

Introducing the story *The Mitten*

The Mitten is an old Ukrainian folktale retold and adapted by many different authors. Each version below presents the same story from slightly different perspectives:

- Tresselt, Alvin. *The Mitten*. Lothrop, 1964.
- Animals included in this children's book: mouse, frog, owl, rabbit, fox, wolf, wild boar, and bear
- Brett, Jan. *The Mitten*. Putnam, 1989. Animals included in this children's book: mole, rabbit, hedgehog, owl, badger, fox, and bear.
- Butkus, Heidi. *The Mitten*. Heidi Songs 2005. Animals included in this musical version: 2 rabbits, raccoon, wolf, fox, lion, bear, and mouse
- Wallner, Sabine. *The Mitten*. Unpublished, 2007. Animals included in this play: flea, mouse, rabbit, raccoon, fox, and bear. (see PALM4TEACHERS CLASSROOM MATERIAL)
- Aylesworth, Jim. *The Mitten*. Scholastic, 2009. Animals included in this children's book: squirrel, rabbit, fox, bear, and mouse.

The introduction of different versions offers opportunities for learners to compare and to contrast. Additionally, it encourages learners to invent their own versions and to retell them as an oral tale or as a play, in an audio or video recording or in written form in an own story book or as a comic version.

Creative writing can be introduced to very young learners by making use of the additionally provided classroom materials. Furthermore, songs and rhymes such as the ones suggested below can be used.

Example Concentric Squares: Winter Words (see PALM4TEACHERS CLASSROOM MATERIAL)



mittens, gloves,
ice skates, skiing,
making an igloo,
hat, windy, icicles,
snowflakes,
Christmas

Example My Mittens

(see PALM4TEACHERS CLASSROOM MATERIAL)



Write about a pair of mittens. Use the words above to help you.
Then draw your mittens.

If I had new mittens, they would be ...

yellow and cozy
fuzzy and warm.
And they would be
made of wool and
have thin black
stripes.



The Mitten – Action Rhyme by Marie Louise Allen

Can be found as a song with various melodies online

Thumbs in the thumb-place,
Fingers all together!
This is the song
We sing in mitten-weather.
When it is cold,
It doesn't matter whether
Mittens are wool,
Or made of finest leather.
This is the song
We sing in mitten-weather:
Thumbs in the thumb-place,
Fingers all together!

Hold up your thumbs

Hold up four fingers of each hand

Wave your hands

Wriggle the fingers downwards as if it was snowing

Hold yourself and shiver

Shake your head



Wave your hands

Wriggle the fingers downwards as if it was snowing

Hold up your thumbs

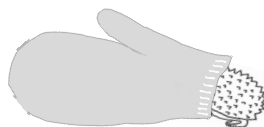
Hold up four fingers of each hand

The Mitten – Rhyme by Sabine Wallner
Song to the tune *The Farmer in the Dell*

A mitten is in the snow.
A mitten is in the snow.
Heigh-ho! It's cold outside.
A mitten is in the snow.



A (*hedgehog*) creeps in.
A (*hedgehog*) creeps in.
Heigh-ho! It's cold outside.
A (*hedgehog*) creeps in.



A (*fox*) creeps in.
A (*fox*) creeps in.
Heigh-ho! It's cold outside.
A (*fox*) creeps in.



... All kinds of other animals creep in or hop in...

Here comes the big sneeze.
Here comes the big sneeze.
Atchoo! They all fall out.
A mitten is in the snow.