

A Winter Landscape

The following is an extract created using descriptions from the Twinkl Originals KS2 story 'The Shadow in the Snow'. Click [here](#) to read the story in full.

The white fields stretch out all around. Looking at the view from the top of the hill, the cold air nips at the back of your throat and bites at your fingertips. Your breath hangs in the air – a fleeting, misty vapour that escapes your lips each time you exhale. All is silent in this wintry expanse except for the occasional creak of ice, like a sleepy giant waking from his slumber, and the distant call of a snowy owl.

There has been a deep fall of snow the night before and a fluffy quilt now covers the land. A frozen river winds like a serpent across the landscape, its crystalline surface sparkling and reflecting against the vast canvas of white and grey. In the distance, a lone tree stands tall and stark against the bleak backdrop. Branches, stripped of all their leaves, point like fingers towards heavy clouds that look ready to burst.

Small flurries of flakes begin to fall from the sky once more, this time just a light dusting, like icing sugar sprinkled over a sponge cake. The cold February wind whistles across over the snow-capped hedgerows – their thorny defences cunningly concealed under a smooth, white shield. Nearby, a small set of paw prints crisscrosses the snow, disturbing the otherwise pristine cover, as though an animal has skittered between the fields. Peering over the hedges, you can see that the footprints continue all the way to the river and back. There are circles of prints in the snow, twisting round and round, and more trails leading back and forth.

Now, the sun is setting early behind the mountains, the sky turning pink as dusk draws in; a deepening blush of the rose-coloured horizon disappears behind the thick blanket of descending darkness. There is a chill in the air and a gloom that settles as the sun sinks lower.

Out here, in the wide-open countryside, there is just stillness and silence and solitude.

