

It was winter, and every day it seemed to get colder. The water froze solid in the puddles outside, and people had to be careful where they walked so as not to slip and fall. When Marta left her house in the morning to walk to school, she hurried because it was so cold. She wore her warmest clothes, but they did not help very much. Marta still shivered the entire way to school. Sometimes, it felt as though she would never be warm enough. By the time Marta got to school, she was usually so freezing that she had trouble unzipping her backpack. Her fingers did not want to work. They were too cold.

One day, Marta's teacher noticed that she seemed to be having trouble in the mornings. When she asked Marta why she could not hold her pencil easily she learned that Marta was too cold. The teacher wanted to help. She knew of a store in town that sometimes gave new warm clothes to students who needed them in the winter months. She went to the store to ask if they could help Marta. She explained that her student was so cold she could not hold her pencil in the mornings. The people in the store said they would love to assist. They gave the teacher a thick wool sweater and some mittens to give to Marta. When Marta put the sweater on the next day, she smiled a tremendous smile. She was so warm that she was almost hot!