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| **Notes:** Picture books are printed with a page count that is always a multiple of 4, with 32 pages being a traditional page count. Amazon KDP, the most popular self-publishing platform, has a minimum page count requirement of 24 pages for their paperbacks. This template accounts for the 32-pages picture book. Three front pages are used for the **Title, Copyright, and Dedication.** Twenty-eight pages are then used for the actual **storytelling**. The last page is used for **About Author/Illustrator** information. You *do not* have to stick to my format! Some authors/publishers combine their copyright and dedication into one page. Sometimes they omit the About Author/Illustrator page, instead using it as a last storytelling page. *You decide* what format you want for *your picture book* but be sure to check the minimum page requirements with your self-publishing/printing company!  **Instructions:** Use the “Text” column to write the story’s text for each page. I also use the “text” column to write the main ideas for each page until my story flows and fits into all 28 storytelling pages. I then turn those main ideas into storytelling text.  I use the “description” column to make notes about how each page should look. Anything that can be shown in the illustration and that is obvious and can be understood just from looking at the illustration *should not* be included in the text! There will be times when your text will need to explain something that is shown in the illustration – this is something that cannot be understood just by looking at the illustration. For example, page 14 shows the reindeer training in a forest in the illustration. However, the reader will not know *whose forest it is,* so it will be necessary to explain that the reindeer train in *Frost’s forest and not at the North Pole (Santa’s forest).*  **Start:** write text or main ideas in “text” column. Add illustration notes in “description” column. Continue until each storytelling page has a main idea or text. Convert main ideas into text in “text” column and write descriptions for each page in “description” column. Continue to refine/edit text and descriptions, until your story flows and reads fluently aloud. If necessary, submit to a hired editor for final edits. | | |
| **Page #** | **Text** | **Description of Scene for Illustration** |
| **Title Page** – right page |  |  |
| **Copyright Page –** left page |  |  |
| **Dedication Page** – right page |  |  |
| Story Page 1 – left page | If you go by the mountain, you'll find George Frost.  He’s the town’s carpenter.  But the townsfolk don't know  that *he’s the ice sculptor who creates winter!* | \*Show mountain in the background  \*Show George Frost outside of his wooden workshop.  \*He’s sculpting ice with ice flakes (snowflakes) pitching around him.  \*Show a few finished ice sculptures (maybe a unicorn, a tall flower, and an eagle?)  \*Atmosphere must be wintery.  \*There’s a glimpse of his forest to the right. |
| 2 – right page | As Frost sculpts, *puff!* Icy winds *whoosh* out!  As he chisels, *chink!* Ice flakes spray thin and thick!  This frosty mixture creates winter everywhere it reaches!  Then folks become excited. “It's snowing outside!"  *Finally*, the season to enjoy every wonderful, icy activity has arrived! | \*Show snowflakes from page 1 moving through the air to page 2.  \*Show winter scenes with everyone (young and old) engaging in winter activities: sledding, ice skating, skiing, building snowmen, etc. |
| 3 | Explain why snowflakes are unique. |  |
| 4 | Timmy wants to know how Frost gets his inspiration for each sculpture. Use this page to show that snow angels are inspired by the real winter angels who help Frost. |  |
| 5 | Talk about Frost’s home and forest in order to introduce the talking tree on next page. |  |
| 6 | Introduce Cindy talking tree – show her personality and make it funny |  |
| 7 | Let all the trees be alive. Let Timmy have real-life encounter with reindeer and angels. |  |
| 8 | Explain angel tree toppers |  |
| 9 |  |  |
| 10 | frost knows Santa! | Santa is loading his sleigh with help from angels. Sash talks to other reindeer. |
| 11 |  |  |
| 12 | Introduce book of snowflakes to start adventures learning about winter and Christmas. This is more interesting than frost just telling Timmy – let Timmy experience it! | A big thick book with snowflakes shown on pages. |
| 13 | Santa scene – icy weather and reindeer |  |
| 14 | frost’s forest is used to train reindeer – a reason winter is important for Christmas  **Text:**  “My reindeer train in Frost’s forest  to be skilled flyers in any circumstances."  “Why don’t they train at the North Pole?”  “Ho no, Timmy, my forest isn't as Frost Evergreen's  — grand and bold!" | Show reindeer doing different training positions in frost’s winter forest. |
| 15 | Santa scene – warm weather | Tropical sunny day with snowflakes and mist in sky |
| 16 | Show how frost’s winter is necessary to keep Christmas alive and well by hiding Santa and refreshing reindeer |  |
| 17 |  |  |
| 18 |  |  |
| 19 |  |  |
| 20 |  |  |
| 21 | Legacy |  |
| 22 | Legacy | Show legacy snowflake – make it unique so that when it is shown again on page 25, readers will remember it. |
| 23 | Legacy – “Father Christmas” with his son | Show Santa and son and frost senior and son |
| 24 |  |  |
| 25 | End story by bringing back Cindy Fir | Cindy is all green this time – no snow. Show Santa and angel and plate of cookies and milk. This is in Timmy’s living room. |
| 26 | Timmy gets the legacy | Show legacy snowflake again. It’s night and through the window, Santa can be seen leaving in sky. This lets the reader know that Santa visited Timmy. |
| 27 |  |  |
| 28 | End with ice sculptures being given as gifts – this explains what he does with all the sculptures he creates and also shows that Santa contributes something back to frost. It also explains page 10. | Show a lively scene on Christmas morning with neighbors in their yards looking in awe at their ice sculpture gifts |
| **About Author/Illustrator** – left page |  |  |