

For **Blizzard Bag 4**:

8th Grade:

Literature:

- Read the article "The Snow Queen" translated from Hans Christian Andersen, the story that inspired *Frozen* and *Frozen II*.
- Answer the four questions that follow.

Writing:

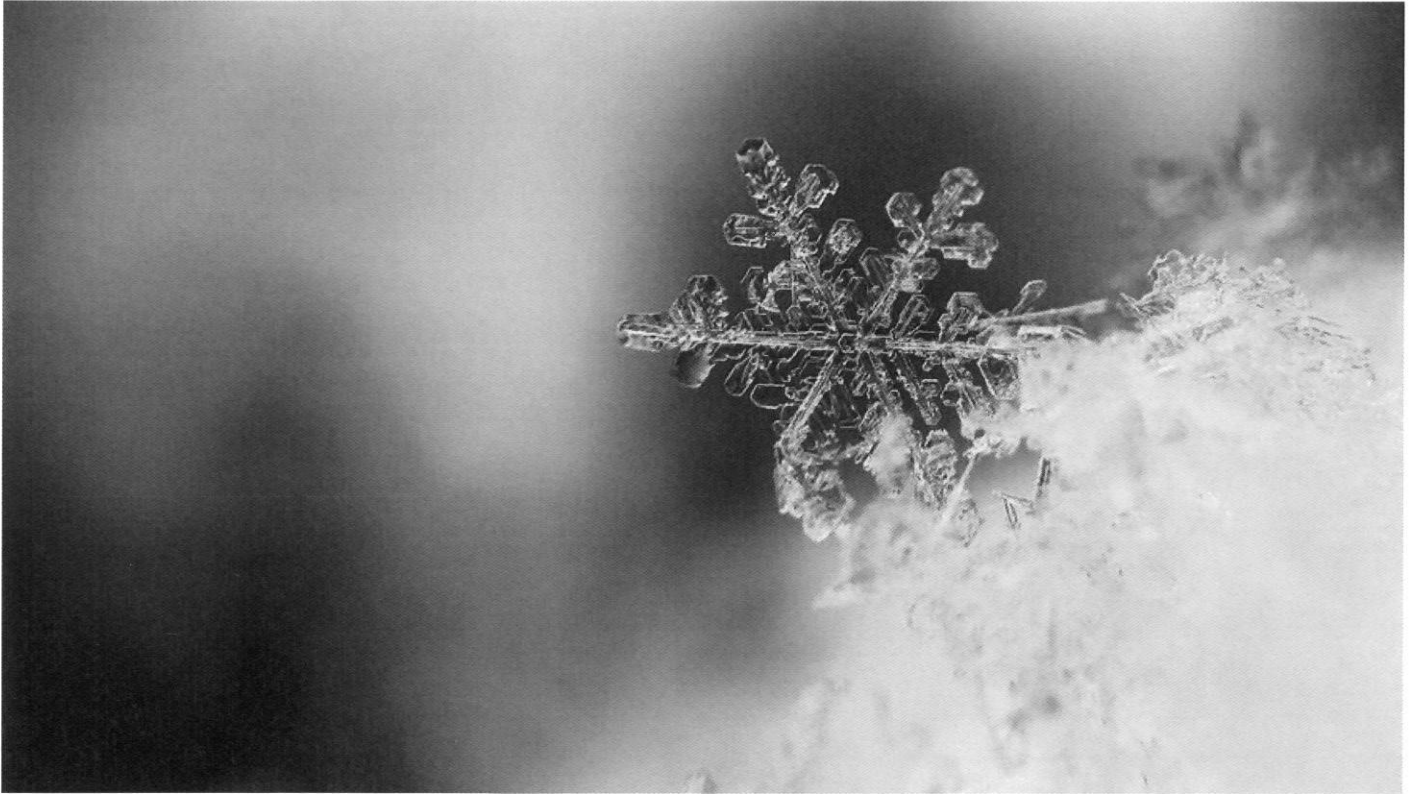
- Describe in detail one character from the story. You may choose to draw this character with a one-quote caption, or describe him or her in words. How does this character contribute to the story?
- Compare this character with any other "frozen" character, either one from the Disney movie or one from song or folklore, such as Jack Frost or Frosty the Snowman. Whom would you rather meet, and why?

The Snow Queen

By Hans Christian Andersen on 12.05.19

Word Count **946**

Level **MAX**



"How cold it is here!" said he. "How empty and cold!" Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

Editor's Note: "The Snow Queen" is an original fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. First published in 1844, Andersen's story inspired the recent Disney films "Frozen" and "Frozen 2." It is a long tale of winter and ice, told in seven stories. Below is an excerpt from the seventh and final story. When the seventh story begins, Gerda, who has been searching for her friend Kay for a long time, finally finds him. Kay has a splinter of glass in his eye and in his heart, keeping him trapped under the spell of the Snow Queen.

Seventh Story: What Took Place in the Palace of the Snow Queen, and what Happened Afterward

The walls of the palace were of driving snow, and the windows and doors of cutting winds. There were more than a hundred halls there, according as the snow was driven by the winds. The largest was many miles in extent; all were lighted up by the powerful Aurora Borealis, and all were so large, so empty, so icy cold, and so resplendent! Mirth never reigned there; there was never even a little bear-ball, with the storm for music, while the polar bears went on their hind legs and showed off their steps. Never a little tea-party of white young lady foxes; vast, cold, and empty were the halls of the Snow Queen.

The northern-lights shone with such precision that one could tell exactly when they were at their highest or lowest degree of brightness. In the middle of the empty, endless hall of snow, was a frozen lake; it was cracked in a thousand pieces, but each piece was so like the other, that it seemed the work of a cunning artificer. In the middle of this lake sat the Snow Queen when she was at home; and then she said she was sitting in the Mirror of Understanding, and that this was the only one and the best thing in the world.

Little Kay was quite blue, yes nearly black with cold; but he did not observe it, for she had kissed away all feeling of cold from his body, and his heart was a lump of ice. He was dragging along some pointed flat pieces of ice, which he laid together in all possible ways, for he wanted to make something with them; just as we have little flat pieces of wood to make geometrical figures with, called the Chinese Puzzle. Kay made all sorts of figures, the most complicated, for it was an ice-puzzle for the understanding. In his eyes, the figures were extraordinarily beautiful, and of the utmost importance; for the bit of glass which was in his eye caused this. He found whole figures, which represented a written word; but he never could manage to represent just the word he wanted - that word was "eternity"; and the Snow Queen had said, "If you can discover that figure, you shall be your own master, and I will make you a present of the whole world and a pair of new skates." But he could not find it out.

"I am going now to warm lands," said the Snow Queen. "I must have a look down into the black caldrons." It was the volcanoes Vesuvius and Etna that she meant. "I will just give them a coating of white, for that is as it ought to be; besides, it is good for the oranges and the grapes."

And then away she flew, and Kay sat quite alone in the empty halls of ice that were miles long, and looked at the blocks of ice, and thought and thought till his skull was almost cracked. There he sat quite benumbed and motionless; one would have imagined he was frozen to death.

Suddenly little Gerda stepped through the great portal into the palace. The gate was formed of cutting winds, but Gerda repeated her evening prayer, and the winds were laid as though they slept; and the little maiden entered the vast, empty, cold halls. There she beheld Kay: she recognized him, flew to embrace him, and cried out, her arms firmly holding him the while, "Kay, sweet little Kay! Have I then found you at last?"

But he sat quite still, benumbed and cold. Then little Gerda shed burning tears; and they fell on his bosom, they penetrated to his heart, they thawed the lumps of ice, and consumed the splinters of the looking-glass; he looked at her, and she sang the hymn:

"The rose in the valley is blooming so sweet, And angels descend there the children to greet."

Hereupon Kay burst into tears; he wept so much that the splinter rolled out of his eye, and he recognized her, and shouted, "Gerda, sweet little Gerda! Where have you been so long? And where have I been?" He looked round him. "How cold it is here!" said he. "How empty and cold!" And he held fast by Gerda, who laughed and wept for joy.

It was so beautiful, that even the blocks of ice danced about for joy; and when they were tired and laid themselves down, they formed exactly the letters which the Snow Queen had told him to find out; so now he was his own master, and he would have the whole world and a pair of new skates into the bargain.

Gerda kissed his cheeks, and they grew quite blooming; she kissed his eyes, and they shone like her own; she kissed his hands and feet, and he was again well and merry. The Snow Queen might come back as soon as she liked; there stood his discharge written in resplendent masses of ice.

Quiz

1 Read the following selection from the final paragraph of the story.

Gerda kissed his cheeks, and they grew quite blooming; she kissed his eyes, and they shone like her own; she kissed his hands and feet, and he was again well and merry.

How does using the word "blooming" affect the tone of the story?

- (A) It adds suspense and mystery to the tone.
- (B) It lessens the element of confusion in the tone.
- (C) It makes the tone begin to turn more optimistic.
- (D) It sharpens the tone to teach a moral lesson.

2 Read the following sentence from the first paragraph of the story.

The walls of the palace were of driving snow, and the windows and doors of cutting winds.

What is the definition of "cutting" as used in this sentence?

- (A) resentful
- (B) piercing
- (C) shrinking
- (D) distinct

3 Read the following two selections from the story.

He found whole figures, which represented a written word; but he never could manage to represent just the word he wanted - that word was "eternity"; and the Snow Queen had said, "If you can discover that figure, you shall be your own master, and I will make you a present of the whole world and a pair of new skates." But he could not find it out.

It was so beautiful, that even the blocks of ice danced about for joy; and when they were tired and laid themselves down, they formed exactly the letters which the Snow Queen had told him to find out; so now he was his own master, and he would have the whole world and a pair of new skates into the bargain.

Which of the following inferences can the reader make based on these selections?

- (A) Gerda and the Snow Queen will fight each other for Kay's friendship.
- (B) The Snow Queen will be happy when she sees that Kay is free.
- (C) Kay and Gerda will never leave the Snow Queen's palace.
- (D) Kay and Gerda will be friends for the rest of their lives.

Read the following sentences from the story.

1. *Little Kay was quite blue, yes nearly black with cold; but he did not observe it, for she [the Snow Queen] had kissed away all feeling of cold from his body, and his heart was a lump of ice.*
2. *And then away she [the Snow Queen] flew, and Kay sat quite alone in the empty halls of ice that were miles long, and looked at the blocks of ice, and thought and thought till his skull was almost cracked.*
3. *Then little Gerda shed burning tears; and they fell on his bosom, they penetrated to his heart, they thawed the lumps of ice, and consumed the splinters of the looking-glass.*
4. *The Snow Queen might come back as soon as she liked; there stood his discharge written in resplendent masses of ice.*

Which two sentences taken together provide the BEST evidence to support the idea that Kay needs Gerda's friendship?

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 1 and 3
- (C) 2 and 4
- (D) 3 and 4