The Ice Storm

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Practice reading these sentences.

The school closed because of the ice.
Fran and Vick tramped home with Deena.
The wind and ice stung their faces.
One day there was a big ice storm while the children were at school. The principal, Mrs. White, told Mr. West’s class that school would close early.

“School is closing now because of the ice,” said Mr. West. “But the bus cannot run.”

“The bus cannot take us home on the ice!” said Fran. “Vick and I must sleep at school!”

Fran and Vick were very excited at the idea of staying overnight at Deena’s house in town. Everyone bundled up and got their backpacks.

Mom and all the kids tramped home. They held hands so they did not slip. The wind and ice stung their faces. It was COLD! They were glad to get home and go in.
The kids hung up their wet jackets. Deena’s mom called Fran’s mom and Vick’s mom.
She said, “They can spend the night here.”
Deena rubbed her face. “My face is still cold!” she said.
“Come sit by the fireplace,” said Granddad.
“I lit a nice warm fire just for you.”
Granddad and the kids sat near the warm fireplace. Deena’s mom made dinner. All of a sudden, the lights blinked on and off! Then it was dark! All the kids screamed! “Do not be scared,” said Granddad. “The ice made the lines fall. But we have a fire. We are O.K.”
The electricity was out. Mom came in from the kitchen, carrying a candle to light her way.

“I cannot finish making dinner,” said Mom. “The oven is not hot. The lights are off.”
“We can put hot dogs on a stick,” said Granddad. “We can heat them in the fireplace.”
“Just like camping!” said Deena.
“Yes,” said Granddad. “We can camp by the fireplace. We can have a picnic and sing camping songs.” The kids clapped their hands.
The kids ate hot dogs. They had ice cream.
They sang camping songs and played games.
“Camping IN is nice!” said Vick.
“Yes,” Fran grinned. “No mice can get in my backpack!”
“It is late,” said Mom. “You kids must go to bed.” “Can we camp by the fireplace?” asked Deena. Mom said, “Yes, you can sleep by the fire.” “Can Granddad tell us a story?” begged Deena. “O.K.,” said Mom.
Mom helped the kids put sleeping bags and blankets near the fireplace. They were snug!
Granddad said, “After the story, you kids must go to sleep.”
He began, “Once upon a time…”
He did not get to the end. The kids were fast asleep!
The sun rose and Deena jumped out of bed. She checked the lights.
“No lights, Mom,” she yelled.
“Then school is closed,” said Mom.
Deena raced back to the kids.
“Get up!” she yelled. “NO school! We can skate on the ice.”
Fran sat up and rubbed her face.
“Let’s get Jim and Jack,” said Vick.
The kids got dressed and raced out. Deena fell on her back in the deep snow. She looked up. The ice on the trees looked nice. Fran traced Deena in the snow with a stick. Then Deena traced Fran. “Look!” said Fran. “We traced snow kids!”
Just then, Jim and Jack jumped over the fence. “Hi!” they yelled. “No lights and NO school!” “Let’s go sledding in the snow,” said Deena. “Yes!” yelled the kids.
1. Why did school close?

2. Why did Fran and Vick spend the night at Deena’s?

3. When did the lights blink off?

4. Why did the kids like camping in?

5. Why were the kids glad at the end of the story?
Reading Roots, Level 3

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