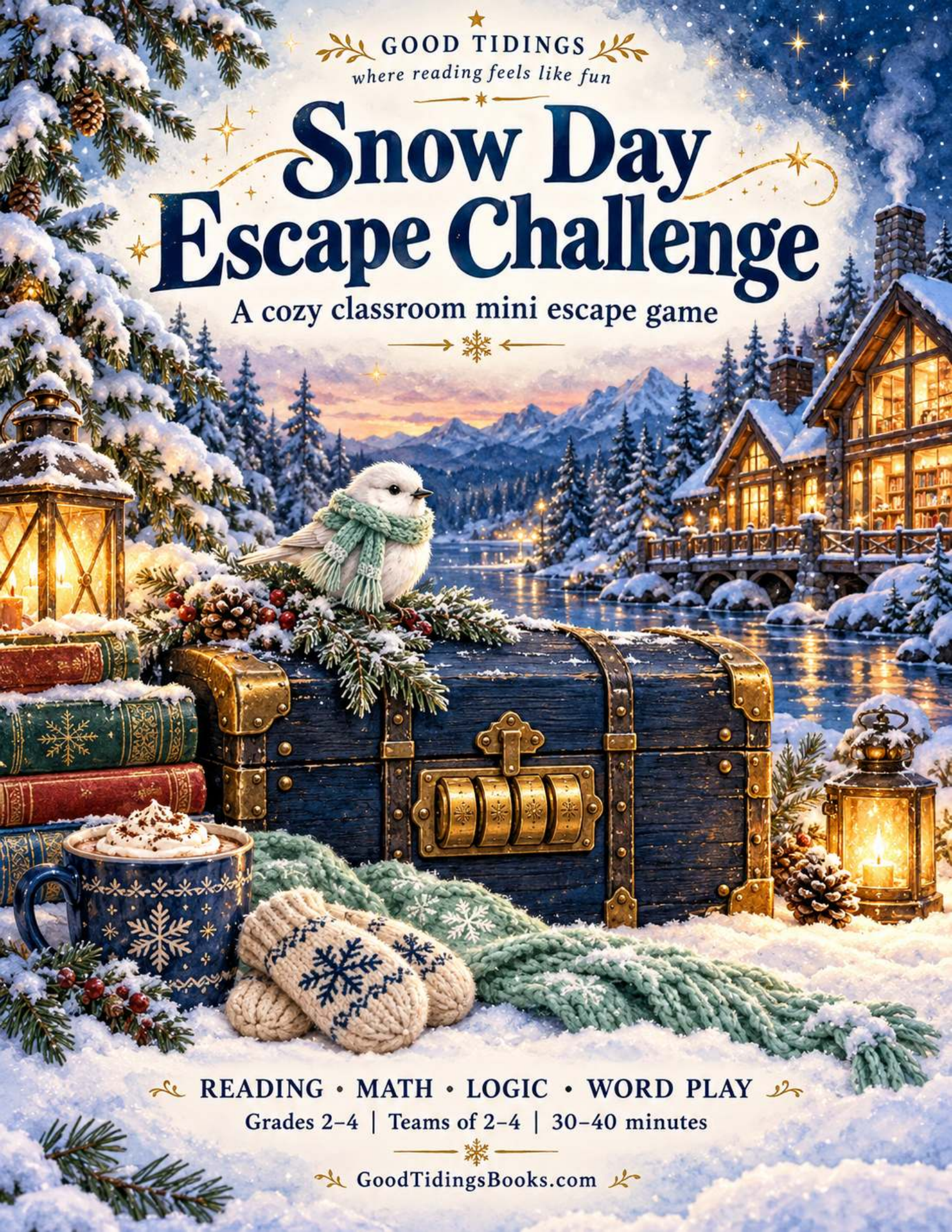

GOOD TIDINGS
where reading feels like fun
Snow Day Escape Challenge
A cozy classroom mini escape game
READING • MATH • LOGIC • WORD PLAY
Grades 2–4 | Teams of 2–4 | 30–40 minutes
GoodTidingsBooks.com

GOOD TIDINGS
where reading feels like fun

Teacher Field Guide

SNOW DAY ESCAPE CHALLENGE

Keep this page and the answer key with you.

Purpose: Teams solve four puzzles to open an imaginary story chest. The escape is fictional; the classroom stays open. No lock, hiding places, food, or special props are needed.

Prepare: Print pages 3-7 for each team. Print page 8 for hints; keep page 9 private. Page 10 is the celebration reveal. Supply pencils and scrap paper. Optional: a sealed envelope or box holding a favorite read-aloud.

Launch (5 minutes): Read the mission on page 3. Assign or let students choose roles: reader, recorder, clue checker, encourager. In smaller teams, combine roles. Rotate after each puzzle.

Play (20-25 minutes): Give all four puzzle pages together. Teams may solve in any order, but record digits in the numbered order on the log. Ask for evidence before accepting a digit. Offer hints freely; there is no penalty.

Finish (5-10 minutes): Check codes privately against page 9. If a code is incorrect, point to a puzzle to revisit. Once solved, reveal page 10 and enjoy a short read-aloud. Treat the time as a guide, with no elimination.

Support: Read directions aloud without giving answers; use counters for the math and name slips for the logic. A partner may scribe. Students can draw, tell, or write their reasoning. For grade 1, lead as a whole group; for grades 4-5, ask teams to create a new clue with one unique answer.

Learning goals: Cite reading clues, solve a two-step equal-groups problem, test positional constraints, and decode initial letters. Skills connect to reading evidence, operations, vocabulary, and collaborative discussion. Use as enrichment or review, rather than a timed assessment.

GOOD TIDINGS

where reading feels like fun

Name: _____ Date: _____

Your Snow Day Mission

TEAM MISSION LOG

A message from the Good Tidings bird

Dear Snow Day Solvers,

The reading lodge is warm, but the Snow Day Story Chest is locked! I tucked its four code digits into four puzzles. Work together, show your thinking, and bring your code to your teacher. A cozy story celebration is waiting!

Your snowy friend, the Good Tidings bird

Team name: _____

1. Solve each puzzle together. **2.** Record its digit below.
3. Read the code from left to right. **4.** Ask your teacher to check it.

1 / Reading	2 / Math	3 / Logic	4 / Words
Lantern Note	Cocoa Supply	Mitten Pegs	Frost Message

Team agreement: Every voice matters. Explain your thinking, listen for another idea, and ask for a hint whenever you need one.

One way we helped each other:

_____

_____

GOOD TIDINGS

where reading feels like fun

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The Lantern Note

READ CLOSELY / FIND THE FIRST DIGIT

The bird left a note beside three lantern shelves. Read the note, then choose the shelf it describes.

"I need a lantern with a candle that still burns. Choose the shelf away from the drafty window. The shelf I mean is below the clock. Its tag gives your first code digit."

Shelf A

Beside the drafty window. A candle glows inside its lantern.

TAG 7

Shelf B

Below the clock, far from the window. Its lantern candle glows.

TAG 4

Shelf C

Below the clock, far from the window. Its candle has gone out.

TAG 9

We choose shelf ____ because these two clues fit:

_____

_____

Our digit: ☐ Record it on your Mission Log.

Name: _____ Date: _____

2. The Cocoa Supply

USE MATH / FIND THE SECOND DIGIT

The lodge has **24 paper cups.** The bird sets aside **6 cups** for tomorrow. The rest must be shared equally among **3 reading tables.**

How many cups does each reading table get?

That number is your second code digit. Count cups, not cocoa ingredients!

First, find how many cups are left to share.

24 - 6 = _____ cups

Next, share those cups equally among 3 tables.

_____ divided by 3 = _____ cups at each table

Draw equal groups or show another way to check:

_____

_____

_____

Our digit: ☐ Record it on your Mission Log.

GOOD TIDINGS
where reading feels like fun

Name: _____ Date: _____

3. The Mitten Pegs

TEST THE CLUES / FIND THE THIRD DIGIT

Ada, Bo, and Cal each hang one pair of mittens on a different peg. Each peg holds exactly one pair. Use all the clues.

Clue 1: Ada uses neither the left peg nor the right peg.

Clue 2: Bo uses a peg to the left of Cal.

PEG 1	PEG 2	PEG 3
LEFT	MIDDLE	RIGHT
Name: _____	Name: _____	Name: _____







Which peg holds Cal's mittens? Its number is your digit.

How do both clues fit your arrangement?

_____

_____

Our digit: ☐ Record it on your Mission Log.

GOOD TIDINGS

where reading feels like fun

Name: _____ Date: _____

4. The Frost Message

SOLVE WORD CLUES / FIND THE FOURTH DIGIT

Choose one word from the word bank for each clue. Use every word once.
Write each answer, then read the first letters from top to bottom.

WORD BANK: TREE OWL FLAKE SNOW READ

1. A tiny piece of falling snow is a snow_____.
   Answer: _____

2. To enjoy a book, you _____ it.
   Answer: _____

3. This bird is known for its "hoot."
   Answer: _____

4. Frozen white flakes that fall from clouds.
   Answer: _____

5. An evergreen is one kind of this tall plant.
   Answer: _____

Secret winter word: ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Count its letters. That count is your fourth code digit.

Our digit: ☐ Record it on your Mission Log.

GOOD TIDINGS
where reading feels like fun

Snowflake Hint Cards

TEACHER COPY

Cut apart or read aloud. Offer one hint at a time.

1 / The Lantern Note



Hint 1:
Check the window clue first. Which shelf can you rule out?

Hint 2:
Compare the two shelves below the clock. Which candle still burns?

2 / The Cocoa Supply



Hint 1:
Set aside tomorrow's cups before sharing any cups.

Hint 2:
After subtracting 6 from 24, divide what remains into 3 equal groups.

3 / The Mitten Pegs



Hint 1:
Which peg is neither left nor right? Put Ada there.

Hint 2:
Two pegs remain. Bo must be on the left side of Cal.

4 / The Frost Message



Hint 1:
Use the word bank. The first answer completes "snow_____."

Hint 2:
Take just the first letter of each answer, in clue order. Count the letters.

GOOD TIDINGS
where reading feels like fun

The Keeper's Answer Key

TEACHER ONLY / KEEP PRIVATE

Story Chest Code:

4-6-3-5

1 / Reading: 4

Shelf B is away from the window, below the clock, and holds a burning candle. Shelf A fails the location clue. Shelf C fails the burning-candle clue. Shelf B has tag 4.

2 / Math: 6

24 - 6 = 18 cups left. 18 divided by 3 = 6 cups per reading table. Check: 6 + 6 + 6 + the 6 set aside = 24.

3 / Logic: 3

Ada must use peg 2. Bo uses peg 1 and Cal uses peg 3 because Bo is to the left of Cal. There is only one arrangement.

4 / Words: 5

The answers, in order, are FLAKE, READ, OWL, SNOW, TREE. Their first letters spell FROST. FROST has 5 letters.

Check the Code

Accept 4635 only in puzzle order. If the digits are right but mixed up, direct students back to the numbered boxes on page 3. If a digit is wrong, ask the team to show its reasoning and revisit that puzzle.

Reveal

Show or read page 10 once a team succeeds. Early finishers may draw a new story-chest treasure or write a fresh lantern clue. Close with one shared read-aloud so everyone joins the celebration.

GOOD TIDINGS

where reading feels like fun

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Story Chest Opens!

FINAL REVEAL

Read after your code is checked.

Inside the chest is a note:

"You found the best snow day treasure: a story to share and a team that listens. Choose a cozy read-aloud and let the next adventure begin!"

With snowy thanks, the Good Tidings bird

Our team's strongest clue was...

_____

_____

Draw it, tell it to a partner, or write your answer.