

WINTER

Subtle changes had taken place during the months of September and October. The warm caressing breezes of the summer and fall had been replaced by cold winds from the north and northwest. Now, menacing storm clouds filled the gray sky, indicating an approaching storm. The remaining leaves hanging on the deciduous trees would fall to the ground, leaving the limbs feeling bare and lonely.

The snow flakes meandered lazily through the morning sky, floating downwards, landing softly on the forest floor. The two young boys were ecstatic, as they would soon be able to skate and play hockey on frozen ponds, follow animal tracks in the snow, and toboggan down their favorite hills. As more snow fell, it clung to the branches of the trees where there was once foliage.

The forest soon looked like a winter playground, a cloak of white covering the once barren ground. The boys walked down the forest path, the accumulating snow crunching under their feet. The familiar sound of chickadees was the only bird song coming from the quiet forest. As quickly as it began, the snowflakes stopped. An opening in the clouds let the sunshine through, casting light on the brilliant white landscape. The first snow of the winter season had fallen, a time for all to enjoy, especially for the children.

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