The Thing About Yetis by Vin Vogel introduces Yeti, a sweet snow monster who loves winter. But even a Yeti can get crabby on the coldest, windiest and wettest winter day – especially when he runs out of hot cocoa! To lift his winter blues, Yeti imagined a warm, cozy summer day right in his house. This book will be especially amusing to read in the middle of winter when the snow and cold has lost its wonder and children are longing for the warmth of summer. The illustrations capture the joys the different seasons bring with the soft blues and whites of winter and the lush greens and bright hues of summer.

You can help children develop essential early literacy skills by reading, talking, writing, singing and playing with them every day. Use the following suggestions as you share The Thing About Yetis.

Ask Open-Ended Questions Before and After Story

**Before the Story**
- *Introduce the story:* Yeti loves winter. He has so much fun playing in the snow. But sometimes, when the winter gets too long and he can’t get warm, Yeti gets crabby. So on the coldest, “wintery-est” day, Yeti decides to bring summer at home.
- What do you see on the cover?
- What does snow feel like?
- What do you wear when you play in the snow?
- What do you like to drink when it’s cold outside?

**After the Story**
- What do Yetis like to do in the winter?
- What did Yeti do to bring summer to his home?
- Can you think of other ‘poofy’ creatures?
- If you were a Yeti and tired of winter, what would you do?
- How do you warm up when you’re cold?
- What do you like to do outside in the snow?
- What do you like best about winter? Summer?
- What do you like to do in the summertime?
- What is your favorite season?

Introduce New Vocabulary and Concepts

Explaining unfamiliar words and concepts will help expand children’s vocabulary, develop their background knowledge and enhance future read alouds.

- **Yeti:** snow monster
- **crabby:** grumpy
- **creatures:** kind of animal
- **poofy:** fluffy
- **zipping:** moving fast
- **crickets:** jumping chirping insects
- **calmest:** quietest
- **Godzilla:** a lizard monster

This book provides a way to talk to children about the different seasons and the many fun things you can do during each season. You can also use this book to introduce weather concepts.
Engage Preschoolers in Early Literacy Book Extension Activities
Using The Thing About Yetis

- Draw a snowman without buttons. Write the numbers 1-9 on index cards. Collect buttons. Allow each child to select a card and put the corresponding number of buttons on the snowman’s tummy.

- Write letters on cut-out white circles. Draw the head of the snowman on the top of a piece of paper. Build the snowman’s body using the letters to spell out words.

- Invite the children to sit in a circle to play “Cold Ice Cube.” (This game is played like “Hot Potato.”) Hand a child an ice cube. Play music and while the music plays, have the children pass around the ice cube. When the music stops, the person left holding the ice cube is “out.” Before you begin, ask the children to predict what will happen to the ice cube as the game is played. Graph the predictions.

- Collect different sets of mittens and on each pair, attach rhyming word pictures. Distribute one mitten to each child. When you give the “go” signal, have the children find the friend who has the matching pictures (cat/hat, frog/log).

Sing Songs and Chant Rhymes About Snow and Winter

Snowflakes, Snowflakes
(Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”)
Snowflakes, snowflakes, snowflakes,
All around,
All around,
Whirling, twirling snowflakes,
Whirling, twirling snowflakes,
Hit the ground,
Hit the ground.

Five Little Snowmen
Five little snowmen on a winter’s day.
The first one said, “Wake up, so we can play.”
The second one said, “Let’s stomp on the ground.”
The third one said, “Let’s roll around.”
The fourth one said, “Let’s run and run and run.”
The fifth one said, “I’m afraid I feel the sun.”
“Oh dear,” cried the snowmen,
As they looked toward the sky,
And the five melting snowmen waved a fond goodbye.

Snowflake Song
(Tune: “Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear”)
Snowflake, snowflake falling down,
(flutter hands down)
Twirling, twirling to the ground. (twirl to the ground)

Softly, lightly on my nose, (touching nose)
Snowflake, snowflake icy cold! (fold arms and shiver)

I Built a Snowman
I built a little snowman. (make large circle with arms)
He had a carrot nose. (point to nose)
Along came a bunny. (hold up two bent fingers)
And what do you suppose? (shrug)
That hungry little bunny, (make bunny again)
Looking for his lunch, (hop bunny around)
Ate the snowman’s nose. (pretend bunny is eating nose)
Nibble! Nibble! Crunch! (pretend to be eating a carrot)

Five Little Snowmen
Five little snowmen standing in a row.
Each had two eyes and a carrot nose.
Along came the sun and shone all day.
And one little snowman melted away.

Continue counting down snowmen:
Four little snowmen...
Three little snowmen...
Two little snowmen...
One little snowman...