



The Wintertime Adventures of the Abigail Fieldmouse Family

This year in Avon, Connecticut was an especially snowy winter. While this was troublesome for adults, kids-both human and of the mouse variety-thought this was fantastic! Local farm children who attended the Pine Grove one-room schoolhouse had to walk to school and when there was deep snow, school had to be closed. Abigail Fieldmouse and Seamus Graymouse's children had snow days too when the school was not in session.

Once the mouse children had helped mom and dad with their morning chores, they were allowed go outside and play in the snow. Now, this could be quite a challenge when you are only mouse size! After the children were all dressed in their warmest woolen clothing, Abigail gave each of the kids a whistle. The whistle was carved out of a pumpkin seed and if the children found themselves buried in snow, they could blow it for help.

Seamus, their dad, instructed the children to stay close the schoolhouse and each other. He put his only son, Galaxy, in charge of his sisters to watch out for their safety. Off the children went into the new-fallen snow...it was a magical, white, glistening world. The first order of business, of course, was to make mouse angels, just the same as human kids did. This was followed by a good-natured snowball fight with the girls ganging up on Galaxy and bombing him with a barrage of snowballs! They laughed at his face covered in snow with only his black eyes peering out of a ball of white!

Well, now after this frivolity, what do to next? How about a 'mouseman' building contest? The kids broke off into two teams. Moonglow and Stardust were one team; Celestial and Galaxy were the other. The object was to roll up one larger ball for a mouse body, one smaller ball for a mouse head, and two little snowballs for ears in the shortest time. Ready, set, go!!!! Each team scurried to work together to build their mouseman. The team that finished before the shadow cast by the flagpole on the school house touched the oak tree, would win. Each team worked furiously and the team of Moonglow and Stardust finished first! The kids were getting tired and cold but they were having so much fun, they don't want to stop playing. Abigail, dressed in her long Victorian-style wool coat and wearing snowshoes, made from twigs, came walking across the snow to check on the children and bring them hot chocolate. Oh, that tasted SO GOOD and warmed their whiskers. Abigail said they should come in soon.

Galaxy had another idea...mouse catapults! He knew there were dried cattails at the edge of the nearby farm pond. Each of the kids took turns climbing up to the top of a cattail. This bent it near the ground, and with a little extra tension supplied by pulling on a string brought by Galaxy and then let go, each mouse kid sailed through the air and landed in a soft snowbank. Oh boy was this fun until something went a little wrong. Galaxy weighed more than his sisters. When he was launched into the air, he flew faster and then landed more deeply into the snowbank! Oh My! They all knew what to do...they all blew their whistles as hard as they could. Within minutes, as mouse hearing is very good, both Abigail and Seamus fitted into their twig snowshoes found the children. The whole family worked together to dig out Galaxy who was a bit frosted, but unhurt. It was time to go home.

The mouse kids were now safe under the floorboards of the little school house. Their beds felt delightful and they were warm under their handmade, fluffy quilts. It was a wonderful winter day of fun and they learned a good lesson of following their parent's instructions to stay safe. The kids drifted off to sleep hoping to dream of tomorrow's new adventure!