITTLE PETER

*(approving)* A stick!

FEMALE PLAYER

...to make a new track. A stick just right for smacking a snow-covered tree.

*LITTLE PETER advances on a snow covered tree. He creeps towards it military style, then attacks! Hewhacks the tree with all his might.*

FEMALE PLAYER

Down fell the snow...Plop!

*The snow gets dumped on LITTLE PETER's head. He laughs, getting it in eyes and nose and mouth. He tastes some snow. Yummy. He hears the sound of a joyful battle nearby. He looks over and sees...*

*A group of OLDER KIDS having a snowball fight.*

Here it comes!

BOY TWO

Wait, wait, we're not ready.

BOY ONE

Ready, aim...

BOY TWO

*(laughing)* No!

BOY ONE

Take no prisoners!

BOY TWO

FEMALE PLAYER  
Peter thought it'd be fun to join the big kids in their snowball fight.

You'll never take us alive!

BOY ONE

Oh yeah! *(grunts.)*

BOY TWO

GROUP OF BOYS  
Ho! Nailed him! Nice shot! Good one!

Come on guys, not in the face!

BOY THREE

Again! Again!

GROUP OF BOYS

Missed me that time.

BOY THREE

Yea, keep talkin'!

BOY TWO

HA! Too fast for ya!

BOY THREE

LITTLE PETER

Where did they go?

*A few snowballs go by, then...the Snowball fight erupts.*

BOY TWO

BOMBS AWAY!!!

BOY TWO

We got 'em cornered, boys! NO MERCY!

BOY THREE

ARRRGH! I'm hit!

BOY FOUR

Oh no! They got Peanut!

BOYS

MAN DOWN! MAN DOWN!

*LITTLE PETER gets hit with a snowball. The BOYS run off.*

FEMALE PLAYER

But he knew he wasn't old enough.

PETER

Not yet.

*LITTLE PETER moseys over to a huge hill covered in snow.  
He starts building a snowman.*

FEMALE PLAYER

So he made a smiling snowman.

*LITTLE PETER appreciates his creation, then falls back onto  
the hill. He waves his arms and legs...*

FEMALE PLAYER

He made snow angels.

*LITTLE PETER gets up and looks up at the hill. He takes it  
on...*

FEMALE PLAYER

He pretended he was a mountain climber. He climbed up a great big, tall, heaping, mountain of snow and...

*LITTLE PETER stands at the summit. Then...*

**SONG: Sliding Sliding**

FEMALE PLAYER

SLIDING, SLIDING  
SLIDING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN (LITTLE PETER, “Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee”)   
SLIDING IN THE SNOW!

LITTLE PETER

Again, please!

FEMALE PLAYER

SLIDING, SLIDING  
SLIDING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN (LITTLE PETER “Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee”)   
SLIDING IN THE SNOW!

LITTLE PETER

Again!

FEMALE PLAYER

SLIDING, SLIDING  
SLIDING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN (LITTLE PETER “Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee”)   
SLIDING IN THE SNOW!

LITTLE PETER

Again!

FEMALE PLAYER

Enough.

*LITTLE PETER sulks off.*

*MALE PLAYER 2 has a little fun singing ‘Sliding’, until FEMALE PLAYER comes back out and gives him a look.*

*LITTLE PETER runs back out.*

MALE PLAYER 2

Peter picked up a handful of snow.

*LITTLE PETER starts packing a ball of his own.*

MALE PLAYER 2

He packed it round and firm.

LITTLE PETER

Snowball!

MALE PLAYER 2

Peter put the snowball in his pocket for tomorrow.

LITTLE PETER

Yeah.

*LITTLE PETER stuffs the snowball into his pocket. And marches back to...*

MALE PLAYER 2

Peter walked home with the snowball tucked safe in his pocket. He told his mother all about his adventures while she took off his wet socks, while they were having dinner, and while he took his bath. And when it was time for bed...

*The House.*

LITTLE PETER

And-and-and-there were PILES and-and...PILES.

MALE PLAYER 2

He still couldn't stop.

LITTLE PETER

And-and-and-A MOUNTAIN, and-and- and-there was this TREE- and-and-and-a PLOP-and-and-and--OH! I almost forgot -- did I tell you about the CRUNCH?

MOM

Yes, I heard all about the crunch.

LITTLE PETER

But what about the CRUNCH, CRUNCH, CRUNCH?

MOM

You told me about all three. And now I'm telling you - bed time. Nighty-night sweetie.

*LITTLE PETER gets into bed, gets a kiss from MOM. She exits. LITTLE PETER lays in bed with a sound of satisfaction.*



**SONG: I Got A Snowball**

LITTLE PETER  
I GOT A SNOWBALL, A BEAUTIFUL SNOWBALL.  
SAFE IN MY POCKET,  
GOOD NIGHT SNOWBALL, GOOD NIGHT.

LITTLE PETER  
What's that snowball? Not tired? Me neither!

*Peter then bounds out of bed. He is singing his snowball song while reaching into the pocket.*

MALE PLAYER 2  
His pocket was empty.

*LITTLE PETER keeps searching.*

LITTLE PETER (MALE PLAYER)  
No no no.

MALE PLAYER 2  
The snowball wasn't there.

*LITTLE PETER doesn't give up. Keeps digging.*

LITTLE PETER (MALE PLAYER)  
Noooooo.

**SONG The Snow Isn't There**

MALE PLAYER 2 AND FEMALE PLAYER  
THE SNOW ISN'T THERE.

LITTLE PETER (MALE PLAYER)  
WHERE DID IT GO?  
WHERE DID IT GO?

MALE PLAYER 2 AND FEMALE PLAYER  
THE SNOW IS GONE.

*LITTLE PETER eventually stops looking. He drags himself back to bed. He closes his eyes.*

MALE PLAYER 2  
While Peter slept, he dreamed.

***Dream Sequence.** The events of the day played in reverse. All the fun cycling backward, ending with the snow drifting back to the sky.*

MALE PLAYER 2

He dreamed the sun had melted all the snow away.

*LITTLE PETER wakes up. He rubs his eyes and looks out the window. A moment of disbelief, followed by that ear-to-ear grin.*

LITTLE PETER

*(wakes up)* No!

MALE PLAYER 2

Peter woke up and looked out the window.

LITTLE PETER

*(gasps)* Snow!

MALE PLAYER 2

The snow was still everywhere.

LITTLE PETER

Archie! Hey Archie!

*LITTLE PETER grabs his red snowsuit and runs off...  
**Outside.***

MALE PLAYER 2

He called to his friend who lived in the apartment across the street. They went out together into the deep, deep snow.

*LITTLE PETER and his friend, ARCHIE walk in their snowsuits. Stick in hand, LITTLE PETER walks ahead of his pal, showing him...*

LITTLE PETER

Now Archie, this is what you do. You walk with your toes pointing out. Like this.

ARCHIE

Ok.

LITTLE PETER

Ok-ok-ok, NOW, you walk with your toes pointing in. Like that.

*ARCHIE adjusts, looks to Peter for approval.*

ARCHIE

Good?

LITTLE PETER

*(looks)* Great!

ARCHIE

Yeah?

LITTLE PETER

Yeah.

ARCHIE

Yeah! *(short beat)* Can I carry the stick?

LITTLE PETER

Um. No. *(snow starts to fall)* You feel that? New Snow!

**MICRO SONG: New Snow**

MALE PLAYER, ARCHIE, LITTLE PETER

SNOW. SNOW.  
SNOW. SNOW.  
SNOW.

*then Transition to: WHISTLE FOR WILLIE - spring\_in the city.*

MALE PLAYER 2

Years went by. And Peter grew bigger.

FEMALE PLAYER

He could tie his own shoes, make his own breakfast and walk himself to and from school.

*Enter PETER. He strolls down the street. A stop light flips green to red. Traffic sounds. As he waits he leans against post and sighs.*

MALE PLAYER 2

One spring day, Peter saw a boy playing with his dog. Buster! (*whistle – dog enters*) Come on boy! (*dog runs to boy*) Buster! (*whistle – dog runs to boy*)

FEMALE PLAYER

Whenever the boy whistled, the dog ran straight to him.

MALE PLAYER 2

Buster! (*whistle – dog runs to boy, boy exits and whistle, dog exits*)

*PETER sees this and tries to whistle himself.*

PETER

Cool!

FEMALE PLAYER

Peter tried to whistle like the boy. He tried and tried to whistle, but he couldn't. He tried so hard, he got dizzy. Everything started to spin.

**SONG: Down and Up and Round and Round**

FEMALE PLAYER AND MALE PLAYER 2

DOWN AND UP AND ROUND AND ROUND.  
UP AND ROUND AND ROUND AND DOWN.  
ROUND AND UP AND DOWN AND ROUND.

*He regains his footing. He looks across the street. He sees the light is now green. He wobbles to the other side of the street. A dog barks.*

MALE PLAYER - PETER

Is that...

*Another bark.*

FEMALE PLAYER

Peter saw his dog, Willie, coming. He was so excited.

MALE PLAYER - PETER

*(whispers)* Yes! This is going to be so fun.

*WILLIE trots onto the scene. PETER wets his lips. He tries to whistle. He can't. Meanwhile WILLIE just walks on.*

**SONG: I'm Gonna Whistle**

I'M GONNA WHISTLE, HE'LL COME.  
THEN I'LL WHISTLE AGAIN.  
AND HE'LL RUN RIGHT UP TO ME. (*tries to whistle and fails*)

*WILLIE's gone.*

MALE PLAYER - PETER

(*sigh*) Dang.

*PETER keeps trying to whistle. He keeps failing.*

*AMY sees PETER as she jumps rope across the stage  
whistling.*

FEMALE PLAYER - AMY

(*a smile*) Hey, Peter.

MALE PLAYER - PETER

(*not looking up.*) Hey, Amy.

*PETER shyly walks by. AMY watches him go for a moment.  
Amy exits whistling. PETER stops and picks up a piece of  
chalk.*

MALE PLAYER 2

Peter picked up a piece of chalk. He didn't know what to do. (*PETER draws a line while  
trying to whistle. PETER stops and attempts to whistle, but fails.*) He wanted to whistle so  
badly.

*Willie barks.*

PETER

Ok, here we go.

*PETER steps up on bench and tries to whistle for a long time,  
then fails.*

MALE PLAYER 2

He blew till his cheeks were tired, but he just couldn't do it. (*Peter tries one more time to  
whistle, but fails.*) Nothing happened. (*PETER exits.*) Peter went inside and put on his father's  
old hat. Maybe that would help him whistle.

*PETER enters his house. Enter MOM.*

What are you up to, Peter? MOM

Can Dad whistle? PETER

He can. MOM

Can he teach me? PETER

He could. *(beat)* But he's not the only one, you know. MOM

What do you mean? PETER

*MOM whistles*

*(impressed)* Not bad. PETER

I try. MOM

Watch me try! PETER

*PETER tries and fails.*

It's all in the lips. First you pucker tight. Then just blow. MOM

*Tries and again failure*

Not so hard. Relax. MOM

You said pucker tight. PETER

Tight but relaxed. MOM

PETER  
THAT MAKES NO SENSE.

MOM  
Take it easy.

PETER  
It's too hard to take it easy.

MOM  
You just have to keep trying.

PETER  
*(tries and fails)* I can't do it.

MOM  
Yes you can.

PETER  
No, I can't. *(PETER starts to exit.)* Just forget it.

MOM  
Peter...

*PETER exits. MALE PLAYER enters.*

PETER (MALE PLAYER)  
I can't do it.

*SHADOW PETER appears and helps PETER.*

**SONG: You Can Do It You Can Whistle**

SHADOW PETER  
YOU CAN DO IT.  
YOU CAN WHISTLE.  
DON'T GIVE UP!

*(Live PETER shrugs him off.)*

SHADOW PETER  
YOU CAN DO IT.  
YOU CAN WHISTLE.  
DON'T GIVE UP!

*(Live PETER looks away)*

SHADOW PETER

*(spoken)* You can do it. *(Shadow PETER whistles.)*

PETER (MALE PLAYER)

It's all in the lips...pucker tight...blow.

*Peter takes a deep breath and out comes a great whistle! The Shadow Peter fades away. WILLIE starts to bark offstage.*

PETER (MALE PLAYER)

I DID IT!!!! *(PETER whistles again. WILLIE barks again.)* Willie – you're gonna get it now!!!

FEMALE PLAYER

Peter saw an empty box on the corner. He underneath it. Time to play a trick on Willie.

*WILLIE enters followed by PETER inside a BOX. PETER whistles. WILLIE grows more animated. PETER keeps whistling, WILLIE keeps wondering. PETER is beside himself. As is WILLIE, the mystery working him into a frenzy. He starts to howl. PETER erupts from the box.*

PETER

IT'S ME! *(whistles)*

*WILLIE races to PETER and leaps on him.*

PETER

Had you going, didn't I, boy? Come on boy, let's go home!

*WILLIE licks PETER's face. PETER and WILLIE run to....*

***The House.***

FEMALE PLAYER

Peter ran home to show his mother and father what he could do.

*PETER and WILLIE stand in front of MOM and DAD.*

PETER

Mom? Dad? Ready?

DAD



Show us what ya got, kid. (*Peter whistles*) That's my boy!

MOM

Not bad.

PETER

I tried.

MOM

I knew you could do it.

PETER

Thanks, Mom.

DAD

Give us another!

*PETER showcases his whistle for Willie. MOM and DAD applaud with the delight.*

FEMALE PLAYER

They loved Peter's whistling. (*PETER whistles for WILLIE again. They run off.*) So did Willie. When Peter's mother asked him to go on an errand to the grocery store, Willie was right by his side.

### SONG: I Can Whistle

PETER

I CAN WHISTLE. LISTEN! (whistle)  
I CAN WHISTLE. CHECK IT OUT! (whistle)  
HEY WILLIE! WANT SOME WHISTLING?  
LISTEN UP. HEAR ME WHISTLE!  
(whistling)

*WILLIE trots alongside PETER, who strolls down the street with a grocery bag in is arms. Chest out and cheeks puffed, PETER whistles proudly.*

FEMALE PLAYER

Peter whistled all the way there. And all the way back. (*PETER and WILLIE exit.*) Peter. Just kept growing.