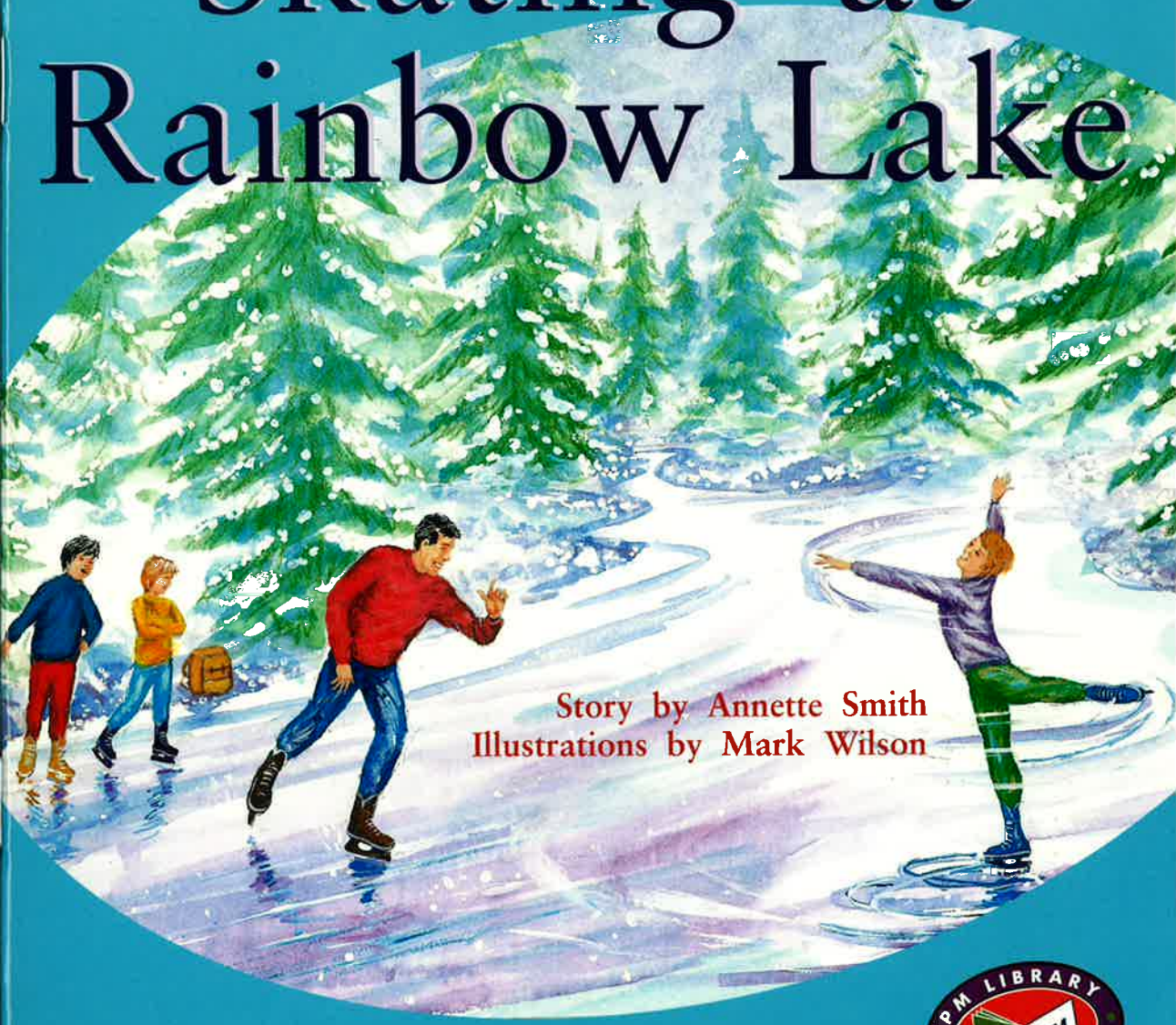
Skating at Rainbow Lake



Story by Annette Smith
Illustrations by Mark Wilson

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"These new skates are fantastic," said Mitch, as he tightened the laces on his boots. "You'll have to go fast to race me this year, Ben."

"We'll see about that, little brother," laughed Ben, gliding onto the ice. "Just remember I'm the speed champ in the family."



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Mum and Dad watched the boys as they raced around the edge of the frozen lake. The sun glistened on the snow and long icicles hung from the trees.

"It's so beautiful up here at Rainbow Lake," said Mum. "It's a perfect place for ice-skating."



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"Did I hear someone say that he was the speed skating champ of the family?" called Dad, as the boys swerved towards him and Mum. "Surely you've all heard about Dare Devil Joe... the Silver Blade Speedster... "

"Oh, Dad, you're not going to tell us that story again!" groaned Ben. "We all know that Mum's the best skater in this family."



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"Yeah," said Mitch. "Look at her. She can do all sorts of fancy tricks, and they're harder to do than speed skating."

Mitch, Ben and Dad watched as Mum whirled and twirled effortlessly around the lake.

"I can show you a few fancy tricks, too," said Dad, "but I'll have to get a bit of speed up first."



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Dad raced across the frozen lake, bending low as he gathered speed.

All of a sudden, he lost his balance. His legs flew into the air and he landed with a thud on the ice.

"That was a good trick, Dad," laughed Ben, as they all skated over to him.



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