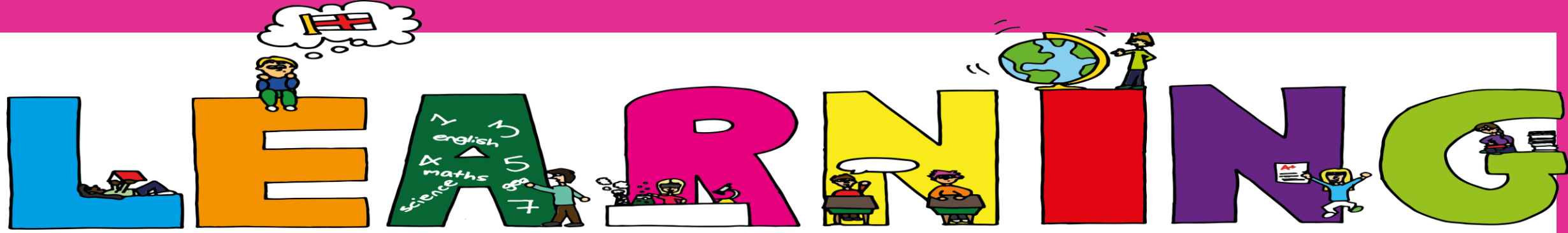




**Welcome to the Animal Kingdom! This is Lesson 7!**



**Students will:**

- **Learn about the sounds 'fl'**
- **Identify titles, headlines, captions and illustrations**
- **Use prepositions to describe the location of an object.**



# Disney pins big hopes on 'Lion King'

BY JOHN HORN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Some acts are nearly impossible to follow, and the Walt Disney Co.'s predicament is just that: How can Disney possibly top 1992's record-breaking *Aladdin*? The studio plays the answer is *The Lion King*, Disney's first completely original animated film.

With EuroDisney hemorrhaging millions in losses a week and most of the company's current films (*Angeles*, *Blank Check*, *The Ref*) playing in nearly empty houses, the pressure on *The Lion King* grows even more profound.

Judging from an early glimpse of *Lion King* footage, Disney seems to have somehow pulled it off. The film moves hard-bitten adults to tears, turns skeptical scowls to smiles and is anchored by the memorable anthem "The Circle of Life."

At a recent preview for theater owners, the exhibitors gave the film a robust ovation, and some industry experts say *The Lion King* will surpass *Aladdin* as the highest-grossing animated movie ever.

The movie opens in Radio City Music Hall in New York and Disney's El Capitan theater in Los Angeles on June 15, and nationally on June 24.

*Aladdin* is the highest-grossing animated film of all time, with domestic box-office receipts in excess of \$217 million. But the U.S. movie ticket sales tell only a fraction of the film's financial story.

Counting home-video sales of 24 million units (\$5 profit per cassette), an array of consumer products, international movie sales, and a popular soundtrack album, *Aladdin* accounted for a whopping 27 percent of Disney's total 1993 operating profits, according to a recent study by NatWest Securities.

Although that percentage may be slightly high, the importance of Disney's animated films cannot be overstated.

"It really is huge," NatWest analyst Paul Marsh says of the expectations for *The Lion King*, Disney's 32nd animated feature.

"Every new film, they seem to get better and better at promoting it," Marsh says. "Hopefully, they will keep the ball rolling."

Disney plans to release three animated movies every two years (*Pocahontas* is due next year) and has started producing direct-to-video animated movies (*Return of Jafar*, due May 28).

"It's tough to follow movies like *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin*," says Don Hahn, the producer of *The Lion King*, as he feverishly tries to finish the film.

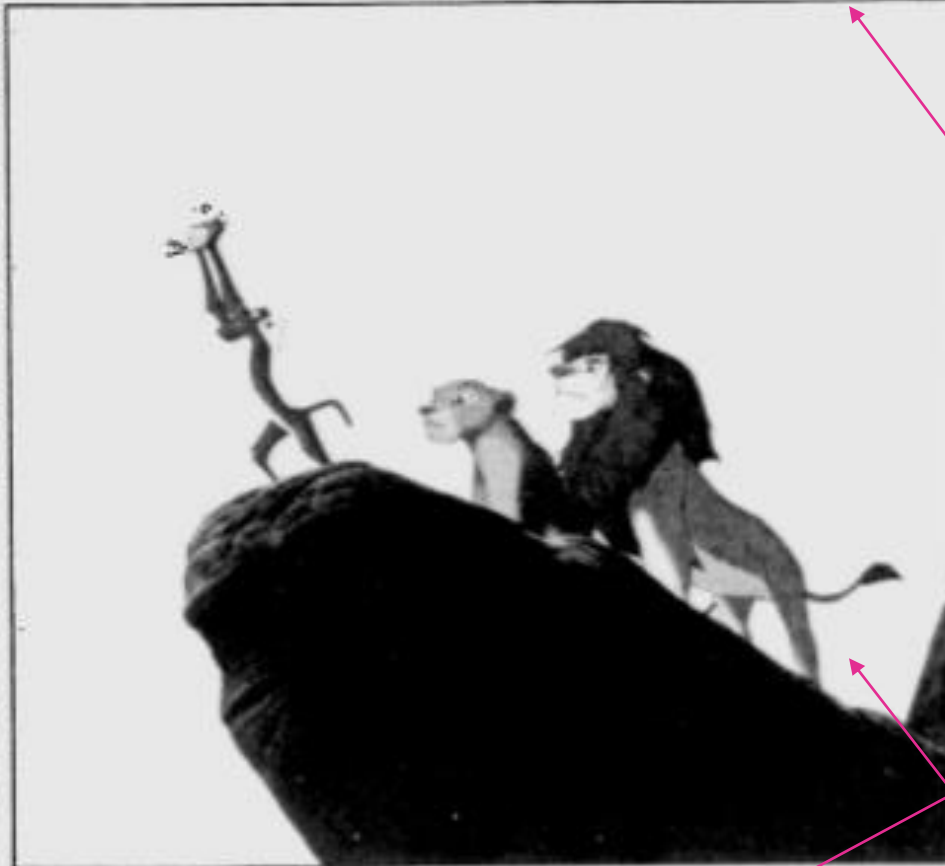
"And yet, at the end of the day, you can forget about that and just say, 'OK. How can we create something that's fresh and different and new?' If we kept remaking the same film again and again, we would lose our creative edge."

The movie tells the story of a young lion cub destined to rule the kingdom who flees when his evil uncle tricks him into believing that he caused his father's death. Unlike *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Little Mermaid*, there are no human characters in the film.

While not adapted from one specific book or story, *The Lion King* is strongly reminiscent of *Hamlet*, the Old Testament, Greek tragedy and classic hero mythology. If the thesis of *Beauty and the Beast* is don't judge a book by its cover, *The Lion King* tells about that moment when children become adults.

"I think that's why it's such a familiar story to people, even though it's an original story," says Hahn, who also produced *Beauty and the Beast* and was the associate producer on *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.

The film features the voices of Jeremy Irons, Whoopi Goldberg, James Earl Jones, Matthew Broderick and Cheech Marin. The African-themed music, which should appeal to adult audiences as well, is by



Studio execs think their new animated movie, due in June, will rule box office

Elton John, Academy Award-winning lyricist Tim Rice and composer Hans Zimmer.

Repeating its strategy on *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Little Mermaid*, Disney will release *The Lion King* slowly. Theoretically, the film's word of mouth will precede its arrival in most cities, and posi-

tive reviews will become a central component in advertising.

The film's release will be accompanied by a blizzard of *Lion King* trinkets and memorabilia, ranging from commemorative candy bars to a children's lion toy that roars when petted. Burger King will promote *Lion King* in its fast-food restau-

rants and on television.

Merchandising experts say *Lion King* product sales could surpass \$4 billion, challenging the expected windfall for *The Flintstones*.

When all the tickets are counted, will *The Lion King* rule at the box office?

The smart money says: Yes.

Title

Headlines

Captions

Illustrations

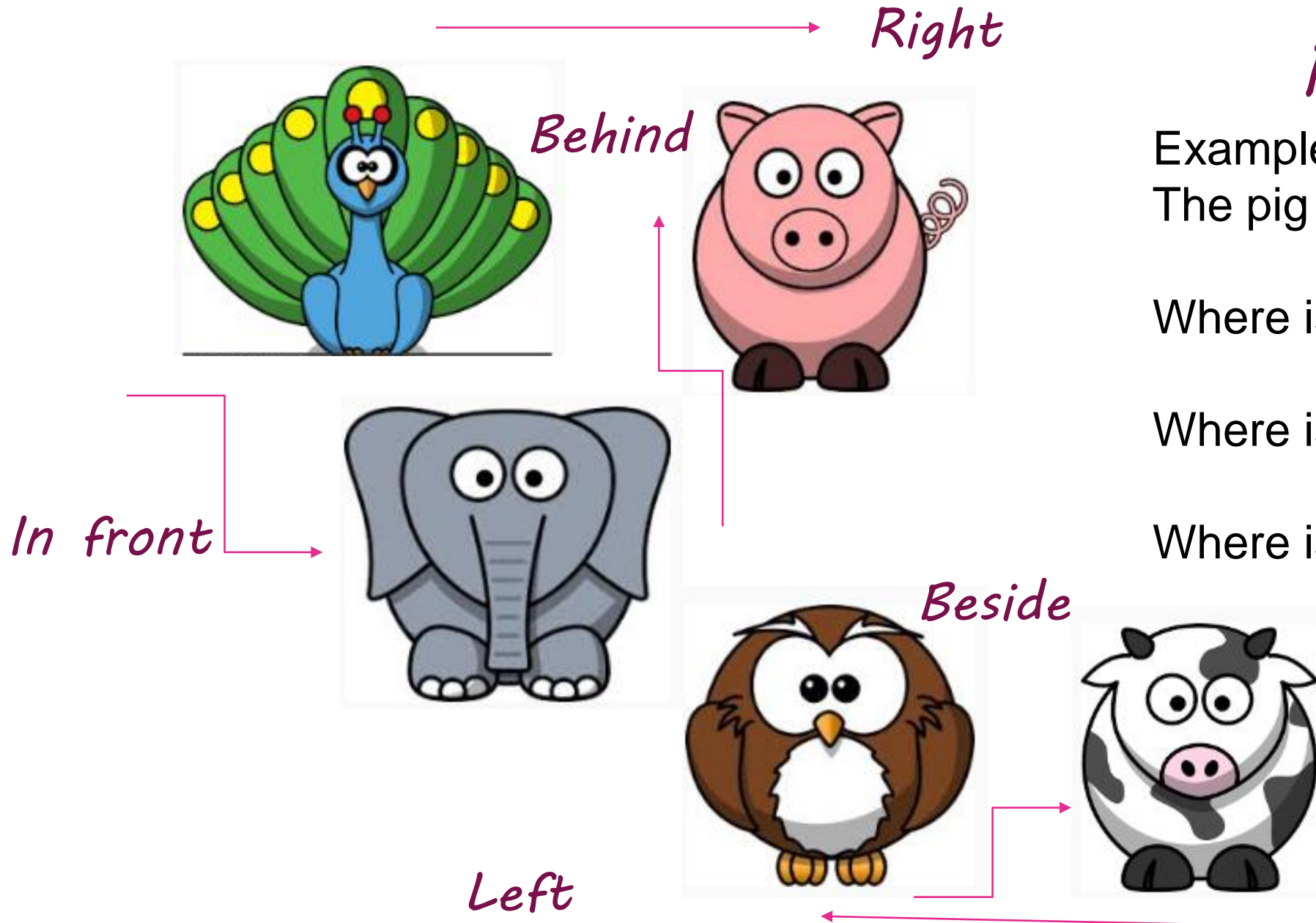
# Prepositions

Example: Where is the pig?  
The pig is beside the peacock.

Where is the elephant?

Where is the cow?

Where is the owl?





Lets read  
a story

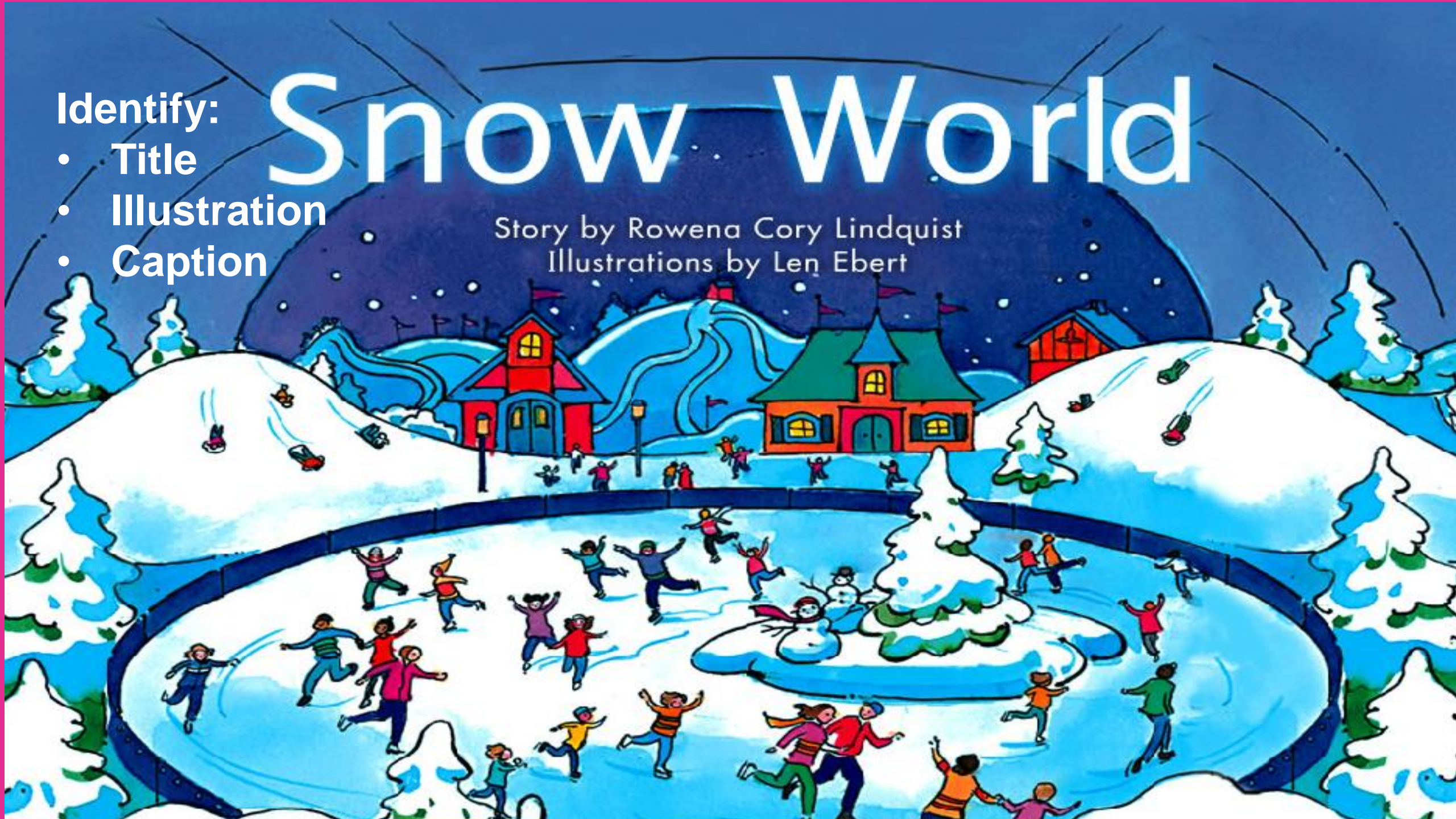


Identify:

- Title
- Illustration
- Caption

# Snow World

Story by Rowena Cory Lindquist  
Illustrations by Len Ebert



# *Pre-Reading Activities*

What do you think this story is about from the title and the illustration?



Saturday is when we go to Dad's. It's Dad's day.

Last Saturday, Dad took us to Snow World. My little brother Mario was excited. We had never seen snow before.

Dad bought tickets for the snow field. We waited while a man raked the snow. Then we ran onto the snow field.





We watched people skate.  
Some skaters went  
backwards. Some skaters  
did spins in the air.

“Dad, can you do that?”  
asked Mario.

Dad laughed. I like it when  
Dad laughs.

Dad helped Mario put his  
skates on. I put mine on but  
I couldn't stand up. How  
could I skate if I couldn't  
stand on my skates?



Dad pulled Mario onto the ice rink. I held Dad's hand, too.

"You have to glide like this," Dad said.

We tried to glide.

"Aaah!" Mario said.  
He fell on his bottom.  
Dad fell over too.





I let go of Dad's hand. I slid across the ice. I couldn't stop. I banged into the rail and hung onto it.

Dad and Mario were both laughing at me.

I laughed, too.

"Let's go on the snow slide," Dad said.





The snow slide was very high. Everyone screamed as they slid down it. Mario was too small so Dad had to go with him.

We climbed the stairs to the top. It was a long way down.

When it was my turn, I held on tight. I nearly fell off on the bend.

Then I landed in the snow at the bottom of the slide.





“Don’t you want us to come over on Saturdays, Dad?”  
I asked.

“Of course I do!” Dad said and hugged me. “I just wanted to make it a special day for you.”

“But Dad, just being with you is special,” I said.

Dad hugged us. It made me feel happy and special.





LEARNING  
OUR WORDS !



Write a definition of the **'fl'** words.



flag



flute



fleet

Write a definition of the 'fl' words.



flea



fly



flames



Write a definition of the **'fl'** words.



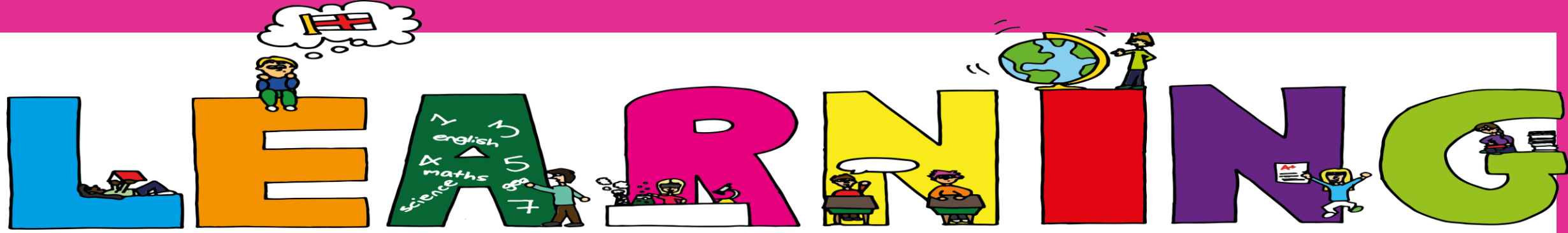
floor



flip flops



flower



Students will:

- Learn about the sounds 'fl' ✓
- Identify titles, headlines, captions and illustrations ✓
- Use prepositions to describe the location of an object. ✓



# *Homework*

Think about your bedroom.  
Draw your bedroom and where all the furniture  
is located.

Write some sentences about the things beside  
your bed, under and above the bed and on the  
left and right side.

# *Final Thoughts*

- Do you have any questions?