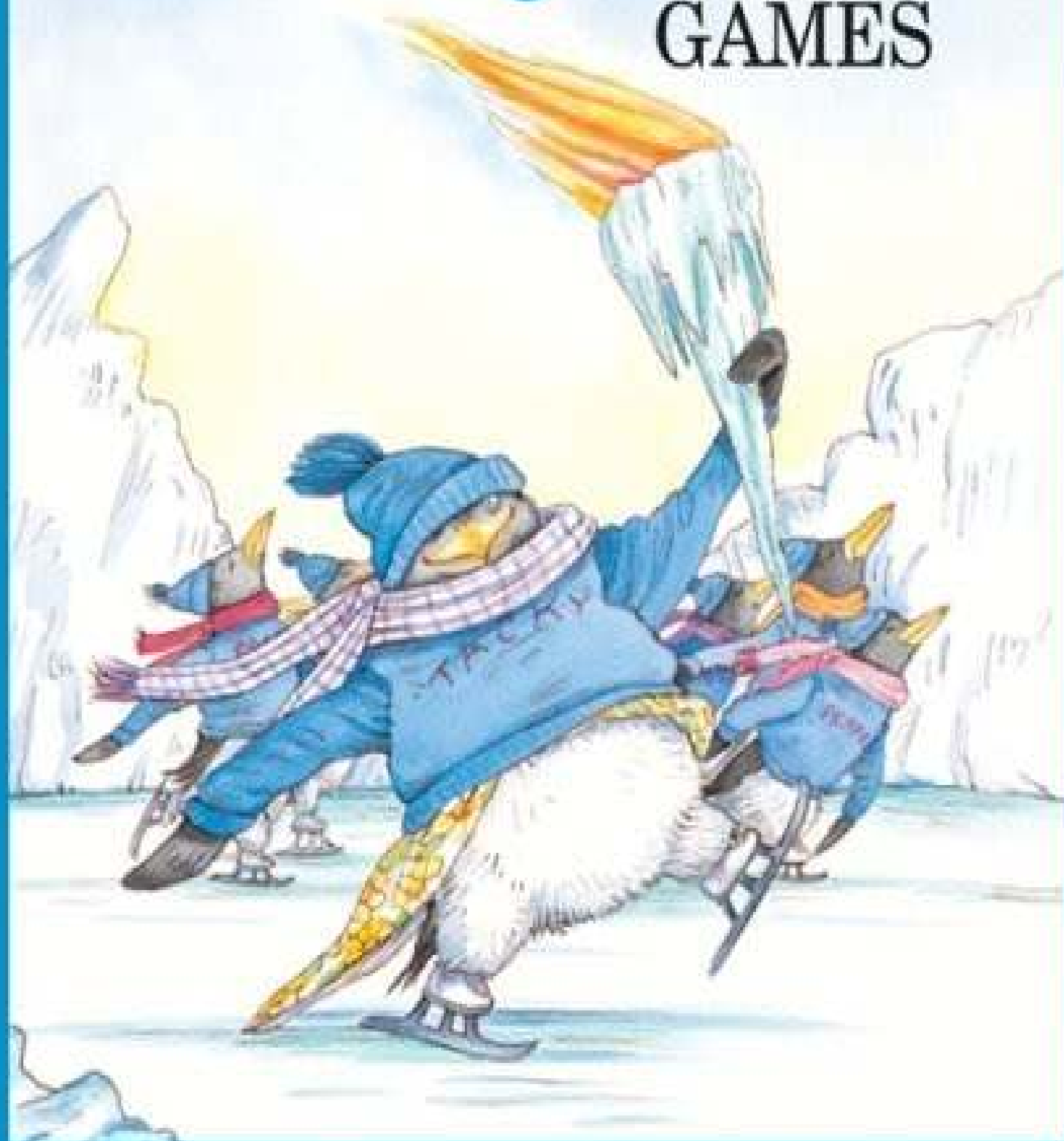


HELEN LESTER Illustrations by LYNN MUNSINGER

Tacky

and the
WINTER
GAMES



Tacky

and the Winter Games




HELEN LESTER

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Houghton Mifflin Company Boston

Walter Lorraine  Books

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Summary: Tacky and his fellow penguins on Team Nice Icy Land train hard for the Winter Games, but Tacky’s antics make their chances of winning a medal seem slim.

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A-huff-and-a-puff-and-a-huff-and-a-puff-and-a-huff-and-a-puff.

“WHAT’S HAPPENING?” blared Tacky the Penguin as he came across his companions Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect.

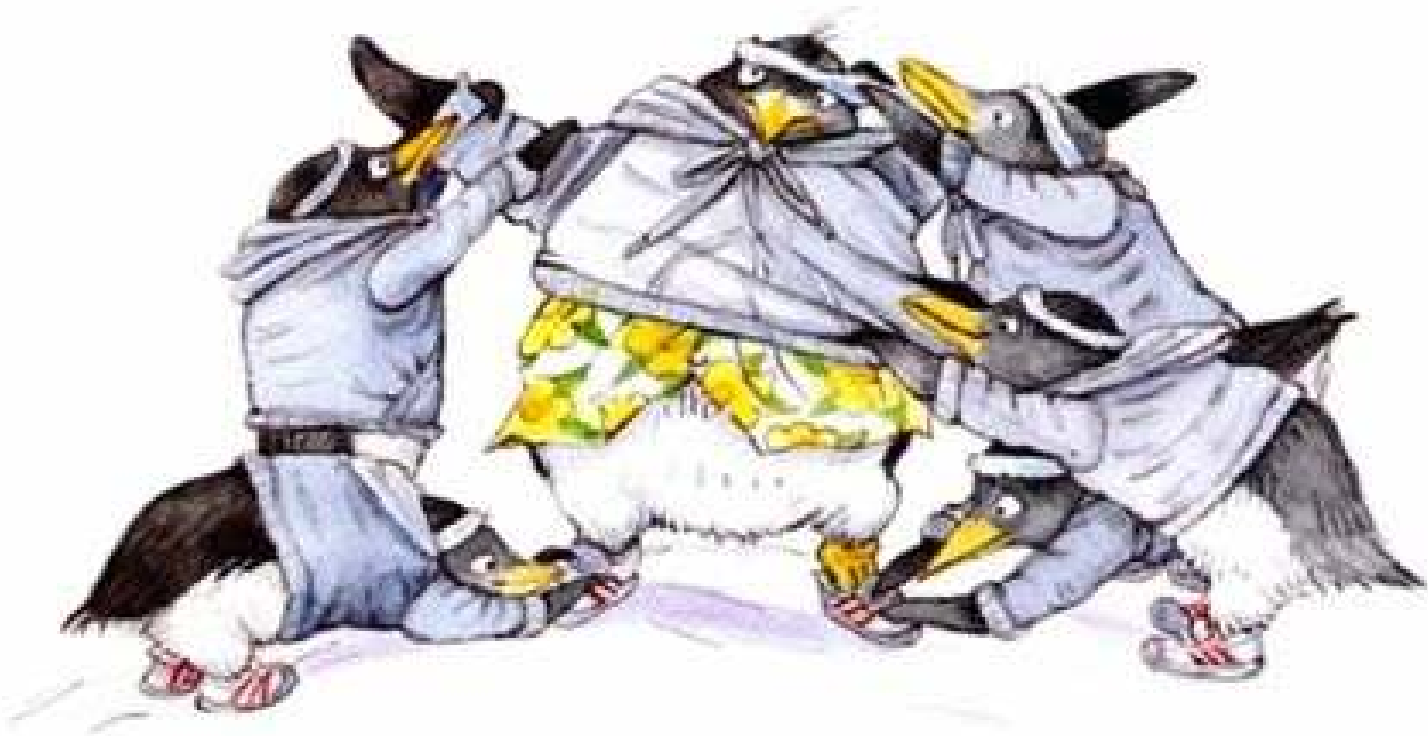
“We’re”—huff—“training”—puff—they replied.



“Training?” wondered Tacky hopefully. “As in, choo-choo?”

“No. Training. Like athletes. The Winter Games are coming, and we must must must be in shape to win win win.”

Looking closely at Tacky—not the fittest of birds—they added, “Let’s get going!”





So the penguins trained.

They raced up steep hills.



They jumped rope.

They did one hundred sit-ups a day.



They lifted weights.

They rode bikes.



They ate special training meals.



They kept strict training hours.



Most of all, they practiced their events.

Bobsledless racing.

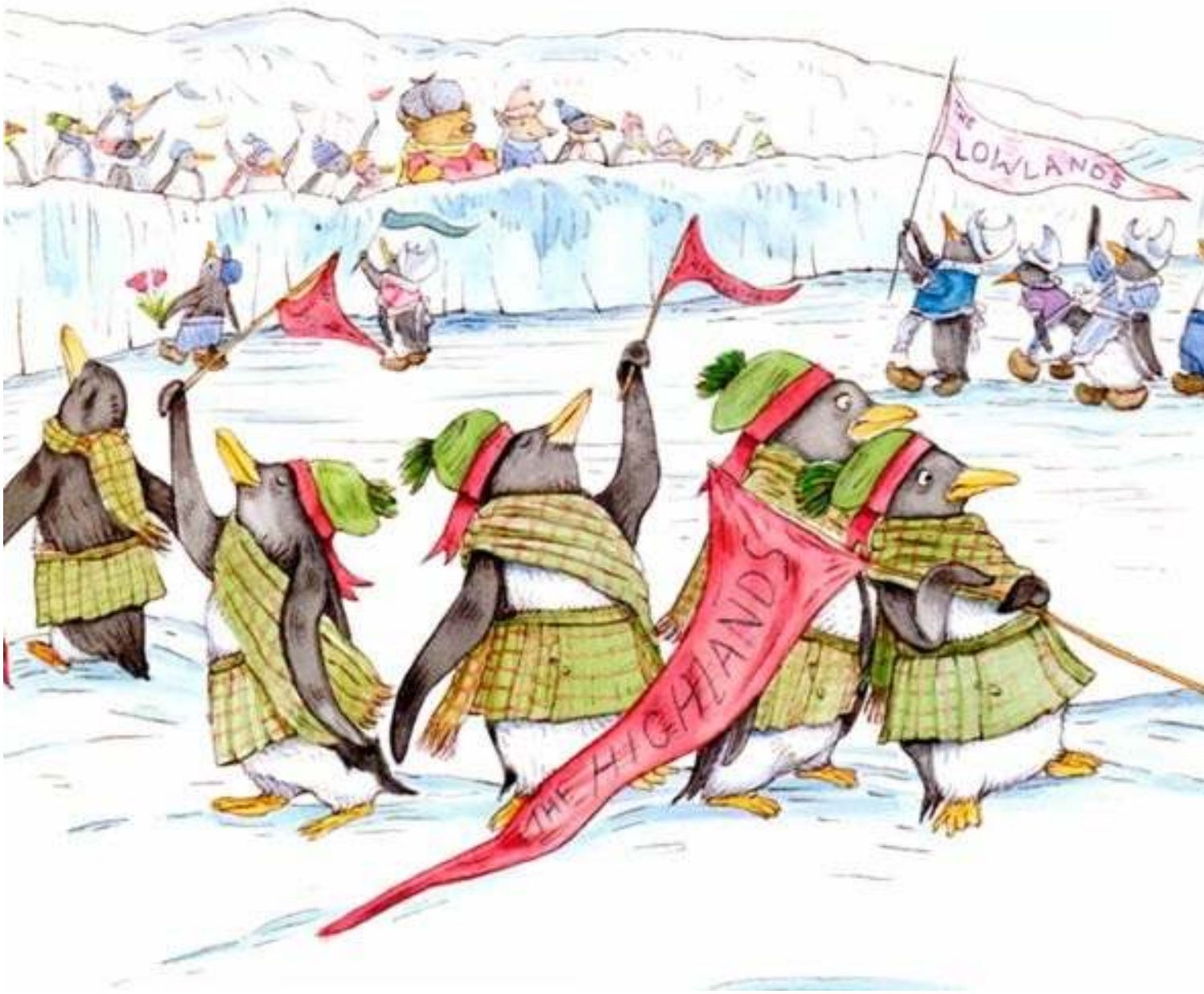
Ski jumping.



Speed skating.

And finally, after weeks of work, Team Nice Icy Land was ready for the long waddle to the Winter Games.

Off they went.



Rat-a-tat-tat. Rat-a-tat-tat.

The athletes marched into the stadium for the Opening Ceremonies.

Teams had come from far and wide.



They came from the Highlands, the Lowlands, the Funlands, and of course, the Nice Icy Land.

Rat-a-tat-tat. Rat-a-tat-tat. On they marched.

Ratty-tatty-tatty-boomby-ratty-tatty-boom—Hey!

Tacky marched to a different drummer.

For the big show, the penguins all joined in singing the Winter Games Anthem:

The Winter Games Anthem

With our beaks held high and our bellies held low, we'll
do our best in the ice and snow, with a
Yodel waddle ho and a Yodel waddle hee! May the
best team win... and let's hope it's we.

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4. Chords C, F, G, and C are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with notes F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, and F4. Chords F, C, F, and E are indicated above. The third staff has notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, and F4. Chords AM, F, C, and F are indicated above. The fourth staff concludes the melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, and F4. Chords C, AM, F, G, and C are indicated above.





After lighting the torch and exchanging high flippers as a sign of friendship, the athletes filed out past the display of medals. Medals to dream about.



The sun rose.

Eager penguins prepared for the first event, the bobsledless race.

Little webbed feet wrapped around big penguin tummies.

Pop! They were off!



Tacky was way off. Looking at the wonderful hill before him, he cried, "Great for belly sliding!" With that, he charged under his surprised teammates and sped them down, crossing the finish line in record time.



But wait.

The official announced, "This is a bobsledless race. You have a bobsled."

Goodly, Lovely Angel, Neatly, and Perfect tried to explain that it was not a bobsled: it was a penguin



“Doesn’t look much like a penguin,” said the official, examining Tacky. “Not much like a bobsled either. Don’t know what it is. Anyway, no medals for you. Illegal equipment.”

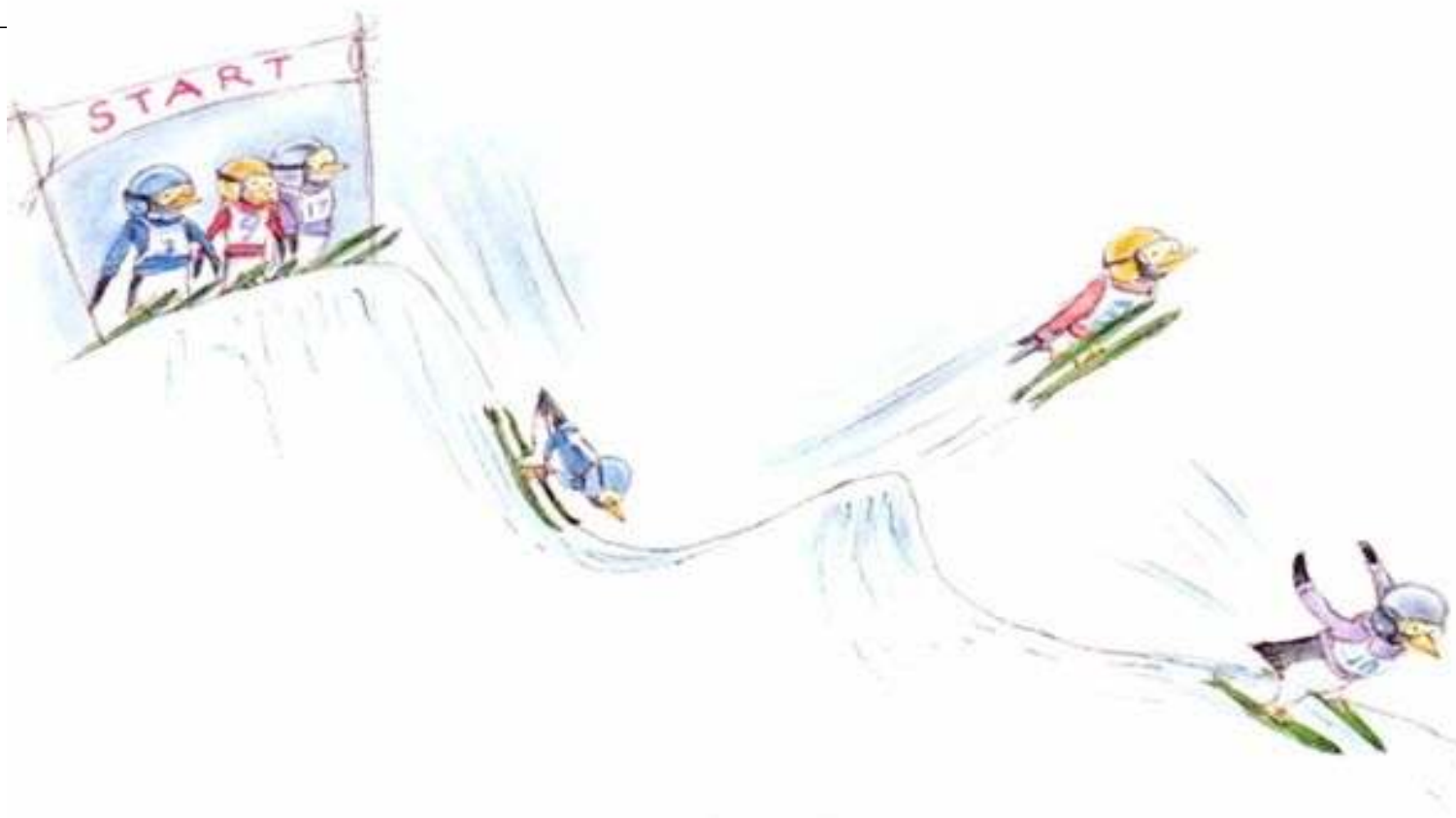
So no medals for Team Nice Icy Land. Yet.



In the afternoon the athletes strapped frozen fish on their feet for the ski jumping event.

While the jumpers waited for their turns, Tacky spent *just* a few moments in the hut toasting his toes by the fire.

Weren't winter sports wonderful!



Swoop—plop. Swoop—plop. Swoop—plop.

One after another, the athletes made graceful jumps and lovely landings.

Plippy ploppy plippy ploppy. What was this?



Tacky's fish had become thawed by the warmth of the fire and were now flopping wildly. He made a higher jump than he had intended . . .



and lots . . .

of . . .

landings.

No medals for Team Nice Icy Land. Yet.

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