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ENGL 1013

Date

Let It Snow!

For me, the onset of winter and the chill in the air bring back fond childhood memories of waiting patiently by the radio to see if the snow that has fallen was enough for school to be canceled. Of course, a snow was expected to provide the necessary conditions for such activities as sledding or snowball fights, but a snow that only blocked the principal's driveway was equally welcomed. As adults, most people dread snow and take time only to notice its downsides, but like the children, they carefully classify snow into one of several categories. The categories can be identified by how a given snow will affect the life of the kid.

The first kind of snow, and probably the most exciting, is the kind that falls overnight in depths over three inches. Whether predicted or not, this snowfall is always a surprise, as children wake up for school and hear their parents say "look outside" as if there were a present waiting on the front porch. When they part the curtains, they quickly realize there will be no school for the next couple of days as they gaze upon the fresh blanket across the earth in the early-morning light.

The next kind of snow is the one that is anticipated but comes late, also surprising everyone. In this scenario, all of the children go to school disappointed at the cloudy, forty-degree morning with a bare ground. Then around lunchtime, they notice that the temperature has dropped about twenty degrees, and there is something in the air; not only is the air filled with snow, but the roar of two hundred excited children also acknowledges this fact. Within the next

half hour, the roads in the mountains of the school district are turning white with snow, and school is let out early. By nightfall, everyone is at home and ready to spend the next day playing in the fashionably late snow.

A third kind of snow is the one that the adults can appreciate. This is the kind that falls on a thoroughly frozen ground and is about an inch deep. What makes this snow particularly different is the fact that all of the busses can still run without a problem, yet it covers everything nicely for a beautiful vista. Most children don't give a hoot for the majesty of a snow, so they are just plain disappointed to have to go to school.

One final kind of snow, which is by far the most disappointing, is the kind that starts when the ground is warm and is over just as the ground gets cold enough to hold a snowflake. The result is an ugly, mottled landscape with spots of white on the grass and trees, but the snow is useless for entertainment value or school-canceling purposes. This particular kind of snow is simply a disgrace to the word *snow* in the mind of a child.

As winter grows closer, it brings the possibility of snow. This snow will invariable fall into one of these four categories.