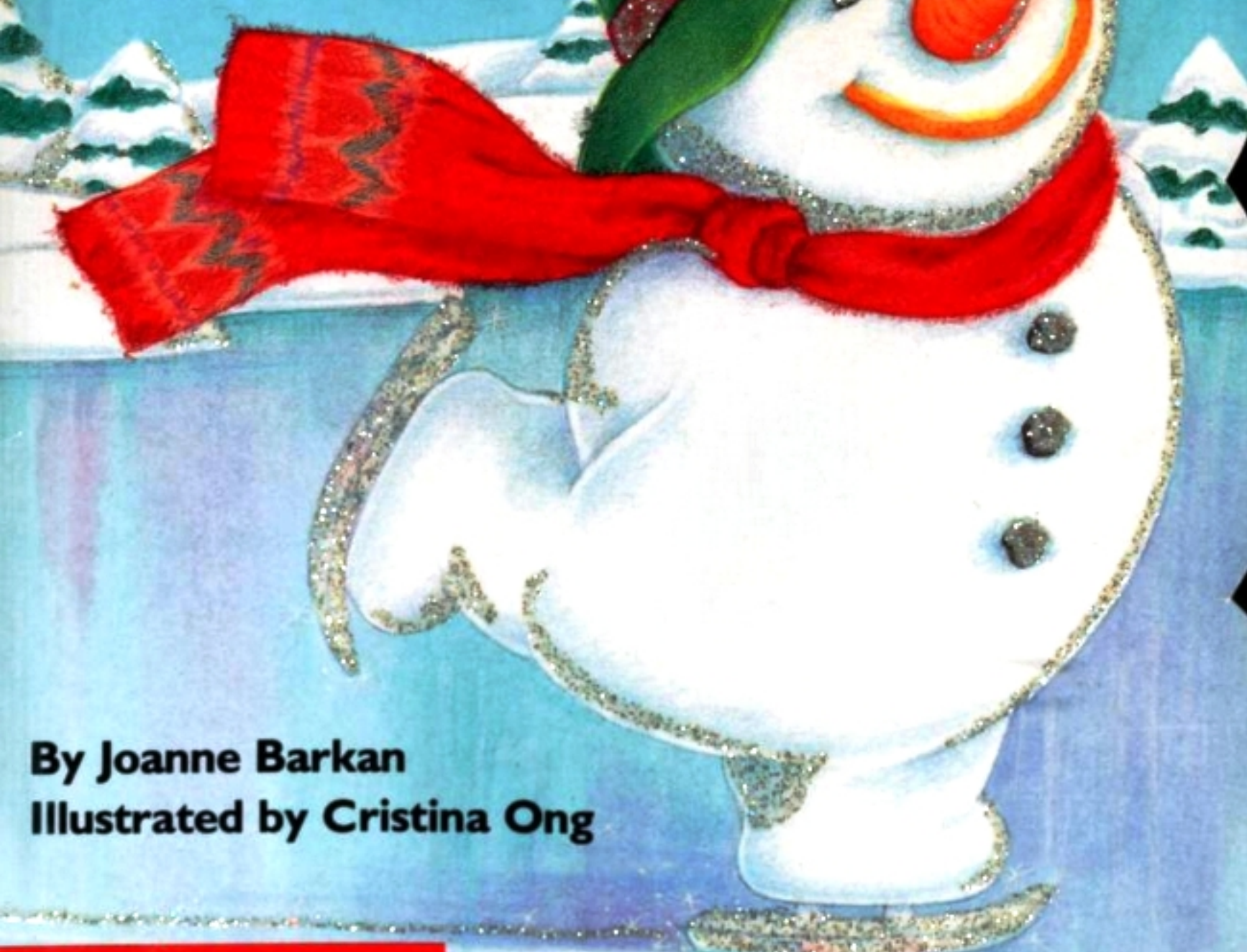




A VERY MERRY
Snowman
STORY



By Joanne Barkan
Illustrated by Cristina Ong

SCHOLASTIC

For Kathy Ann, Lisa, Clive,
Wendy, Salisha, and Ryan
—J.B.

For my mama and papa
—C.O.

Hold each page of the book under a bright
light for a few minutes. Then turn out all the
lights, and see the pages glow! Once you have
“activated” the glow, you can use a flashlight
to “recharge” it.

Published simultaneously in Canada.

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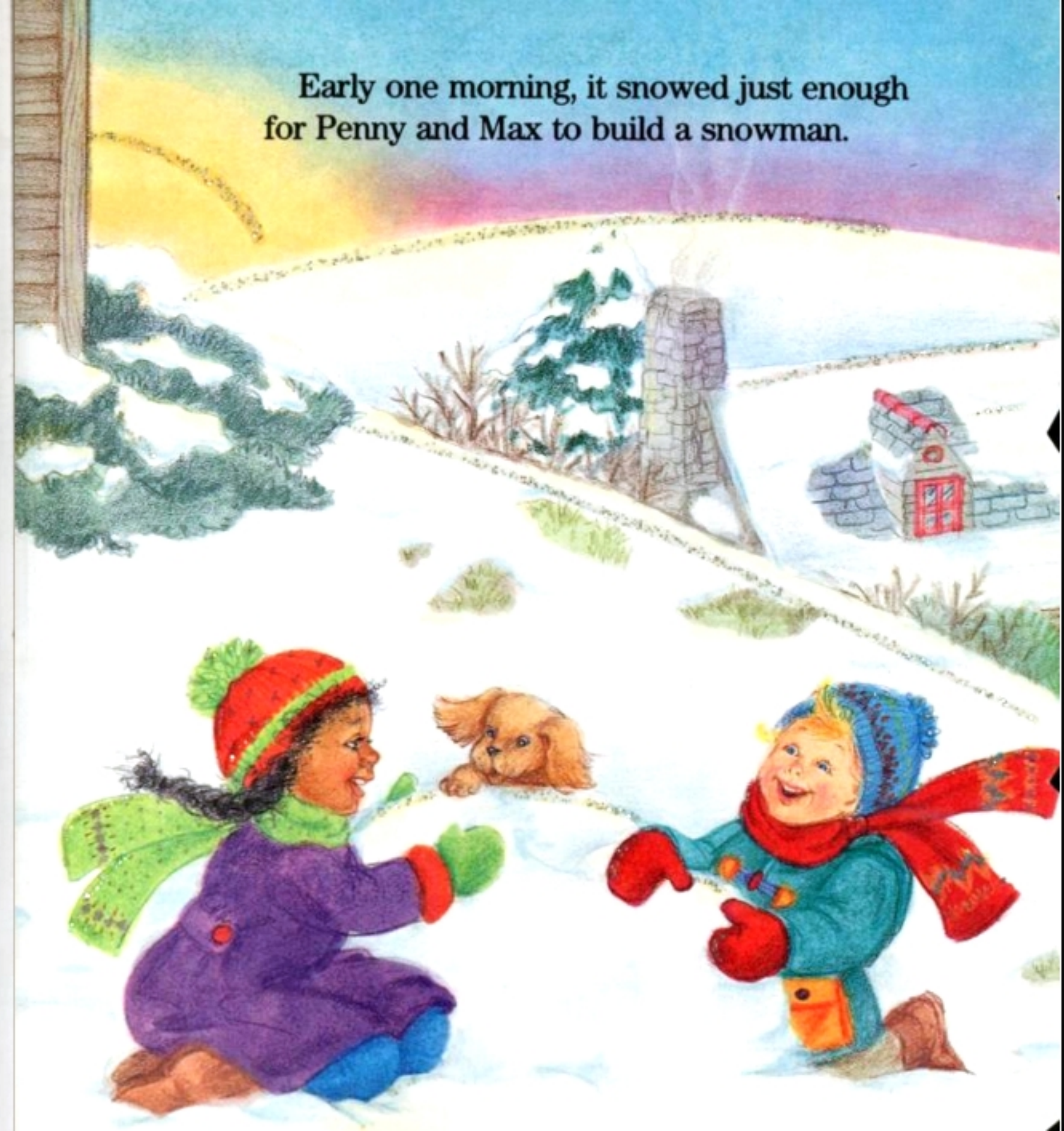
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Early one morning, it snowed just enough
for Penny and Max to build a snowman.





Penny gave the snowman two stone eyes and a carrot nose. Max gave him an orange peel mouth, a scarf, and an old hat. They named him Mr. Chill.

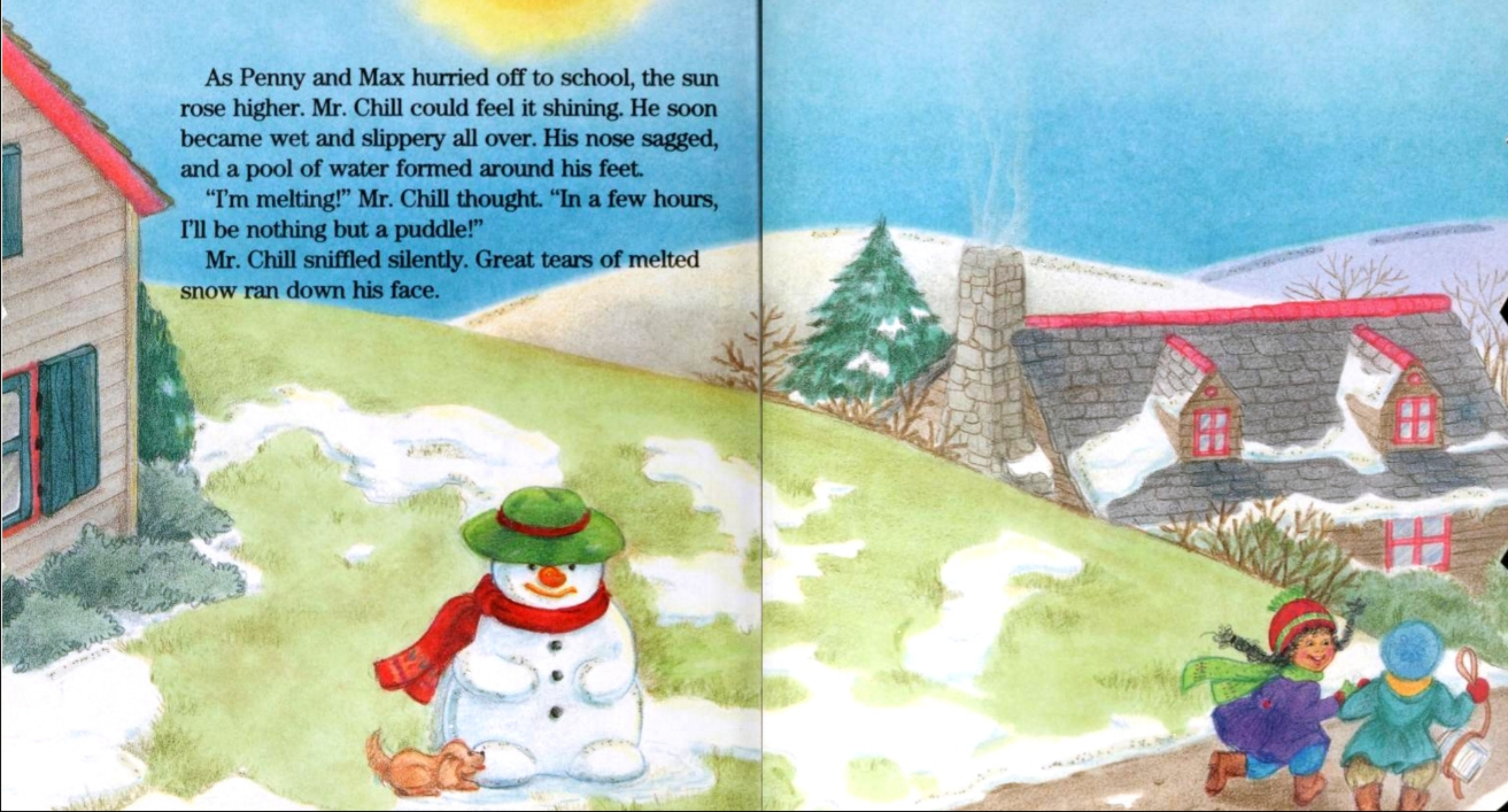
"Isn't Mr. Chill wonderful?" asked Penny.

"Yes," said Max. "But I wish he were magical, too. I wish Mr. Chill could really come to life."

As Penny and Max hurried off to school, the sun rose higher. Mr. Chill could feel it shining. He soon became wet and slippery all over. His nose sagged, and a pool of water formed around his feet.

"I'm melting!" Mr. Chill thought. "In a few hours, I'll be nothing but a puddle!"

Mr. Chill sniffled silently. Great tears of melted snow ran down his face.



"I must stop crying," Mr. Chill said to himself. "I must think of something else. I'll think of . . . cold things! All the wonderful cold things I know."

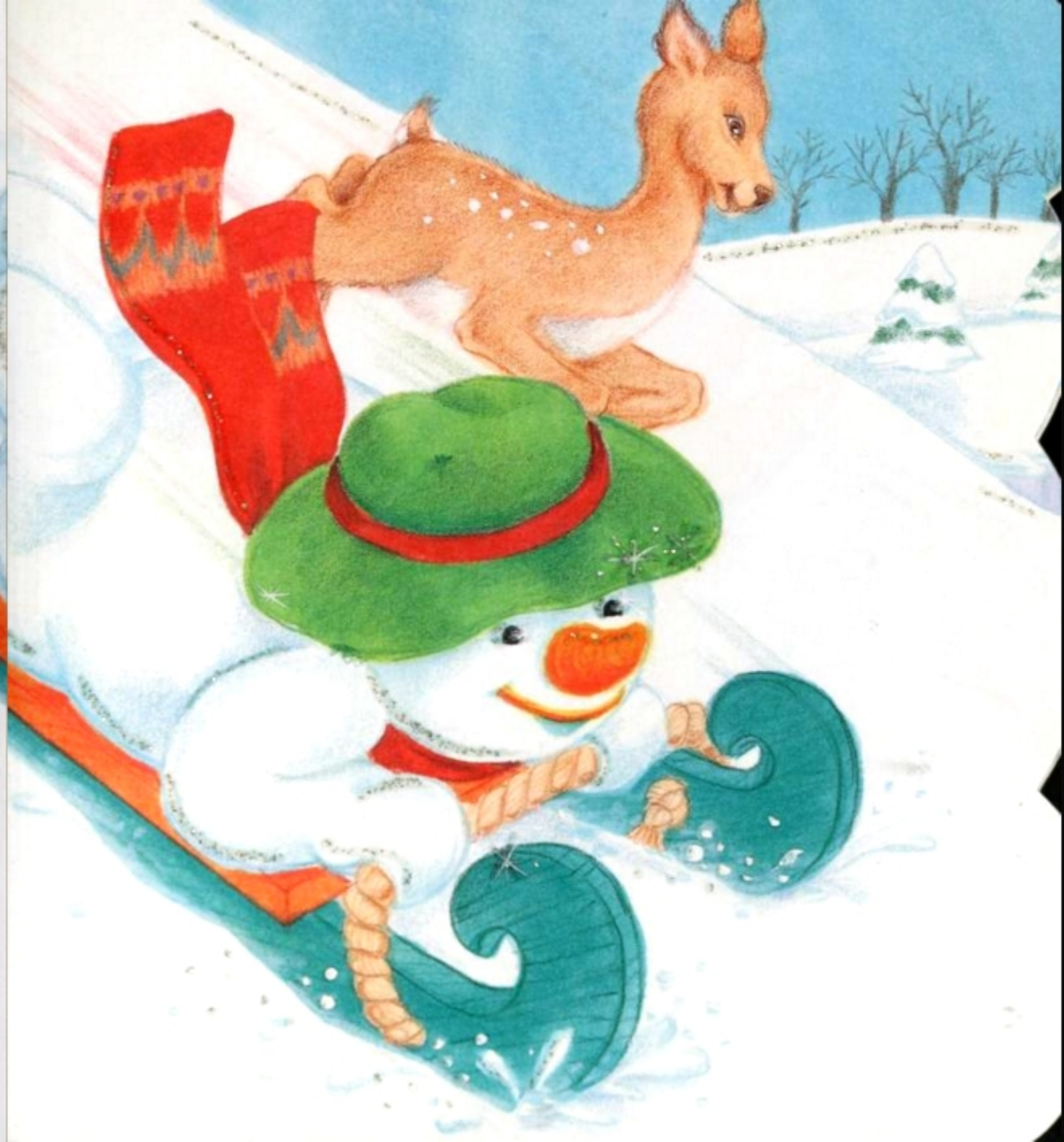
Mr. Chill thought first about icicles and ice cubes. He thought about icebergs and glaciers. He thought about a long sleigh ride through a snowy forest.

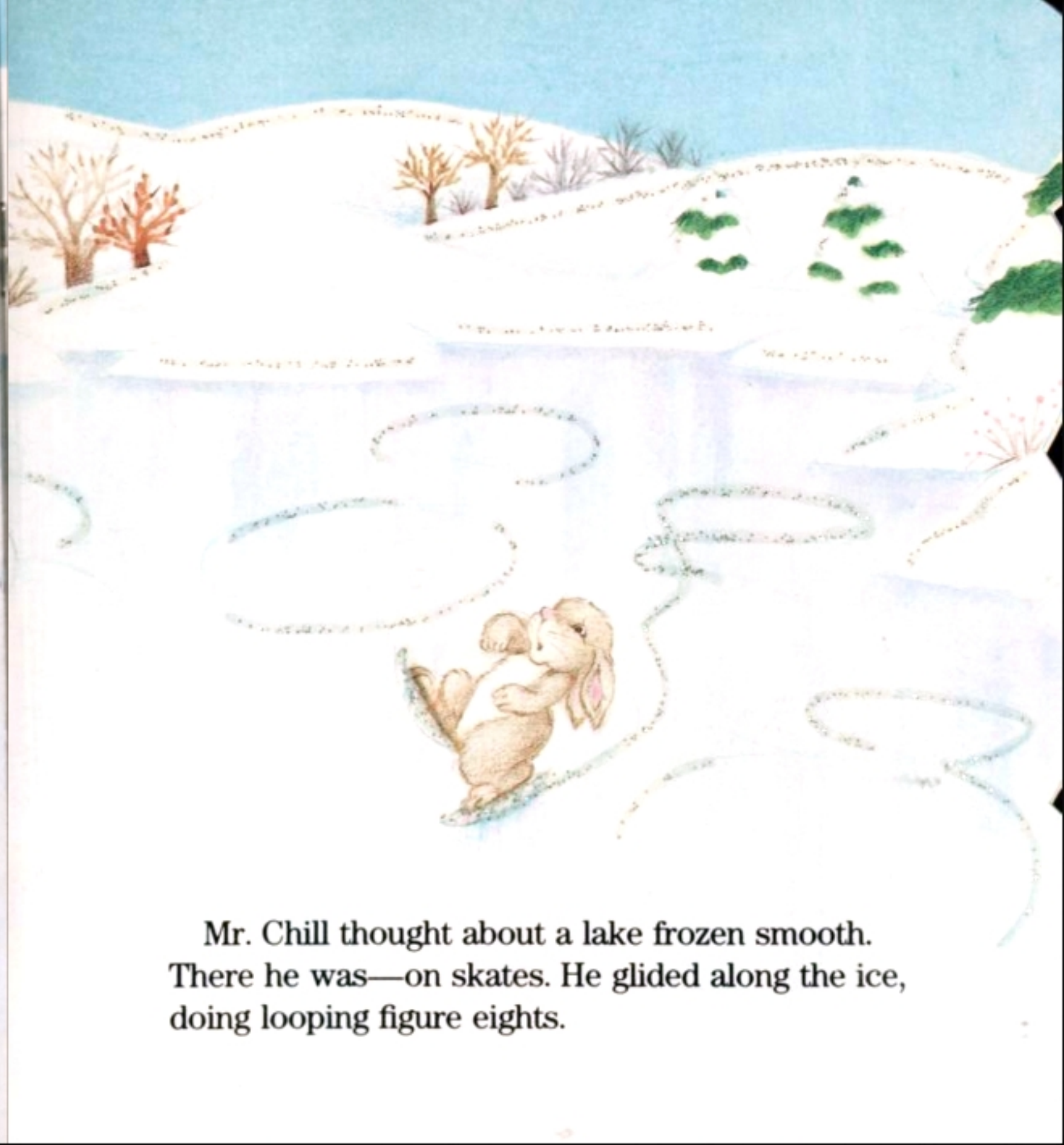
"Nice," Mr. Chill sighed, "but not cold enough."



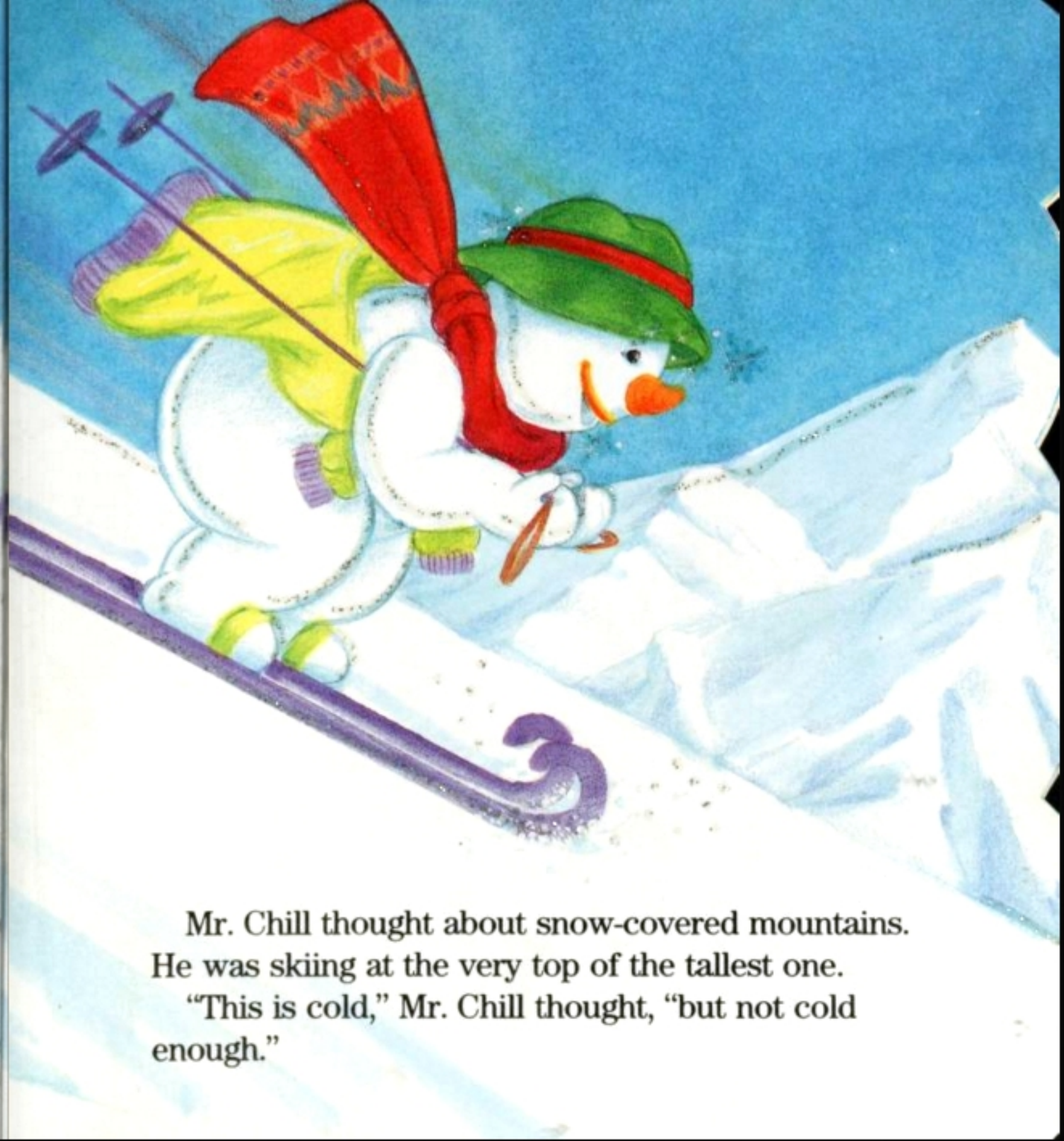


Mr. Chill thought about sledding down a steep hill. He raced into the wind—down, down, down.



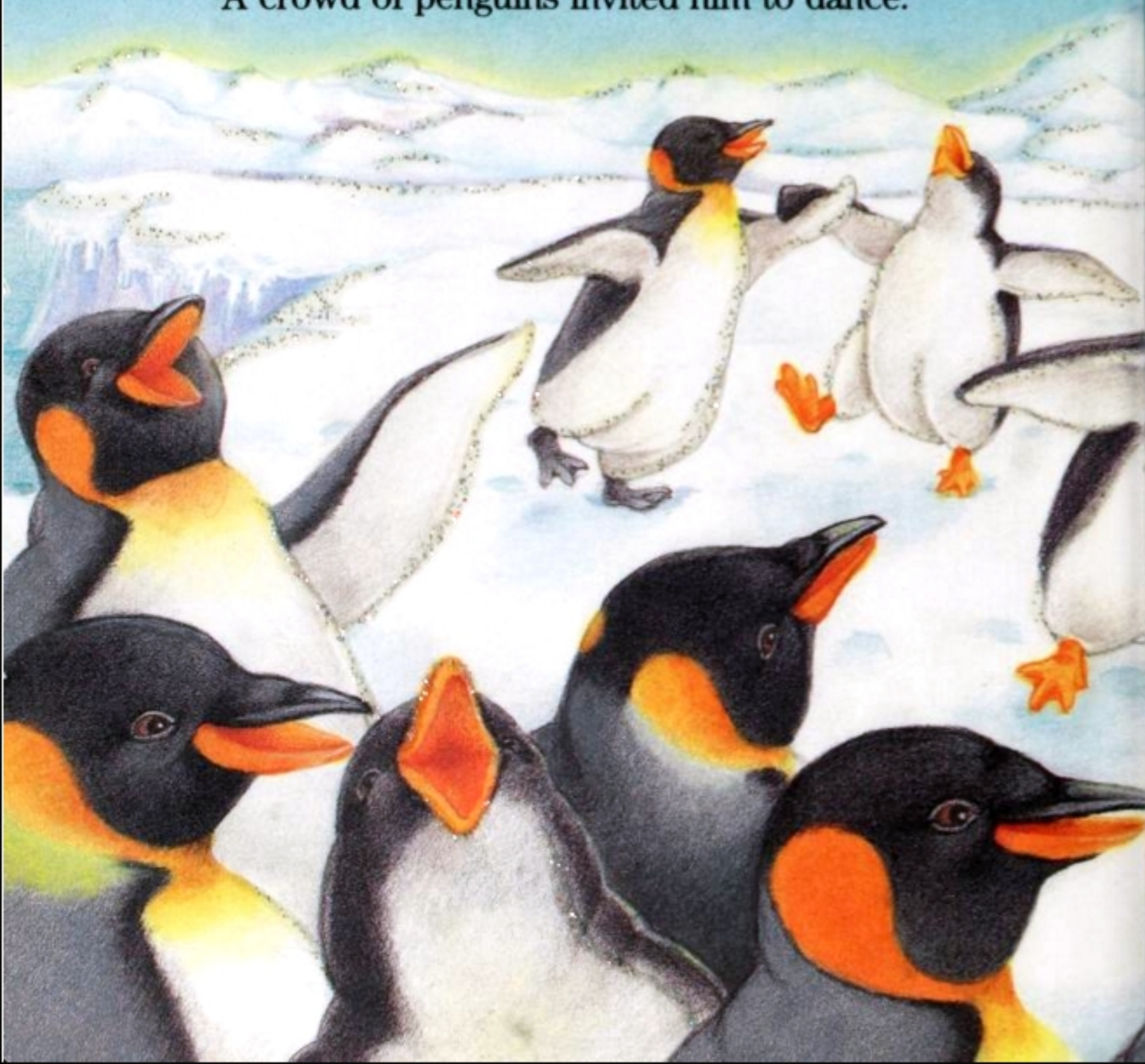


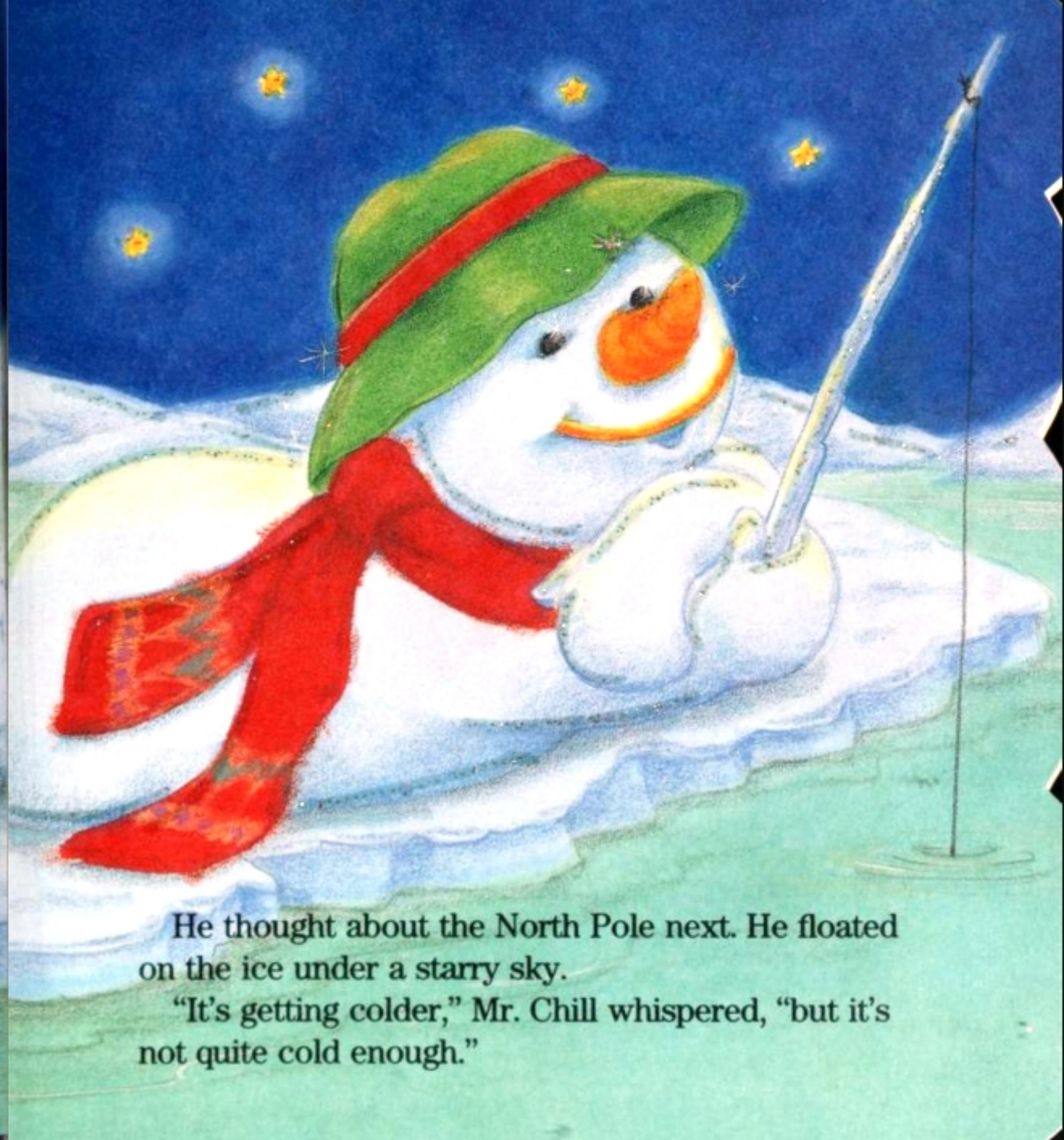
Mr. Chill thought about a lake frozen smooth. There he was—on skates. He glided along the ice, doing looping figure eights.



Mr. Chill thought about snow-covered mountains.
He was skiing at the very top of the tallest one.
“This is cold,” Mr. Chill thought, “but not cold
enough.”

Mr. Chill thought about the South Pole.
A crowd of penguins invited him to dance.





He thought about the North Pole next. He floated on the ice under a starry sky.

"It's getting colder," Mr. Chill whispered, "but it's not quite cold enough."

At last Mr. Chill thought about snowflakes falling and a strong wind beginning to blow. He imagined the temperature dropping and a great blizzard swirling around and around.

Mr. Chill shivered. *B-r-r-r-r*. He felt a sneeze coming on. But before he could say *ACHOO* . . .

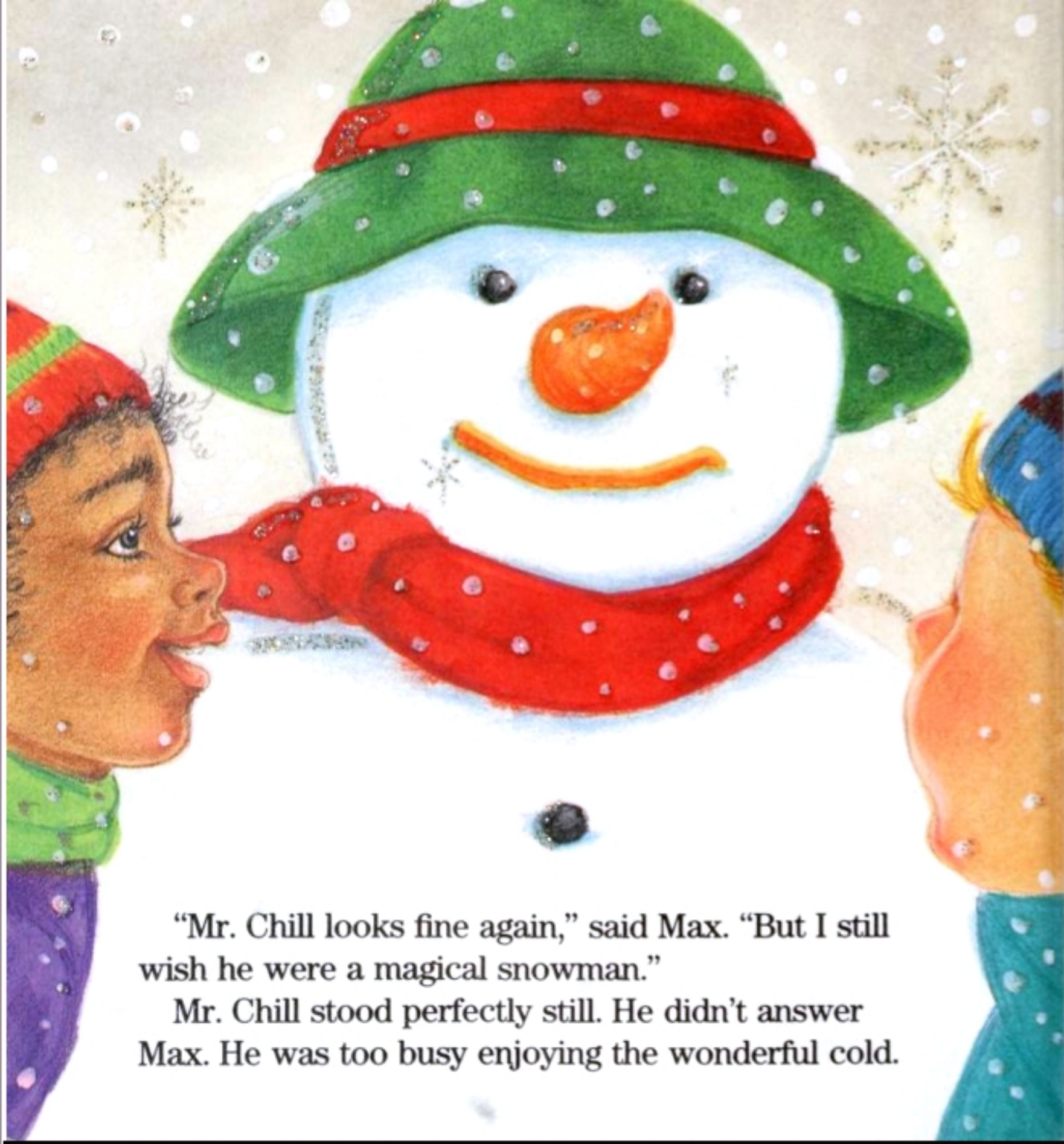




he realized that most of the day had gone by. Penny, Max, and their friends were back from school. Penny straightened Mr. Chill's nose. Max patted his shoulder into shape.

The temperature had dropped. The wind was whistling. A blanket of fresh snow covered the ground.





"Mr. Chill looks fine again," said Max. "But I still wish he were a magical snowman."

Mr. Chill stood perfectly still. He didn't answer Max. He was too busy enjoying the wonderful cold.

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