Warm Soup for Dedushka

Written by Kathryn Maksimov Illustrated by Michael Tirenin My name is Masha. I live with my grandmother, Babushka (BA-boosh-ka), and grandfather, Dedushka (DE-doosh-ka), in a village in Russia. It gets very cold here in the winter. This morning, it's so cold that school is closed, so I'm staying home with Babushka. She's making beet soup for lunch. I get to take it to Dedushka. He's on the river, fishing through a hole in the ice.

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While I wait for the soup, I press my nose and hands up against the frozen window. My nose and hands get cold. The ice on the outside of the window melts.



Dedushka taught me that heat moves from warm to cold places. Some things allow heat to move quickly. Some things stop heat from moving. The glass on the window allowed the heat from my nose and hands to move to the ice outside. My cold nose and hands need to be warmed up, so I go sit by the heater. Hot water flows through the heater's metal pipes. The pipes allow the heat from the water to move to the air in the room, and the air warms me up.





"Soup is ready," Babushka calls from the kitchen. I run in to see. Steam rises from the pot.

"It's so cold outside," Babushka says. "How will you keep this soup warm for Dedushka?"

"I'll trap the heat," I reply.

"And how do you plan to trap heat?" asks Babushka with a twinkle in her eye.

"This metal pot doesn't trap heat," I tell Babushka. "It's like the heater. It lets the heat move from the soup into the room." I can't even touch the pot. It's too hot. Babushka pours the soup into a thick, glass jar.

"This jar doesn't trap heat either," I explain. "It's better than the pot, but it still lets out a lot of heat. It's like the window." "How can we keep the heat inside of the jar?" Babushka asks.

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Babushka pulls a wooden basket down from the shelf. I wonder if it will trap the heat inside. The wood in walls traps heat inside of houses. But the wooden basket has too many holes. The heat will get out through the holes.

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"This is going to take some thinking," I mumble as I sit down at the table. Something soft is on the seat. I pull it out from under me. That's it! My glove keeps my hand warm by trapping my heat. But it's too small. If only I had a glove big enough for the jar.



Then I notice Dedushka's scarf hanging over his chair. "We'll use Dedushka's scarf," I cry. Babushka wraps the scarf around the jar. Then she puts it in the basket for me to carry. I need to stay warm, too. I put on lots of clothes to trap my heat.

Babushka gives me the basket, and I go out into the freezing cold. The icy air tickles the inside of my nose and stings my eyes. I know Dedushka will be happy to have some warm soup . . . and a warm neck!

Math & Science

Heat

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