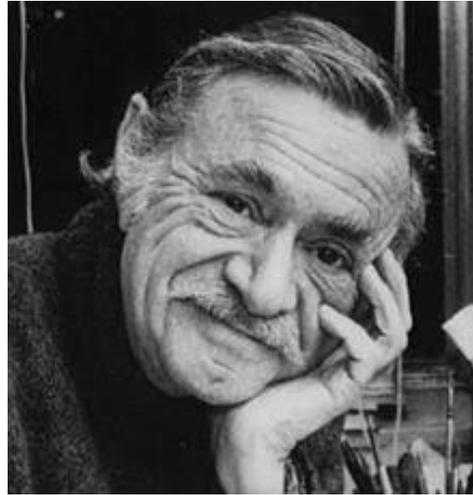


# EDUCATION WORKSHOP

## The Snowy Day



# MEET THE ARTIST // Ezra Jack Keats



Ezra Jack Keats was born on March 11, 1916. He was the third child of Benjamin Katz and Augusta "Gussie" Podgainski, Polish Jews who lived in East New York, which was then the Jewish quarter of Brooklyn. It was evident early on that the boy known as Jacob "Jack" Ezra Katz was an artistically gifted child. Unable to attend art school despite having received three scholarships, Ezra worked to help support his family and took art classes when he could. Among the jobs he held were mural painter with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and comic book illustrator, most notably at Fawcett Publications, illustrating backgrounds for the Captain Marvel comic strip. Ezra was invited to write and illustrate a book of his own. This was the first appearance of a little boy named Peter. Ezra's inspiration was a group of photographs he had clipped from Life magazine in 1940 depicting a little boy about to get an injection. The book featuring Peter, *The Snowy Day*, was

awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1963, the most distinguished honor available for illustrated children's literature at the time. Download a kid-friendly bio [here](#) and check out the links below.

[Ezra Jack Keats with Mr. Rogers](#)

[Making Art with Ezra Jack Keats](#)

[Ezra Jack Keats Biography](#)

[Fine Art by Ezra Jack Keats](#)

[BrainPop's Ezra Keats Video](#)

## ABOUT THE SHOW

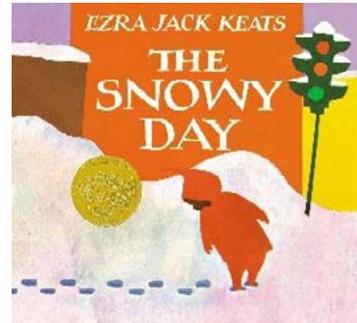
*Based on the books by Ezra Jack Keats Adapted by Jerome Hairston. Produced by Childsplay. From Tempe, Arizona. For more information click [here](#).*

Follow Peter and his friends through winter, spring, summer and fall as they romp and play, start snow ball fights and make snow angels, journey in space and under the sea, and more, all in this imaginative musical play. Using innovative shadow puppetry, *THE SNOWY DAY* celebrates the magic and boundless possibilities of childhood and the challenges of growing up. Learn more about the performance [here](#).



## EXPLORE // Classroom Workshops

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### ***The Snowy Day with Rain Sticks***

In this activity, students will [listen to the story](#), *The Snowy Day* and will discuss different weather patterns and seasons. Using rain sticks, students will explore different patterns and beats. Students will focus on the AB, ABA, and ABB pattern. As a class, students will musically create a thunderstorm.

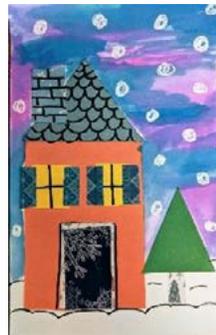
[VIEW LESSON PLAN](#) ▶



### ***The Snowy Day with Light and Shadows***

In this activity, students will explore different materials and compare the differences between transparent, translucent, and opaque. After reading *Snowy Day*, students will watch a preview of the performance *Snowy Day* and their use of shadow puppetry. Students will combine the different materials to create a window sun catcher that exemplifies transparent, translucent, and opaque.

[VIEW LESSON PLAN](#) ▶



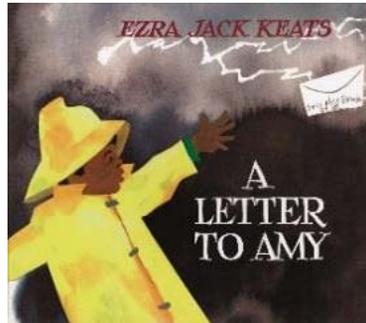
### ***The Snowy Day Art Collage***

In this activity, students will listen to the story *Snowy Day* and will create a mixed media collage to replicate the illustrations created by Ezra Jack Keats. Students will examine the story elements and will identify the beginning, middle and end of the story.

[VIEW LESSON PLAN](#) ▶

## CONNECT // More Ezra Jack Keats Stories & Activities

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Peter is having a birthday party, and he's asked all of his friends to come. But Amy is a special friend because she's a girl, so Peter decides to send her a special invitation. When he rushes out in a thunderstorm to mail it, he bumps smack into Amy herself and knocks her to the ground. Will she come to his party now?

### LETTER WRITING

Students will discuss the purpose and parts of a letter. Sign up your class to be international pen pals. Students will be exposed to a different culture than their own and will practice the writing letters in the proper format.

### [LEARN MORE](#)

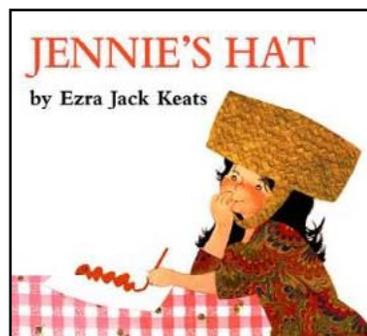


Archie wants to enter his cat in the neighborhood pet show—but where is the cat? Archie keeps on looking even after all the other kids have given up, but his pet is nowhere to be found. Ingenious Archie has a plan to enter the contest—with a most surprising creature!

### WEATHER AND SCIENCE

Students will discuss weather patterns and will create a wind vane. Students can track and record the direction of wind over the course of a week.

### [LEARN MORE](#)



Jennie can hardly wait for the new hat her aunt has promised her. "It will be big and beautiful and flowery," she tells herself happily. But when the box finally arrives, there is just a plain hat inside. Although a disappointed Jennie tries hard to make the best of it, nothing quite works...until a magical gesture of friendship makes her dream come true.

### ART AND SCIENCE

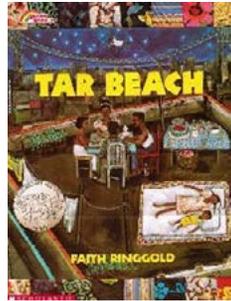
#### INTEGRATION

Students will use varied recyclable materials to create a non-traditional hat.

### [LEARN MORE](#)

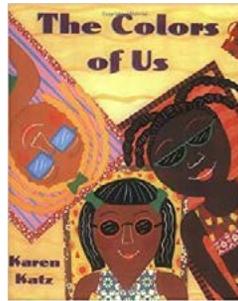
## ENHANCE // Diversity-based Literature

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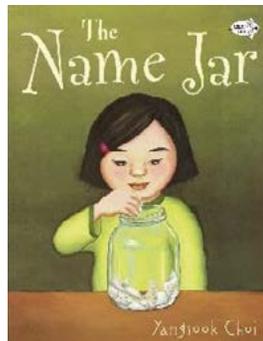
### ***Tar Beach* By [Faith Ringgold](#)**

Ringgold recounts the dream adventure of eight-year-old Cassie Louise Lightfoot, who flies above her apartment-building rooftop, the 'tar beach' of the title, looking down on 1939 Harlem. Part autobiographical, part fictional, this allegorical tale sparkles with symbolic and historical references central to African-American culture. The spectacular artwork resonates with color and texture. Children will delight in the universal dream of mastering one's world by flying over it. A practical and stunningly beautiful book. --Horn Book



### ***The Colors of Us* By [Karen Katz](#)**

Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades. Through the eyes of a little girl who begins to see her familiar world in a new way, this book celebrates the differences and similarities that connect all people. Karen Katz created this book for her daughter, Lena, whom she and her husband adopted from Guatemala six years ago.



### ***The Name Jar* by [Yangsook Choi](#)**

When Unhei, a young Korean girl, moves to America with her family and arrives at a new school, she begins to wonder if she should also choose a new name. Her classmates suggest Daisy, Miranda, Lex and more, but nothing seems to fit.

Does she need an American name? How will she choose? And what should she do about her Korean name?

**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
SHADOW PUPPETRY BELOW**

[The Story of Puppetry for Kids](#)

[An In-Depth History](#)

[Shadow Puppets & Science](#)