

ARISTOTLE'S FIRST SNOW

There are some really big changes when winter comes calling.
The days become shorter. Temperatures start falling.

That's when things get really busy, as a general rule,
Up in Winterflake Falls, at the Castle Snow School.

It was cold last Christmas Eve, up in Winterflake Falls.
And the snow clouds were anxious as they stared at the walls.

They were watching the monitors. Where would they be going?
Each snow cloud was hoping that they soon would be snowing.

They were waiting on orders from General Sleet-n-Snow.
He would pick out the places where the snow clouds would go.

The General would draw maps that the King would review.
He would put yellow push-pins on the maps that he drew.

The General would speak clearly, "A six inch snow for Vermont."
The King would then chuckle, "That is just what they want!"

"Those folks in Vermont will love it," said the King.
"A cold, snowy Christmas, that is really their thing."

The two continued their tasks until they completed the list.
Then the General frowned. "Was there any town we missed?"

Did we forget any town that had requested some snow?"
The King said firmly, "Mistakes are forbidden you know!"

We must get it right before we can leave!
We just cannot make mistakes on this Christmas Eve."

Then the King gave the green light. Orders flashed on the walls.
The snow clouds did see them, and they rushed to the halls.

The clouds were so thrilled that they shared happy glances.
They gave out hugs and big handshakes. Some even did dances.

Big Wayne was all smiles. His assignment was Marquette.
"Michigan folks love a big snow. They are never upset!

Snowing on Christmas Eve! It's the neatest thing that we do.
I love snowing for Christmas. And the towns love it, too!"

A girl snow cloud was giggling. "I'm going to Kentucky.
Seven inches for Frankfurt. Boy, are they lucky!"

"I love going to Kansas," said a snow cloud named Pappy.
"When you snow there on Christmas, they always seem happy."

Big Wayne looked at Aristotle, the very newest snow cloud.
"Did you get your snow orders? You look awfully proud!"

Aristotle had just graduated. At all of this he was new.
And he was a little bit nervous about how he would do!

"I did get my orders," he said proudly to Wayne.
"For my very first snow, I go to Kennebunk, Maine."

"Kennebunk, Maine?" repeated Wayne, as he grinned.
"They'll love a BIG SNOW! Just don't take the wind."

All the snow clouds smiled about Aristotle's destination.
"You'll love snowing in Maine. It's like a vacation.

They love the snow there. The townspeople will smile!
A big snowfall in Kennebunk gives that city real STYLE!"

Aristotle was very happy. This assignment sounded GREAT!
Burgoo, too, was excited. They both could not WAIT!

Aristotle began making plans before heading toward Maine.
He went to share them with Burgoo, so he wouldn't complain.

Burgoo spoke up that he had been talking to Wayne.
"Big Wayne just told me, it can be really COLD up in Maine.

He said 'get a great big furry hat' to keep my head dry.
And 'wear some long underwear' to keep warm as I fly!

He suggested I get myself lots and lots of warm clothes.
And underwear that goes... from my nose to my toes.

He said to 'take mittens and wear galoshes, not boots.'
And he said to 'put on a couple of goose-down snowsuits!'

So, I've got everything on that Wayne told me to try.
But with all this stuff on, now I can't even FLY!!"

Aristotle laughed at his friend with clothes everywhere.
"No, you will never, no, never, get up in the air.

I'm pretty sure there's been a misunderstanding.
If you fly wearing that, you will have a crash landing!

Yes, wearing all those clothes, when you fly, you will wreck!
Just wear some galoshes and a scarf for your neck.

Don't even think about the cold! Hey, we need to get going.
In less than ten hours, I have to be snowing!

Now, there will be other snow clouds traveling on I-95.
We want everything well planned before we arrive.

I will have a little help from these new friends of mine.
When snow clouds plan together, it really works fine!

Alex will snow from Sanford to Portland, and all in-between.
Giles will do Rochester to Portsmouth with his snowing machine.

Now, I'm going to start small, because I don't want to strain.
The area that I'll cover will be all of Kennebunk, Maine.

My plan for Kennebunk is to get there around ten.
We can float around for an hour, and just about then...

I will slowly start snowing. Several inches I'll deliver.
And my first snowflakes will fall on the Kennebunk River.

Now, Kennebunk's a town that loves Christmas décor.
Adding snow to that scene will make them smile even more!

I will snow on the grass, and the walks, and the trees.
And, as Wayne has instructed, I won't take a breeze.

I'll put snow on their buildings, like the Kennebunk Town Hall.
And not just that building... I'll put some snow on them all!

That Wedding Cake House over on East Summer Street,
putting some snow on its rooftop will make it complete!"

Burgoo interrupted, "Now, let's not be too hasty!
A house made of wedding cake sounds pretty tasty!"

Maybe we should stop there and have cake for a snack.
That might keep me from having a BIG hunger attack!

Hey, while we are there, on that East Summer Street,
maybe we can find some delicious pizza to eat!

Let's make this trip special by having a great dinner.
Then finish with that wedding cake...that sounds like a winner!"

"That house is not made of cake," said the laughing snow cloud.
"Eating some of that house would not be allowed!"

It just resembles a big cake, but it's made of hard wood.
You can't eat that big house. It just wouldn't taste good!

Now, Burgoo let me finish discussing plans for this night.
Because we have to be finished long before it gets light.

I'll be snowing across town while the night is still dark.
I'll cover the trees and the shrubs down at Lafayette Park.

Kennebunk will be beautiful, buildings covered with snow.
The town will just sparkle with its lights all aglow!

The town will have seven inches before I do finish.
And, just after midnight, as my snow does diminish...

I won't have much snow left, in fact, just a 'smidge'.
But it'll be enough to cover that NEW river bridge.

That Mousam River Bridge, all covered with snow...
The Lafayette Building nearby! It'll be quite a SHOW!"

Burgoo laughed as he listened. "This should really be fun.
Kennebunk will be beautiful when your snowing is done.

But there's one thing you forgot, that we really should do.
We must leave something special, from me and from you.

A 'calling card' that shows that it was you and I there.
Something that will stand out, and make them aware...

That it was Aristotle and Burgoo that brought the big snow.
Because, frankly, that's something the people should know."

Aristotle smiled at his friend. With Burgoo, he agreed.
Some type of "calling card" was something they'd need!

"How about a big snowman?" the cloud asked of Burgoo.
"Let's build a big snowman, when my snowing is through.

And as we finish the snowman in that cold, snowy weather,
we will place on that snowman, a BIG PELICAN FEATHER!

And also on our snowman, we'll put a scarf and a hat.
And we'll display our initials, and those will show that...

The snow and the snowman came from a friendship that's true.
They came from those best friends...

ARISTOTLE and BURGOO!"

"Uh, Aristotle," said Burgoo, "I do hope you'll agree.
"Let's not be taking those big feathers... from ME!"

I want to keep all my feathers. I don't want to share.
I need all my feathers...especially those ones... BACK THERE!"

And that's **THE END** to this Story!