Mrs. Van Horne's Second Grade Class
Mockingbird Elementary School
Coppell, Texas
Snowflake Bentley

Interactive Read Aloud:
Second graders that live in Texas have not experienced very many snows. They were fascinated when I read the book, *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. This book is the biography of Wilson Bentley, a Vermont native that discovered that no two snowflakes are like! Bentley spent his life taking thousands of photographs in order to prove his theory.

Writing Workshop:
During the month of February our grade level does a research project about famous Americans. While studying character traits of famous Americans we wrote an "Important Poem" about Wilson Bentley. Each student thought of a symbol that represented his life and drew a decorative border around their poem.

Technology Connection:
Kidspiration – Each student created a story map using the Kidspiration symbols to represent the story elements in the book, Snowflake Bentley .The elements that we used were character, setting, problem, solution, genre, and author's purpose.

Next the students wrote a complete sentence to tell about each story element. They discovered that they had created a short summary of the book!

They used all of this information to create their "Important Poem" about Wilson Bentley.

Student Writing Sample

Snowflake Bentley

The important thing about Snowflake Bentley

is that he never gave up

It is true that he loved snowflakes

and he was friendly

and sixtysix years old

and he loved nature

But the important thing about Snowflake Bentley

is that he never gave up

Lydia
_____
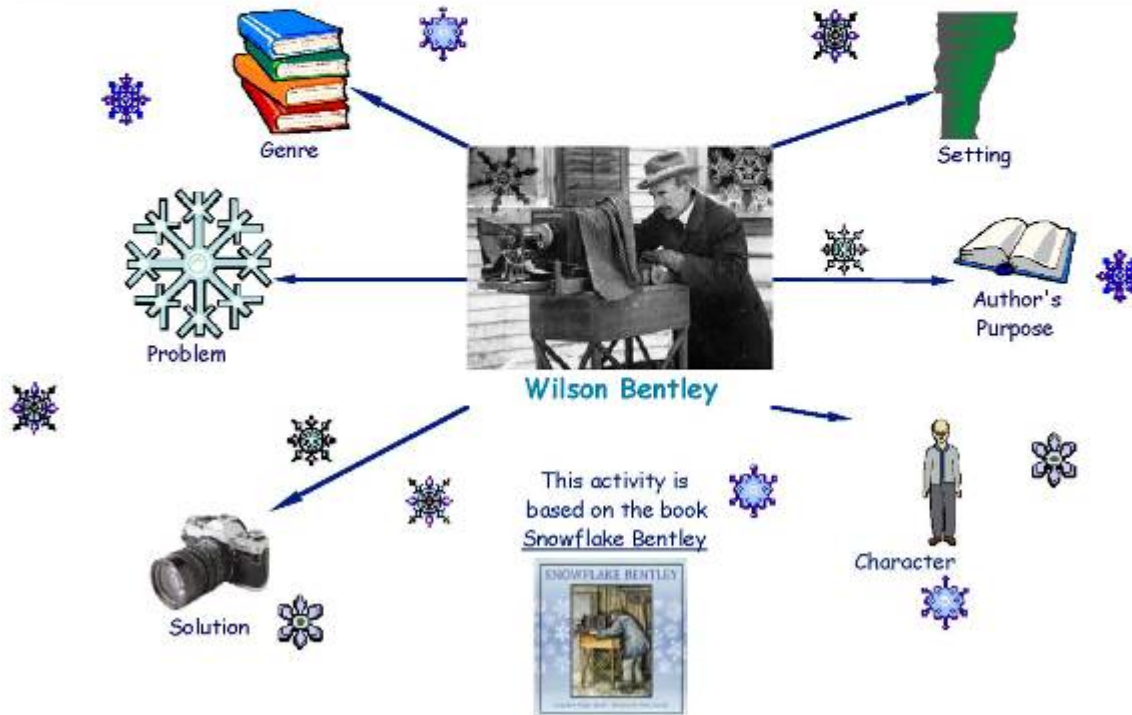Author

Student Kidspiration File Sample

Snowflake Bentley

1 Watch the Snowflake Man video at http://www.snowflakebentley.com/vid.htm.	**2** Think about the book Snowflake Bentley and add symbols that make sense for each bubble.

3 Next click on the pencil and paper icon to go to the writing view and add details.

Genre

Setting

Problem

Author's Purpose

Wilson Bentley

Solution

This activity is based on the book Snowflake Bentley

Character

SNOWFLAKE BENTLEY

Wilson Bentley

Genre
The genre is non-fiction.

Problem
He couldn't show his snowflakes to the world.

Setting
The setting is Vermont.

Solution
His parents bought him a camara when he was seventeen.

Author's Purpose
The author's purpose is to inform.

Character
The character's name are Wilson Bentley, mom, and dad.