

*Violet the Snowgirl:*  
*A Story of Loss and Healing*  
**Discussion Guide**  
Grades PK – 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- Preview the title, cover, and illustrations throughout the book to predict the topics of the book.
- Review some vocabulary/terms for the story: feelings, loss, healing, birthday, sadness, memories, grateful

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.**

- Why does Jerzie feel sad the day after her birthday?
- How does building a snowman with her brother make Jerzie feel better and have a good, fun day?
- What makes the melting of the snowman cause sadness for Jerzie and her brother?

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

- Ask: In pairs or small groups, use a large piece of drawing paper to illustrate the process of building a snowman.
- Make a list of ways that Jerzie & her brother overcome their grief and reflect on the happy times in their lives.
- **Extension:** Use the RIF Venn Diagram graphic organizer to look at the differences & similarities in the feelings of happiness and sadness.

<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/material/venn-diagram>

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, or content. For example: *Many Shapes of Clay: A Story of Healing*

<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/many-shapes-clay-story-healing>