

It was a lovely, still, sunny morning with the snow making a wonderful contrast with the blue sea. The grass and trees had been completely covered by the snow fall over night and this made many of the animals worried. "What if we never see green again or even find any food?" Whispered the mouse anxiously to the other animals, who were sat inside a burrow, trying to keep warm together.

"There is no need to worry," laughed the fox, "This happens every winter for around three months." He began to think for a while and then, with another smile, he became the narrator of an interesting tale.

As the fox told the story about the Spirit of Winter, he looked over the top of the animals' heads to where the snow covered the trees. He found himself remembering with fondness how he too had been scared at his first sight of snow. "Yes, I know that it will seem a long winter and you might think that you do not have enough to eat, but Spring will come soon enough and with it lots of delicious food." Through his story, the fox encouraged the other animals to stop worrying and even gave them some goodies to take back to their homes. As they left he said, "Trust me my friends, all will be well when the Spirit of Winter is defeated by the power of Spring!"