



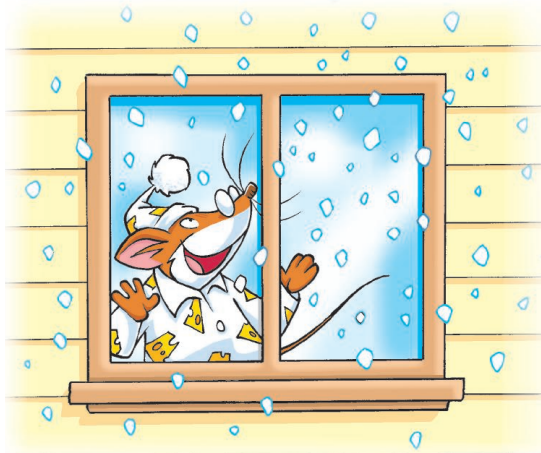
LIKE SLIVERS OF GRATED CHEESE . . .

It was the day before *Christmas*.

My alarm clock went off that morning with a loud squeak! I groaned. I hate getting up in the morning. Especially when it's so cold outside. I stared out my window, and that's when I saw them. Snowflakes! Tiny, fluffy white snowflakes. Just like slivers of *grated cheese*.

I clapped my paws happily. I just love **snow**.

I raced to the telephone to call Benjamin. He's my favorite nephew.



“I have to spend the morning at the office,” I told Benjamin. “But we should go to the park in the afternoon. We can build a **SNOWMOUSE.**”

I told Benjamin to wear lots of warm clothes. It was cold outside. Of course, I dressed warmly, too.

Here is what I put on:



1. A thermal undershirt + thermal long johns



2. Two turtlenecks + three heavy cat-fur sweaters



3. A pair of ski pants



4. A down-filled parka with extra padding



5. A long yellow wool scarf



6. A pair of fleece earmuffs + a matching hat



7. A pair of waterproof fur-lined gloves



8. Ten pairs of extra-long socks + a pair of snow boots

I guess you can tell I don't like to be cold. But now I was feeling nice and warm. In fact, I might have been feeling a little *too*



warm. I was as hot as an oven at the Greasy Rat Café! Still, I thought about wearing **ski goggles** just in case. But I had put on so many layers, it took ten minutes to try them on!

*I thought about wearing
ski goggles just in case.*



*It took ten minutes to try
them on!*

