

The Blizzard

There were three kids outside on a snowy day in the forest. They were working on a report for school about winter animals. Their names were Amy, Clarissa, and Hope. They were pretty far in the forest when Amy realized she was cold, Clarissa realized she was hungry, and Hope realized she was tired. All three wanted to go inside. They sat down in the snow and thought. Their project was going nowhere. Suddenly a blizzard struck! All three girls huddled together. They tried to shuffle into a ditch, but could not find one. Then Hope saw the outline of a cave, and they ran into it. Once out of the snow they realized that it was already late and the blizzard was too hard to get through, so they decided to stay in the cave for the night.

The next morning when they woke up and looked outside of the cave. It was a winter wonderland! Amy squealed and ran outside into the snow, making snow angels. Clarissa walked out and gasped. Hope sat down on a rock and looked around. Amy said to Clarissa and Hope, "This is so beautiful!" Clarissa and Hope agreed, then Hope said, "But how are we

going to get home? We have no idea where we are.” They decided to try to draw a map, but that did not turn out so well. Clarissa offered that they just relax until someone found them, their parents were probably worried and would come soon. Amy had an idea: she had a phone, so she could call their parents to come and pick them up. Amy pulled out her phone, and saw that there was no signal where they were. When a Canada goose swooped over their heads, they ducked and Hope said, “Oh no! How are we going to get food? The girls went into panic, because they needed food and water! Clarissa said, “We can eat the snow for water, and for food maybe the animals can help us.” Hope said “But how will the animals trust us? They usually just run away.” (Hope asks a lot of questions.) Clarissa had an idea: they would dress up as animals and then the animals would help them find food. Amy said she knew how to sew, so she could help put their costumes together. So they got started: Hope found fur from animals that had died, Clarissa cleaned the fur off, and Amy sewed the fur back together. By the end of the day, they had three animal costumes: a goose for Amy, a polar bear cub for Clarissa, and a penguin for Hope.

They all set off to find another animal to help them. Amy was happily flapping in her outfit when she heard a howl. She turned to see a fox moving toward her, and when it was

about to pounce, five other geese flew in front of her and scared the fox away. Then they looked at her and flew off, Amy followed happily. Meanwhile, in another part of the forest, Clarissa was walking as quietly as she could, when suddenly a huge polar bear stood up in front of her! She backed away from it hoping it was a female, because male polar bears eat cubs, the polar bear pushed her toward two other cubs waiting in the snow bank. Clarissa brightened realizing it was a female, than she followed the other two cubs into their cave.

While this was happening, Hope was hoping she would find a flock of penguins because it was getting late and she was hungry. After walking a little bit more, Hope spotted a lake that was half frozen and knowing that penguins liked water she sat down by the edge. After tapping her feet on the ice for a few minutes, a seal spotted her and decided to have an early dinner. When the seal bit at her feet and started pulling her into the water, Hope remembered that seals like to eat penguins. Frightened, she tugged back, than, out of thin air, a group of penguins came and rescued her. One of the little penguins grabbed her flipper and pulled Hope into their flock. Happy to finally find some penguins, Hope held onto the baby's flipper and walked into the group.

Then, late at night, after all three girls had snuck out of their groups, they were talking about what they had done with their group. Amy said that she had been happily walking, and when a wolf had tried to attack her, she had beat it up, and a group of Canada geese made her their leader because of her bravery. (Amy made that up.) Clarissa said she had been walking quietly and a huge polar bear had picked her up and thrown her into its cave. (Clarissa wanted her story to be more exciting.) Hope said that she was walking quietly, and then she saw a frozen lake. She tapped her feet on it, and a seal grabbed her! Then other penguins beat up the seal and a baby took her into their group. (Hope told the truth.) Settling down by their fire, Amy, Clarissa, and Hope fell asleep.

Early the next morning, they ran off to where their groups were sleeping. Amy was flying along with the other Canada geese, when she remembered something: that when she and her friends got back home they were going to have to turn in their report on winter animals! Amy got worried! They had not even started the report yet. So Amy decided that when she saw Clarissa and Hope again, she would tell them that they needed to work on their report. As Amy had planned, the girls met at lunch on a log. Amy explained that they would have to start working on their report. Then Clarissa had an idea. Clarissa said, "Our report is

about winter animals, and almost all day we have been with winter animals. So how about every time we see the animals do something interesting we jot it down on a notebook." All three girls agreed that it was a great idea.

So that's what they did. When Hope was waddling along with her flock, she saw one penguin jump and slide on her stomach. It was a faster way to go places. Hope immediately jotted it down on her notebook, then she did the same thing the other penguin did, and she slid away.

For a few weeks Amy, Hope, and Clarissa got food from the animals, walked, and slept with them too. One day all of their groups went together and while they were walking Hope spotted an archway of snow and called Clarissa and Amy to come see. While they were looking at it, suddenly Clarissa gasped! Right through the archway was their houses! Amy, Clarissa, and Hope realized it was time for them to go home. They said goodbye to all their animal friends and stepped through the archway. When they got to the other side, the archway disappeared and the girls walked home.

When Amy got home, she realized that when she and her friends had been in the forest, no time had passed at home. Her mother said "Hi sweetie, did you finish your report?" Amy happily said yes. Out of the blue, her mother said "where did you get that cute little bunny?" Amy turned around to see a snow white bunny behind her. She quickly explained that she had found it in the woods, and wanted to keep it. Her mother said yes because Amy loved animals. And do you know what? Amy, Clarissa, and Hope got an A plus on their report!

THE END