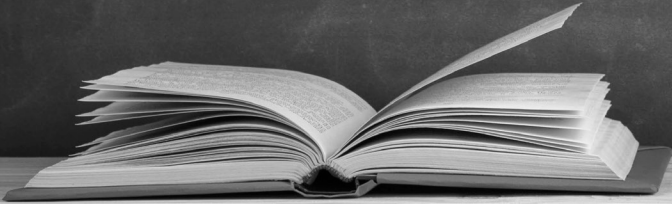




THE CLIBURN

CLIBURN KID

with Buddy Bray



EPISODE 12: FOOTSTEPS IN THE SNOW DEBUSSY "Footsteps in the snow"

TODAY'S WORKSHEET



WHAT IS SNOW?

This seems like a simple question, but let's look a little deeper!

Snow is precipitation that forms when water vapor in the air freezes. Of course snow is cold, but it actually helps cool the planet by reflecting sunlight away from the Earth's surface and back into the atmosphere. This is also how it gets the bright white color we see!

WHY IS SNOW WHITE?

All visible light appears white, but actually contains all of the colors in the spectrum. The **color spectrum** includes all the colors in the rainbow that we can see—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet (or ROYGBIV). All surfaces absorb and reflect visible light differently, absorbing some colors and reflecting others as a result. This is where the different colors we see around us in the world come from! Watch this video to learn more: <https://youtu.be/2ZsJpcOliSU>

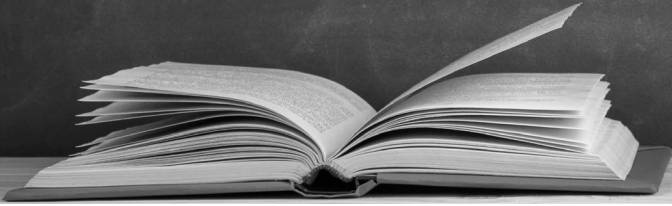
Since snow reflects nearly all light, it absorbs almost none, which is why it appears so bright white on the surface. However, deep snow can act as a kind of filter and tends to absorb red light, which is how snow gets the blue tint seen in the deep footsteps above—it is reflecting back the blue light in the spectrum!



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PLAYING WITH COLORS

The composer of this piece, Claude Debussy, loved color! He was inspired by visual artists and used colors in his music to give us a musical impression of a scene—in this case, footsteps in the snow.

First, have you ever been in snow? What are some fun things you can do in the snow?

Let's make our own drawing from listening to the music! Now let's listen to Buddy play this piece while we think about the scene we are about to create. Answer the questions below to help guide your drawing, on the next page!

Who do you think left the footsteps? _____

Where were they going? _____

What were they doing in the snow—having a fun time, or maybe traveling?

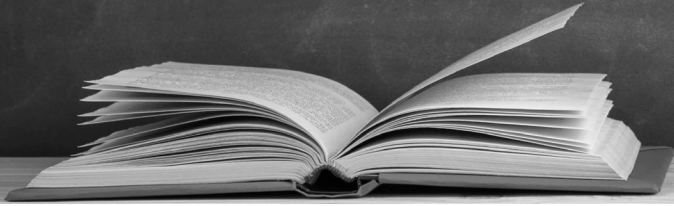
Being in the snow can be tiring! How many times does Buddy say our character stopped to rest in the music?



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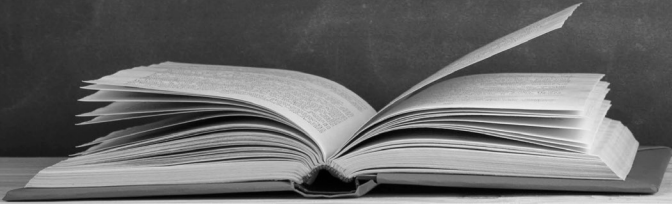
Pick an activity for our character—either traveling, resting, or one of the fun activities you listed on the previous page—and create your own snowy scene to go along with the music. Use crayons, markers, paints, anything you like!



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LEARN ABOUT THE COMPOSER!

CLAUDE DEBUSSY 1862–1918

Claude Debussy was born in France in 1862. His parents ran a china shop in a small town outside of Paris. There was not much money, and Debussy's parents had to work many jobs to support the family. A family friend paid for his piano lessons. At first, Debussy thought he wanted to be a sailor because he loved the water so much, but after taking a few piano lessons, he decided that he would much rather become a musician.

Although he was not from a musical family, he excelled at the piano and entered the Paris Conservatory when he was 11 years old. For the next 10 years he studied and wrote music at the famous music school, and even won prizes for his piano playing. However, the teachers were not as impressed with his compositions. He had a desire to make a new kind of music, and most of his teachers did not know what to do with him and his "strange" ideas.

Debussy was very interested in the new style of painting that French visual artists of his time were experimenting with. These artists, who were largely painters, became known as Impressionists. The Impressionists did not try to make a clear, exact picture, but instead gave a hint or impression of their subject. Debussy imitated Impressionist art with his music. Instead of using paint to create an Impressionist picture, he used a wide variety of sounds to create music that people had never heard before. He used delicate colorings in his harmony, unusual scales, and different kinds of forms. He was able to express the same kind of musical scene through his music as the Impressionist artist did with a brush and paint.

