



THE SNOWMAN



One cold winter morning, Berry the snail knocked on Dolly's front door.
"Let's go and play with my sledge in the snow."



Dolly quickly put on her winter coat, her hat, scarf and gloves, and they were ready to go. The ladybird sat on the sledge and the little snail pulled her along.



Berry and Dolly enjoyed the winter sunshine. They sledged down the steep side of the hill.



"Look at that super snowman!" Berry shouted.

"Oh dear, we're going to hit it!" Dolly shouted back, but it was too late. The sled ran right into the snowman that stood at the foot of the hill.



"Did you hurt yourself?" Berry asked Dolly.

"No, I didn't, but I think we've ruined the snowman."



"Yes, it tipped right over," Berry said. "I'm going to eat its carrot nose."



"Let's have a snowball fight. We can use the snow from the snowman," Dolly suggested. Berry and Dolly started to throw snowballs. It was a lot of fun.



Soon there was almost nothing left of the snowman.



Just then Balthazar the bee appeared and said hello to his friends. Berry and Dolly invited him to join them. "Do you want to throw snowballs with us?" "I'm too busy. I've brought a hat and a scarf to put on the snowman I built yesterday. Haven't you seen it?"



Berry and Dolly looked at each other.
"Oh dear," Berry whispered. "Balthazar must be looking for the snowman we hit."



They didn't dare tell Balthazar that they'd knocked his snowman over.
"Nooo, we haven't seen a snowman!"



Balthazar looked for the snowman everywhere. He looked under the trees and behind the bushes but he didn't find anything. Berry and Dolly wanted to tell the truth but didn't know how to begin.



"I can't find my snowman anywhere!" Balthazar burst into tears.
Berry and Dolly felt very sorry for the little bee



"Don't be sad," Berry said finally. "Let's build a new one!"
"Okay," Balthazar sniffled.



Dolly made the biggest snowball. It went on the bottom. Balthazar made the middle one for the snowman's tummy. And Berry made the smallest snowball for the snowman's head.



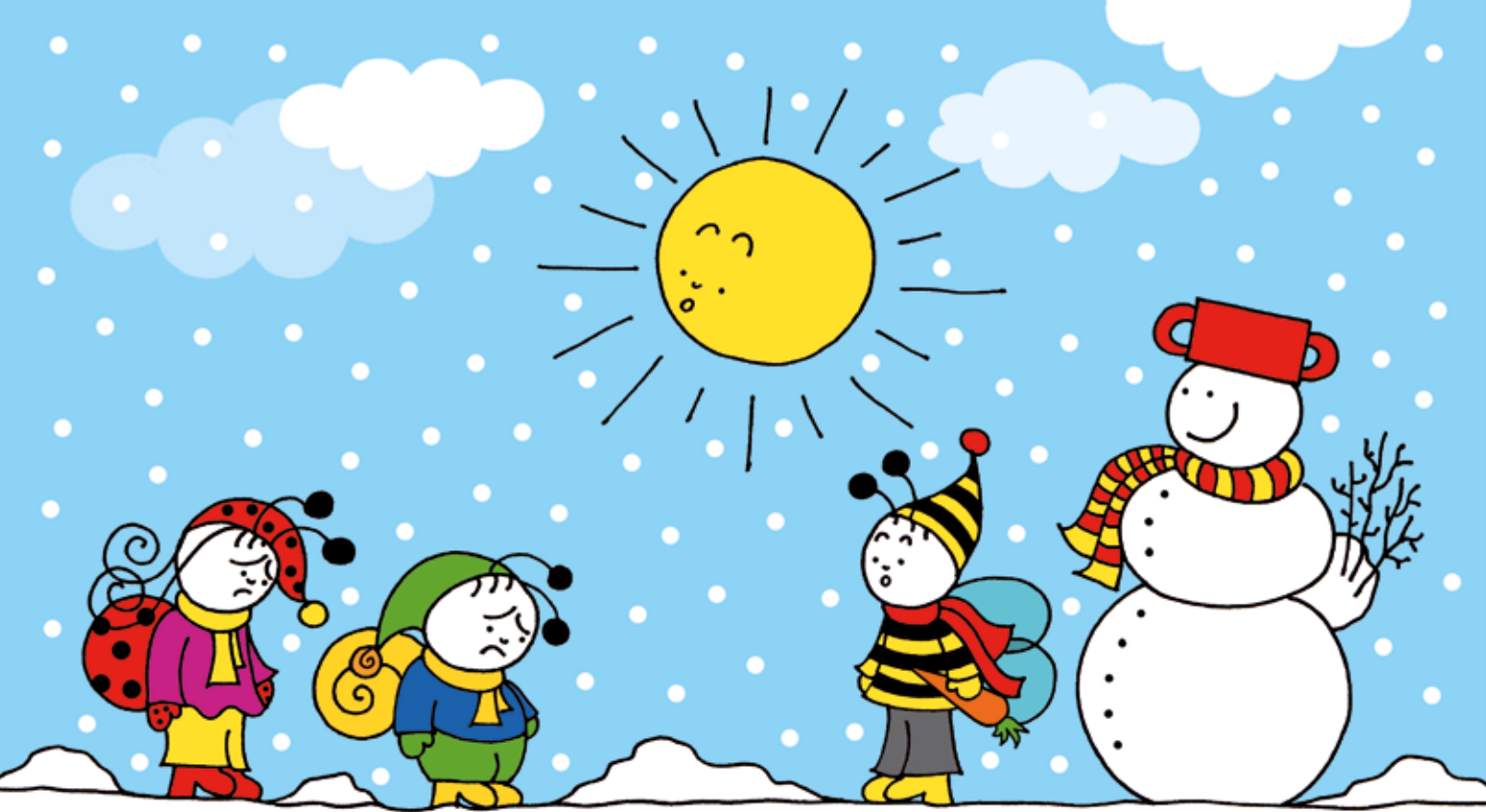
Dolly lifted Berry up and Berry stuck the head on top. Balthazar collected some branches to put it in the snowman's hands.



Then the snowman was finished and Balthazar could finally put the stripy scarf around its neck. Berry jumped up and put the red saucepan on its head for a hat.



"Hey, it looks really super! Now the only thing left is his nose," Balthazar said enthusiastically. The little bee flew back to his stripy house to get another carrot.



“Balthazar, we’ve got something to tell you,” Berry started to explain. He felt very guilty. “We smashed your first snowman. We slid right into it with our sledge. It was an accident. Are you mad at us?”

“What? It was you?” Balthazar was very surprised.



The little bee soon forgave his friends.

"This snowman looks much better than the first one," he declared and pushed the carrot in to make the snowman's nose.

"Come on, let's play with the sledge together!"



Berry, Dolly and Balthazar played with the sledge until it got dark and were very careful not to hit their new snowman.