



<b>Title:</b> <i>Winter: A Solstice Story</i>	<b>Author:</b> Kelsey E. Gross
<b>Genre/Unit:</b> Narrative	<b>Warm Up:</b> <i>Winter Solstice:</i> Amy Ludwig Vanderwater

Wintertime arrives on the longest night of the year. An owl begins a quest to find friends 'whooo' can help her shine the light and share a gift of hope. The soft blues of the illustrations convey winter, while the almost blurred animals give the book a tone of quiet and kindness. Children will delight in the fold-out page.

**Objective:** structure of an add-on story

**Standard:** ELA Vocabulary Acquisition: vivid verbs

**Knowledge Building:** inspire curiosity about the science of the seasons

## Vocabulary

Tier 2 Word	Page	Student Friendly Definition (kids.wordsmyth.net, collinsdictionary.com, ldoceonline.com)
solstice	3	a time when the sun is the furthest from the equator
dim	3	to make light weak
<b>contribute</b> (concept word)	6-21	to give towards a group effort
frolic	24	to have fun and be merry

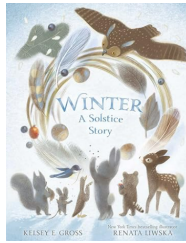
Warm Up Poem  
by Amy Ludwig Vanderwater

### Winter Solstice

Tonight  
you will find me  
snug in colorful wool  
staring into  
a solstice sky  
so speckled  
with cold night stars.

You will see me  
raise  
my mittened hands  
as if to hug  
the hidden sun.

And you will hear me  
softly  
whisper –  
*Welcome back.*



## Reading

Page #	Accountable Talk Vocabulary, comprehension strategies, think alouds, and student talk.	JOYcabulary Getting students to own their words: speaking, reading, and writing.
<b>Before Reading</b>	Let's study the cover. Look closely at the animals. Each one seems to be holding something...except owl. He is also the only creature up at the top (even though chickadee and duck can also fly). The feathers, nuts, and berries are going in a circle. I wonder why? Maybe that is important to the story in some way.	
<b>During Reading</b> P. 1-5	Owl leaves his perch high in the pine tree. I wonder what he means by " <i>help me shine the light, and share the gift of hope this night</i> "	perch solstice dims shimmer scatter
P. 6-21	Each animal contributes something different. Each has a different purpose. However, there is something similar about each gift. Let's think together about what that might be.	<b>contribute</b> (concept word) <b>purpose</b> (concept word) similar
P. 22-23	Oooh! I wasn't expecting this! How is the foldout page similar to the cover?	
P. 24-25	Celebrations usually have things in common: songs and dancing.	frolic
P. 26-29	Uh oh! The celebration awakened the sleeping bear! Predict what might happen next. What do the animals think might happen? Look carefully at their faces.	<b>hibernation</b> (concept word)
P. 30-31	Did you predict how the story would end? Owl seems to be holding the moon. Why might that be?	splendor



<p><b>After Reading</b></p>	<p>What messages/lessons are the author sharing with us?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generosity</li> <li>• friendship</li> </ul> <p>Why was it so important for the animals to spread and share the light?</p>	
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**Extensions:**

**Vivid Verbs: Act it Out**

<p>owl watches          sunlight dims          starlight scatters          owl swoops          deer nestles          squirrel rests          mouse sprinkles          duck tucks          rabbit tosses          raccoon stows          chickadee wraps          owl nods and unfolds          footsteps thump          twigs snap          animals freeze          owl welcomes</p>	<p>shine the light          share the light          spread the light          show the light          send out the light          spark the light*</p> <p>*Maybe use a flashlight in a darkened classroom</p>
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**Writing**

- add-on story: Where new characters are added on towards a common goal. Good mentor texts are *The Little Red Hen* and *The Great Big Enormous Turnip*

**Related Titles:**

*The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter Solstice* - Wendy Pfeffer  
*The Reasons for Seasons (New & Updated)* - Gail Gibbons