

Chapter 4: Oh, Nose!

Raymond and Snowdrift trotted up to congratulate Max and Rodney for winning the race. Max ate cookies and petted Snowdrift at the same time, talking about how much fun the race had been. Rodney took off the bucket helmet and pulled his stocking cap out of Snowdrift's saddlebag. "My head is cold," he said. Everyone laughed as he put on his hat.



The three friends walked home together. Rodney couldn't wait to tell his parents that he would get to help Santa deliver toys this Christmas. Just then, Santa galloped by on Melinda. "Your training starts Monday," he yelled to Rodney as he passed them, "See you bright and early. Right now I'm going ho, ho, home!" Rodney and Raymond groaned. Santa was fond of making silly jokes! Max rolled his eyes.

"You have to get used to that when you work with Santa," he groaned, "One time he told me to do my ho, ho, homework!"

Max, Rodney, Raymond and Snowdrift continued walking. Suddenly, Rodney remembered something, "Where's Ruffy?" he asked, "I was so excited about winning the race, I forgot to get Ruffy."

Raymond grinned. "Don't worry, Rodney, my dad took him home!"

"What's that?" Max asked. "Look, it's over there behind the snowbank."

The two snowboys turned in the direction of Max’s pointing hoof. They saw a red and white hat sticking up over the snowbank. “It must be Santa,” Raymond said slowly, “But he said he was going home. Why would he be here?”

“Let’s go and find out.” Rodney started walking towards the snowbank. Raymond and Max followed. They looked over the top of the snowbank. It wasn’t Santa, but whoever it was, was wearing a Santa suit. Whoever it was had long ears, big feet and a twitching nose.

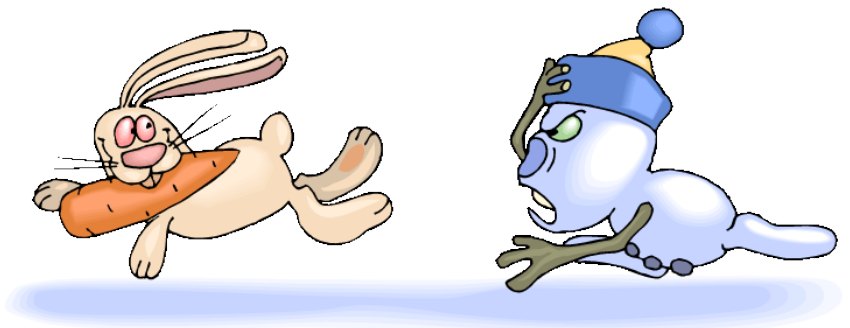


“Who are **you**?” chorused Rodney, Raymond and Max in unison.

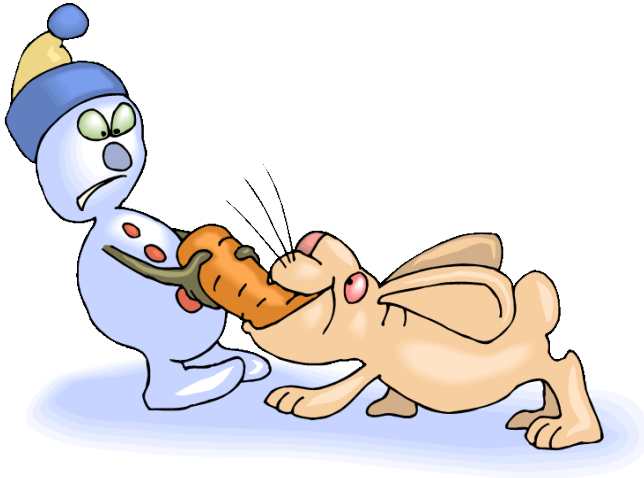
The strange looking creature smiled. “I am the Christmas Hare! I bring toys to good little rabbits everywhere. I am Santa’s helper.”

The three friends looked at each other. They had never heard of the Christmas Hare. They didn’t believe him, but were too polite to say so. What they **did** notice was that the hare was looking hungrily at Rodney and Raymond’s carrot noses!

Suddenly, the creature jumped out of his suit and straight at Rodney’s nose! Before anyway could stop him, he grabbed the carrot nose and took off running.



Rodney rolled up his snow sleeves and took off after him, holding on to his cap with one stick hand. Max, Raymond and Snowdrift galloped after them as fast as they could. Max scooped Rodney up and put him on his back. The hare ran faster and faster, still carrying Rodney’s carrot nose in his mouth.



At last, they caught up to the hare and Rodney slid off of Max's back. Max, Snowdrift and Raymond went behind the hare so he couldn't escape. Rodney grabbed his nose. The hare pulled back. Rodney and the hare tugged at the nose. Finally, the hare let go and Rodney fell into the snow, holding on to his bright orange nose.

"At least he didn't break it," Rodney said, putting it back on his face where it belonged. He grabbed his broom and twirled around happily. Rodney could never stay angry for very long! He looked for his friends. "Hey, guys, let's go home."

Raymond, Snowdrift and Max didn't answer. They were too busy chasing the hare away from Snowman Town!

"I'm lucky to have such good friends," Rodney thought and headed for home to tell his parents all about his exciting day!



Name: _____

Directions: Use the information on pages 1-3 to answer the questions below:

1. Santa tells Rodney that his training will begin on Monday. What training do you think Rodney will receive? Explain your thinking on the lines below:

2. Explain Santa's silly joke:

3. Why did Raymond think Santa was hiding behind the snow bank?

- A. He had just seen Santa go by riding Melinda.
- B. He thought Santa was going home.
- C. He looked in the direction of Max's pointing hoof.
- D. Santa had been wearing a red and white cap.

4. Why did Rodney forget about Ruffy?

- A. He thought Raymond's father had taken him home.
- B. He was thinking about how he had won the race.
- C. He suddenly remembered he forgot something.
- D. He was thinking about Santa's silly jokes.

5. How did the Hare to try to fool Rodney and his friends? Use details from the text to support your answer:

6. Why do you think that the Hare took Rodney's bright orange carrot nose? Use details from the text to support your answer:

7. Rodney said he was lucky to have such good friends. Do you agree with his thinking? Explain why or why not on the lines below:

Answer Key: (Answers will vary. Accept Reasonable Answers)

- 1. Santa tells Rodney that his training will begin on Monday. What training do you think Rodney will receive? Explain why you think this on the lines below:**

Rodney will receive training on how to fly his broomstick with an elf and a bag of toys on it. He will learn how to fly beside Santa's sleigh and land on rooftops. I think this is the training he will receive because in Chapter 3 this is what Santa said he needed the reindeer to do if they were chosen after the race.

- 2. Explain Santa's silly joke:**

Santa always says, "Ho, ho, ho!" In this story Santa makes a joke about this by saying "I am going ho, ho home!"

- 3. Why did Raymond think Santa was hiding behind the snow bank?**

D. Santa had been wearing a red and white cap.

- 4. Why did Rodney forget about Ruffy?**

B. He was thinking about how he had won the race.

- 5. How did the Hare try to fool Rodney and his friends? Use details from the text to support your answer:**

He tried to pretend he was the "Christmas Hare". He said he was Santa's helper and brought toys to good little rabbits.

- 6. Why do you think that the Hare took Rodney's bright orange carrot nose? Use details from the text to support your answer:**

He took Rodney's nose because he was hungry. Rabbits eat carrots. The text said he was looking hungrily at Rodney and Raymond's carrot noses.

- 7. Rodney said he was lucky to have such good friends. Do you agree with his thinking? Explain why or why not on the lines below:**

I agree with his thinking. Max and Raymond proved they were good friends because they chased the Christmas Hare away from Snowman Town so that he wouldn't try to take Rodney's nose again.