

**B-r-r-r....**

**The  
Blizzard  
of 1977**

**Book Title:**

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**The Blizzard of 1977**

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**1**

Next  
reader,  
please.

**This is the story of the blizzard of 1977. That dreadful blizzard will be remembered by all who lived through it. It took place in Southern Ontario, and western New York.**

**2**

Next  
reader,  
please.

**January 28, 1977 started  
out like any other day.  
Children donned their  
winter coats, hats, mittens  
and warm boots before  
heading off to school.**

**The weather was beautiful.  
The sun shone brightly in  
the sky. There was a  
slight wind, just enough to  
make your cheeks rosey.**

**Children love to play in the Snow, and that year there was a lot of it. By late January there was around 30 inches of snow for the children to play in.**

**Did you build snow forts or make "snow angels" when you were young?**

**By the middle of December, Lake Erie had frozen over. With a surface area of ten thousand square miles, there was plenty of snow to blow around.**

**By noon, on January 28,  
1977 the storm of the  
century had started.**

**Schools closed down and  
the children were loaded  
on to buses to try and get  
them home before the  
storm got worse.**

**Have you ever been caught  
in a storm like this?**

**What did you do?**

**Many busloads of children  
ended up stranded at**

**the houses of good**

**Samaritans who took them**

**in and made them**

**comfortable.**

**What would you do if 25 children showed up for dinner?**

**People who lived along the bus routes found cold, tired children and bus drivers at their door. They immediately welcomed them in.**

**Some children viewed the experience as an adventure that they would remember for the rest of their life. Others were frightened and didn't like being away from their parents.**

**Motorists found themselves stranded and their cars were being buried by the blowing snow. Anyone venturing out into the blizzard found that they could not see because of the force of the wind and snow crystals.**

**People took shelter  
wherever possible. Some  
storm survivors  
reported spending up to  
three days in their cars.  
Others found themselves  
in the companionship of  
strangers who made the  
best of an unusual  
situation.**

**People pooled their  
Resources, helping  
where needed while  
waiting for the storm to  
subside. Would you wait  
in your car or would you  
try to walk to find shelter  
from the storm?**

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Next  
reader,  
please.

**Four days after the storm of the century began it left in hasty retreat. The aftermath of destruction would not be known until people began to dig themselves out.**

**Many people found that they had to exit their houses through a second story window and then dig out their front door!**

**People living along the shores of Lake Erie report snow drifts as high as the telephone wires.**

**Power was knocked out in some regions and a state of emergency was declared.**

**How would you warm your house if your power was out?**

**Snowmobilers came to the rescue of many stranded people. They even delivered food supplies to two thousand students stranded in twenty-four schools in the Niagara Region.**

**It took weeks to recover  
from the fury of the  
blizzard. The snow was  
packed so tight that plows  
needed the help of  
bulldozers to penetrate it.**

**It would take the combined effort of many to open roads and restore life back to normal.**

**The total cost of the blizzard and it's clean up was 3 million dollars.**

**It's a memory frozen in time.**

**Where were you during the  
Blizzard of '77?**

**Thank you for reading and  
discussing this story.**

**Would you like to do this  
again sometime?**

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Next  
reader,  
please.

**References:**

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