# **Snow Elephants**

By Donna Latham



ay, Nick's home from college!" Ella rapped on the window when she saw her brother. Nick waved to her from inside his car. "My first wish came true! Nick's home! Now, if only it would snow..." Suddenly, Ella scowled and wondered, "Who's that guy with Nick?"



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"That doesn't stop us from wishing for snow, right, Ella?" Nick winked.

"Blah," Ella muttered. "Winter's not much fun without snow."

"Would you like a snack?" Mom asked. "Ella and I baked yummy cookies this morning."

Ella twirled her hair glumly. She thought to herself, "Narong spoiled everything. Nick was supposed to come home to spend time with me. Why should I share him with Narong?"

Narong sat shyly at the kitchen table. He pointed to a plate of

#### Name: \_



cookies. "Are those elephant cookies?"

Ella quietly grumbled, "Elephants are my favorite animal."

"Miss Ella, the Thai people cherish elephants." Narong's eyes danced. "White elephants are a symbol of



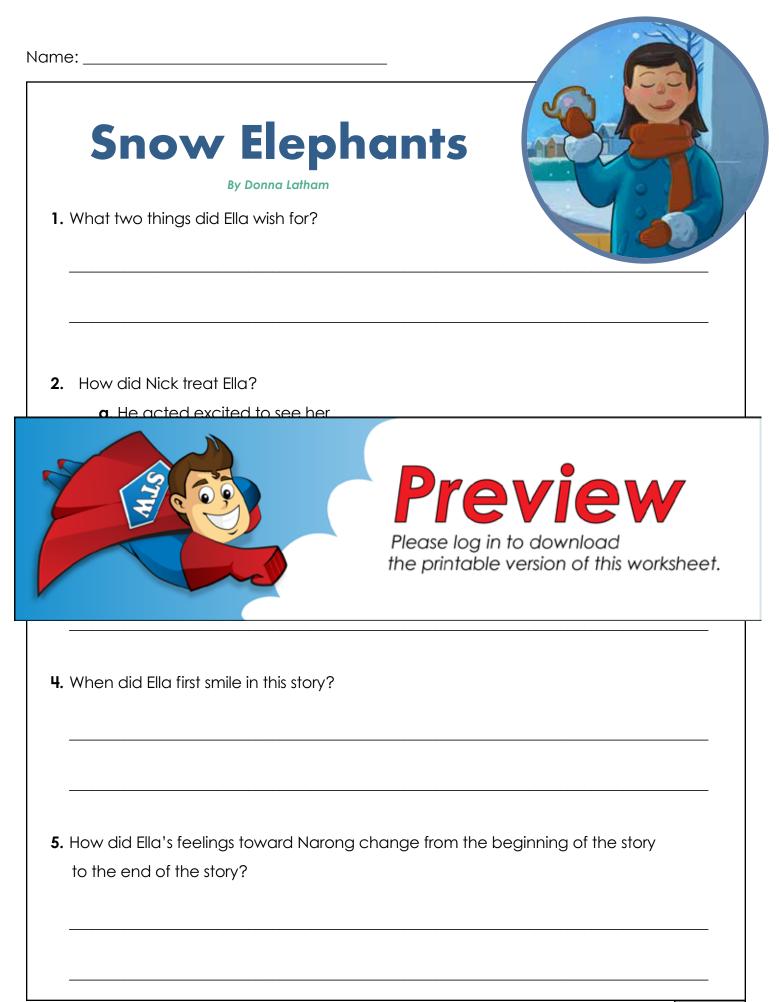
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snow. Like you."

"Snow elephants taste yummy," Nick said as he crunched a cookie at the kitchen table.

Mom peeked out the window and saw swirling snowflakes tumbling softly from the sky. "Ella, look out the window! Your second wish finally—" Mom looked back towards the kitchen table. "Where did everyone go?"

Outside, Ella padded powdery snow into a ball. She placed it in Narong's hand. Her wishes had come true, and she realized that she had made a new friend.



### Snow Elephants Vocabulary

Choose the correct definition of each underlined vocabulary word.

- 1. Ella rapped on the window when she saw her brother.
  - a. leaned b. tapped
  - c. covered with paper d. waved

Ella twirled her hair alumly



# Preview

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- **4.** White elephants are a symbol of <u>royalty</u>.
  - a. hard work b. religion
  - c. strength d. having to do with kings and queens
- 5. Suddenly, Ella scowled and wondered, "Who's that guy with Nick?"
  - a. looked confused b. smiled
  - c. made an angry face d. laughed out loud
- 6. I whipped up the snow-white frosting on these cookies.
  - **a.** hit hard **b.** made
  - c. added color d. ate

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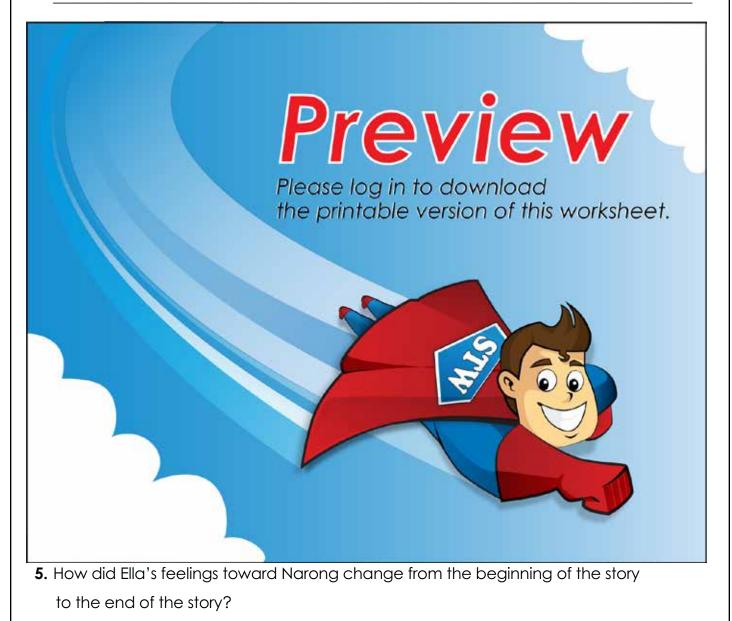
### **ANSWER KEY**

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1. What two things did Ella wish for?

Ella wished her brother Nick would come home and



At the beginning of the story, Ella was jealous of Narong. At the end of the story,

she realized they had some things in common and she liked him.

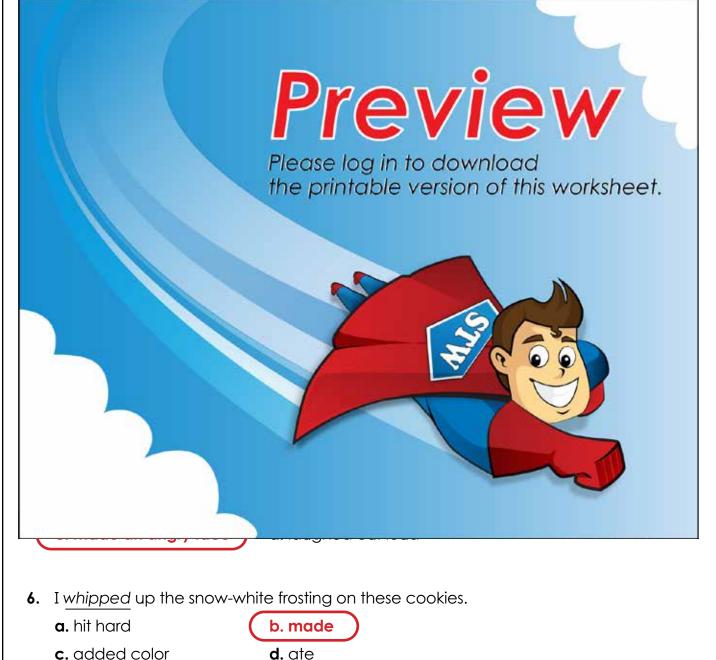
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