

The Christmas Book

by

Kim Chamberlain

Introduction

Welcome to The Christmas Book. This is a short booklet you can use during the Christmas season. It contains games and puzzles for times when you are with others, or even to use on your own; activities such as story writing or simple recipes; suggestions for Christmas presents; along with activities to help you reflect and plan for next year.

Answers to the quiz questions are at the end of the book.

Happy Christmas!

Kim

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First lines of Christmas songs and carols

Below are the initial letters of words in the first line of a Christmas song or carol.

For example the initials R A T C T A T C P H, come from the line 'Rocking around the Christmas tree at the Christmas party hop'.

Can you work them out?

1. A I A M, N C F A B
2. C I C T G A G F
3. D T H W B O H
4. D D M O H
5. T F N T A D S
6. G T I O T M
7. G R Y M G
8. G K W L O, O T F O S
9. H T H A S
10. T H A T I
11. I S T S C S I
12. J B J B J A T W
13. L D, L D, O T D R
14. O L T O B
15. O I R D C
16. S A T W S
17. S N, H N, A I C A I B
18. O T F D O C M T L G T M
19. W W Y A M C
20. W S W T F B N



Christmas word search 1

Can you find the following words in the word search:

BAUBLES

BEADS

BOWS

CANDLES

CANDYCANE

CHOCOLATES

DECORATIONS

FAIRY

GIFTS

LIGHTS

PRESENTS

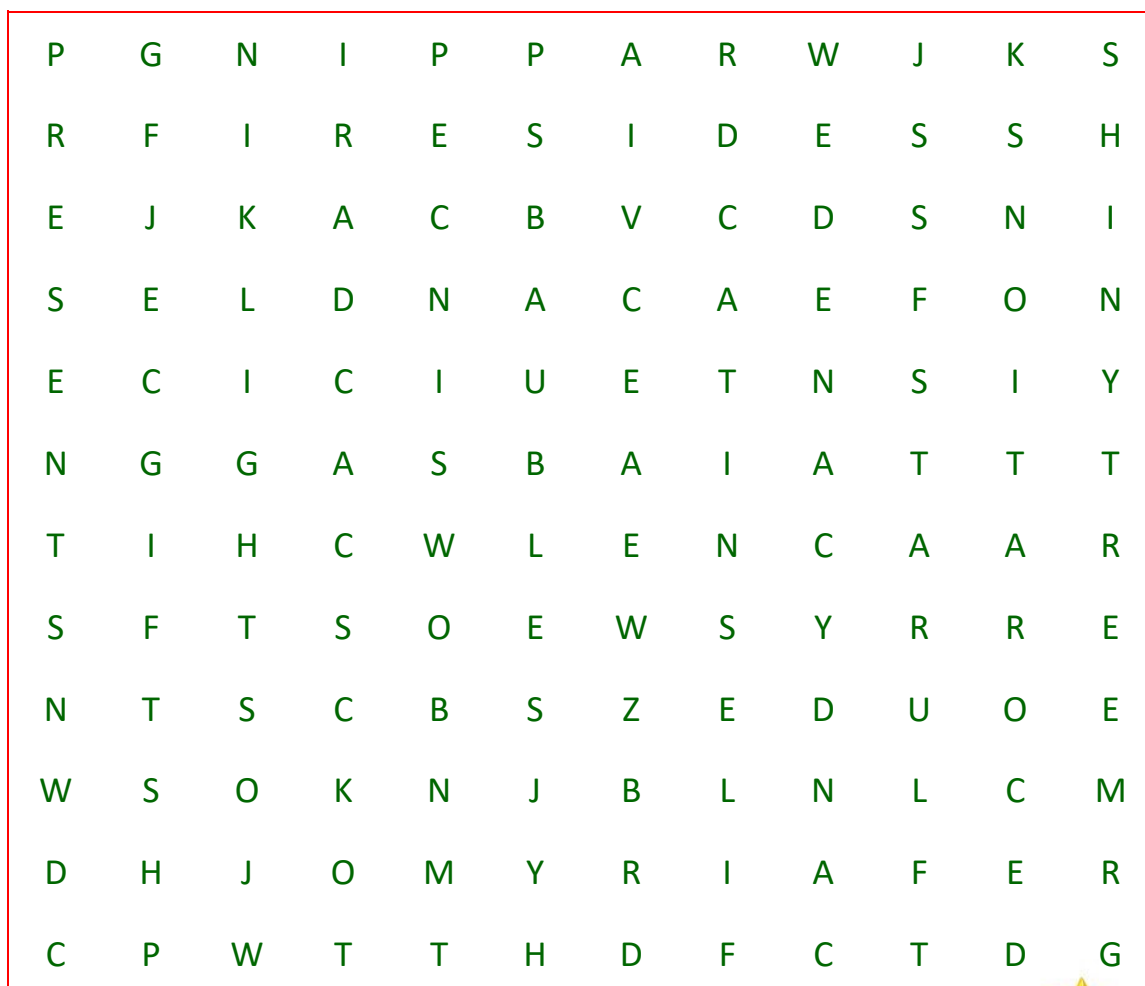
SHINY

SNOW

STAR

TINSEL

TREE



Christmas word search 2

Can you find the following words in the word search:

BELLS

CARDS

CAROLS

CHRISTMAS

CRACKERS

HOHOHO

HOLLY

IVY

MERRY

PUDDING

REINDEER

SANTA

SLEIGH

SNOWMAN

TRADITIONS

TURKEY

When you have found all the words, the remaining letters spell out a message.



Anagrams

Can you work out these anagrams

Christmas books

1. A STRIMCHAS LORCA
2. SWAT HET GINTH FEEORB RIMSTAHCS
3. NEO TWINYR THING
4. EHT STAIRSCHM RETE
5. HET STRGEATE RYOST VREE LTDO
6. SETTLER MORF HEATRF MISTARCHS
7. HET FOXROD KOBO FO SHICMARTS SPEMO
8. ETH SOUNDHAT SHTING DAN NEO GINTH
9. THAW SEDO NASTA OD NO GIXBON YAD
10. ETH TRUCKRENAC

Christmas film titles

1. THEIW STAMRICHS
2. LEWIH OYU REEW PELGEINS
3. GIDRANT SCLEPA
4. KITLASGN NAAST
5. HET RALPO PERXSES
6. MEHO NEALO
7. WHO HTE CRINHG LEOTS TASSMIRCH
8. TEH WANNOMS
9. EHT NAM HOW DESVA STICHRAMS
10. GOROCES



Definitions

Which is the correct definition?

BIANNUAL

- a) Twice a year
- b) Every two years
- c) Taking two years to grow from seed to fruition and die

BARBICAN

- a) Large building for public performances
- b) Outer defence of a castle or walled city
- c) Soporific drug

BUZZARD

- a) Hawk like bird of prey
- b) A very short haircut
- c) A rumour

BLANDISH

- a) To coax a person with kind words or flattery
- b) Unseasoned, mild-tasting, or insipid
- c) To wave or flourish something, especially a weapon as a threat or in anger

BELLIGERENT

- a) A deep roaring sound
- b) Become intolerant of someone or something after lengthy or repeated contact
- c) Hostile and aggressive

BAROQUE

- a) Provide soldiers with accommodation in a building or set of buildings
- b) A style of architecture, music, and art of the 17th and 18th centuries
- c) Jeer loudly at someone performing or speaking in public in order to express disapproval or to distract them

BYSSUS

- a) A rich shellfish soup, typically made from lobster
- b) An extra turn or stroke allowed to a weaker player in croquet
- c) A fine textile fibre and fabric of flax

BENEFICIATE

- a) Treat a raw material to improve its properties
- b) Favourable or advantageous
- c) Give money or other help to a person or cause



Christmas tree games

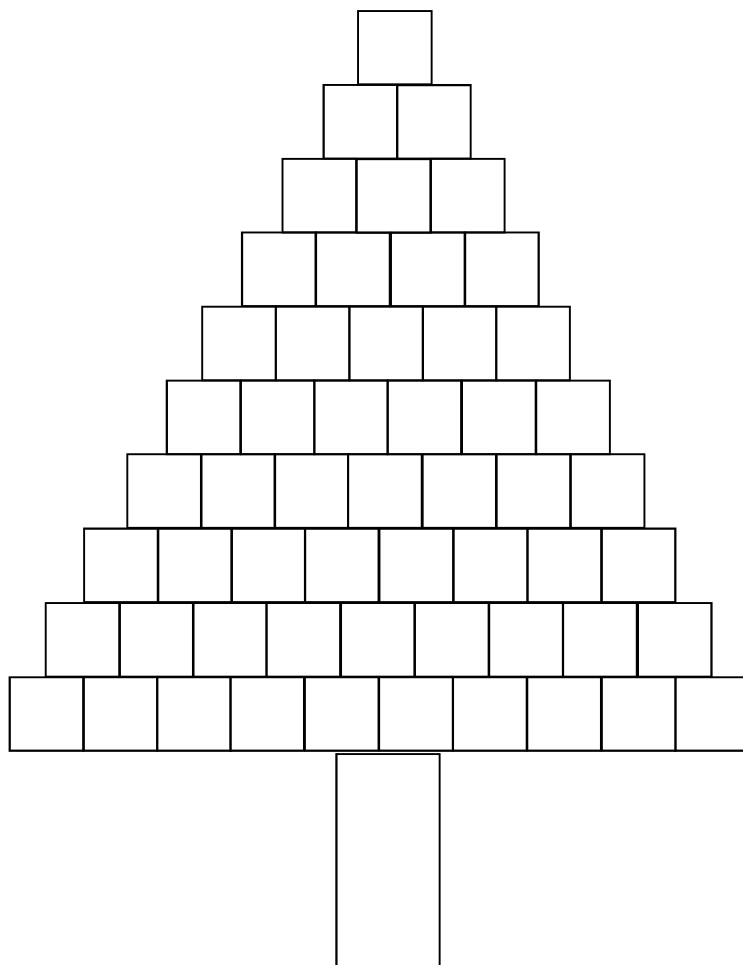
Each player draws a Christmas tree with 10 lines, as below. Alternatively print off a copy of this page for each person.

Option 1: Players fill in the lines with 1-letter through to 10-letter words of their choice within a given time limit, say two minutes.

Option 2: One player chooses a letter which all players write in the top box. Players then have three minutes to think of words from 2 to 10 letters starting with this letter.

Option 3: One player chooses a theme, for example Christmas, and starting from line 3, all players think of as many words as they can within three minutes.

Option 4: All players write the letters A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J down the left hand boxes. Players then have three minutes to think of words starting with these letters which fit into the Christmas tree.



Picture whispers

Have a group of around 6-10 people.

Give each person a long strip of paper. An A4 sheet cut in half lengthways will do.

Each person writes their name at the bottom of the strip of paper.

At the top they write the name of an item someone could draw, eg newspaper; Eiffel Tower; frog; spaghetti.

They pass the piece of paper to the person on their left, and this person has to draw the item.

This person then folds the top of the paper forwards so that the name of the item can't be seen, and passes it to the next person.

This person then has to identify the picture and write what they think it is underneath.

They then fold the piece of paper forwards so the picture is hidden and pass it onto the next person.

The next person draws whatever word the person has written down and so on.

The game finishes when each person gets their own piece of paper back.

Open the piece of paper up and see what has happened.

This game works well if you have people who can't draw very well!



Boy / Girl

All players have a piece of paper and draw a grid with 8 columns.

They give the columns the headings:

Letter; Boy; Girl; Animal; Food; Place; Flower; Score

You can choose other headings to suit the group of people, for example sports team, type of car, TV programme and so on.

LETTER	BOY	GIRL	ANIMAL	FOOD	PLACE	FLOWER	SCORE

The first player chooses a letter of the alphabet, for example S, and all players write this in the LETTER column. They then have to think of the name of a boy, girl, animal etc. which start with this letter. Give a time limit, for example two minutes.

Scoring

10 points if you are the only one with that word in the column

5 points if two players have the same word

1 point if three or more players have the same word

0 points if you leave the column blank

Make a note of the score and go onto the next letter. After 4 letters have been used, add up the totals to see who is the winner.

Hint

Try to think of unusual answers as you will be more likely to get 10 points.



Continuing the Story

A fun game for a group of players.

Each player has a piece of paper. They put their name at the bottom of the paper and then write the first 3 lines of a humorous story. They then fold the paper over forwards so that just the last line is showing.

They pass the paper to the person on their left, who writes the next 3 lines of the story, folds over the paper so that last line is showing, and passes to the next player ... and so on until players get their piece of paper back.

If it is a large group, split players up into teams of six or so.

Then, one at a time, read out the story.

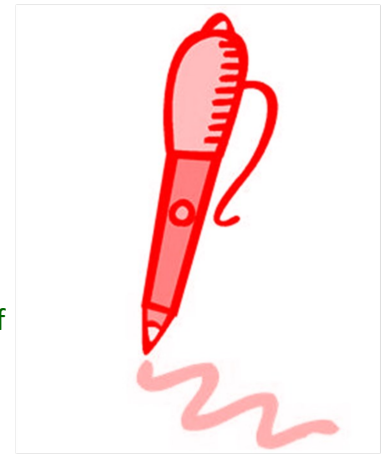
Hint

Finish the last part of your 3 lines mid-way through a sentence. For example:

Richard always imagined he would be excellent at

“I have never been so insulted in my life!” said Gertrude as she

Chris placed them carefully on the table. There were seven **very** large



Silly stories

This game can be a lot of fun!

For this you need something to write on that all people can see, for example a whiteboard, flipchart or large piece of paper.

Two people stand up. One acts as a prompter.

The prompter asks the other player to start telling a story, for example 'My last holiday'.

As they talk, the prompter writes a word or short phrase on the board that is very different to what they are talking about, such as 'sausages', 'elephant', 'hairspray', and the player has to adapt their story to include this word.

The prompter continues to write words and the player has to use these words while trying to continue the original story.

Have a time limit, say two minutes, then another player has a turn.



Tongue twisters

Try saying these several times, quickly!

WEARY LILY WORRIED YEARLY

SETH'S SIX SHIPS SHALL SAIL SOON SURELY

SEVENTY SEVEN BENEVOLENT ELEPHANTS

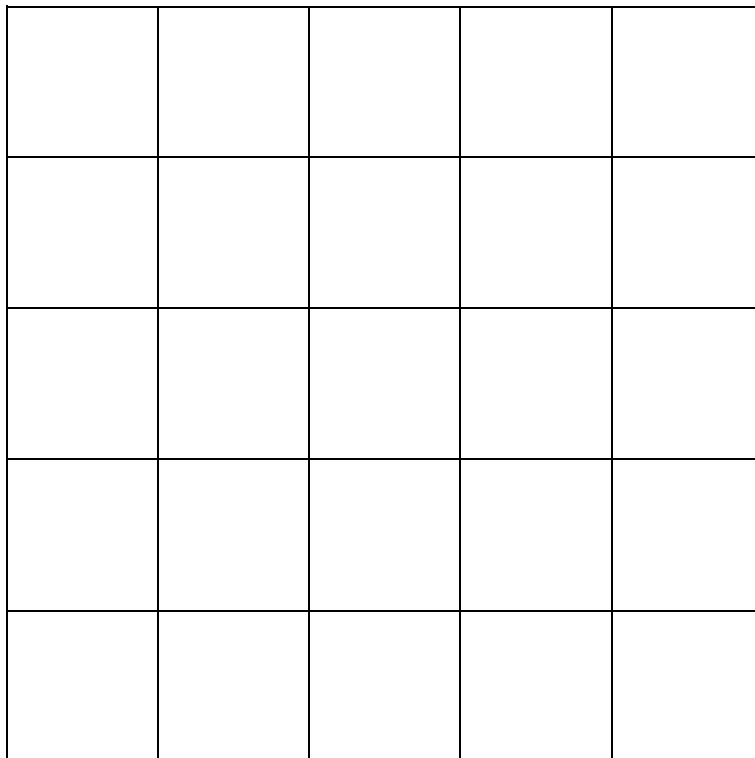
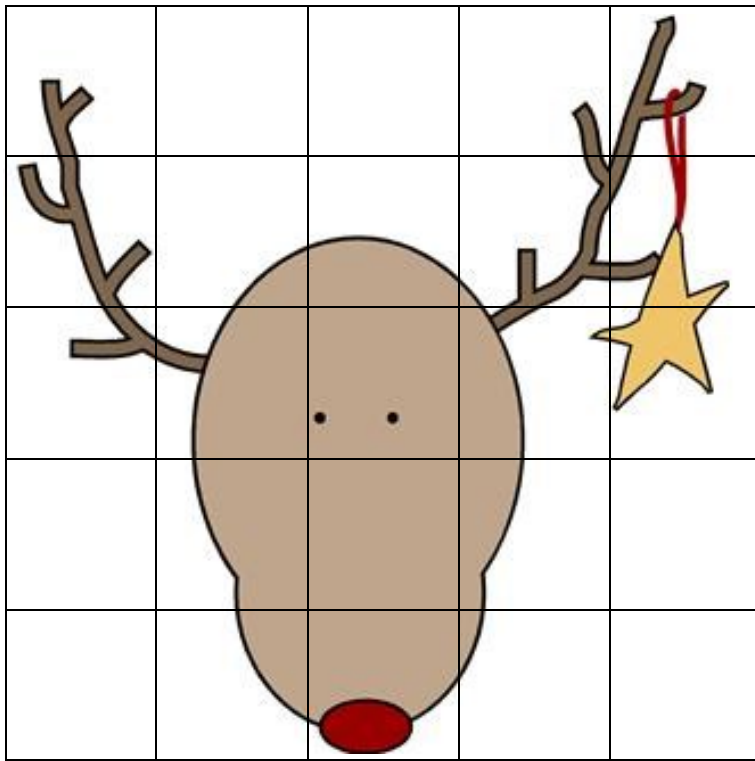
MASH MESSAGE

I THINK THE SINK IS THICK WITH THISTLES



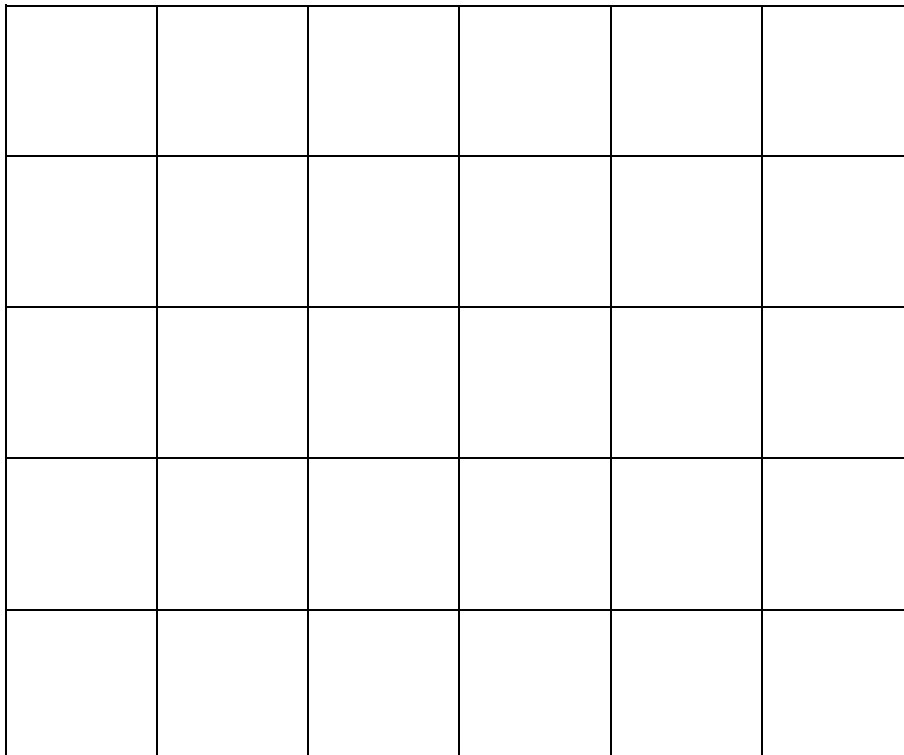
Pictures

Use the grid to copy the picture



Pictures

Use the grid to copy the picture



Dear Doreen

This is a fun game for a group of people to play.

You will need two pieces of paper for each person. You will also need two bags or containers.



Each person imagines they are writing to an Agony Aunt, and writes a humorous letter starting 'Dear Doreen...' telling her about their fictitious problem.

All the letters are placed in one bag or container.

Then each person imagines they are Doreen and writes a humorous answer to their problem.

All of these letters are put in the other bag or container.

If the group is large, half can write to Doreen with their problem and half can write a reply to an imagined problem.

Then pick out a problem and a reply, making sure they don't match, and read them out.

Mr and Mrs

This is a good game to play when you have several couples, to see how much they know about each other.

Devise a set of questions or use or adapt the ones below.

Ask one half of the couple to leave the room while you ask the other half the set of questions.

Then invite the other person back and ask them the same questions. Take the score.

All the couples answer the questions and the one with the highest score is the winner.



Sample questions

Name a memorable date

What is his/her favourite colour?

What is his/her favourite book?

What is his/her favourite film?

What was he/she wearing on your first date?

What is his/her most annoying habit?

What does he/she find most annoying about you?

If she/he was given £1000 / \$1000 would they rather go on holiday or buy something for the house?

What time of day is he/she at their best?

What is his/her special name for you?

What is his/her favourite outfit?

What was his/her favourite subject at school?

What is his/her favourite snack?

Who was his/her best friend when they were young?

What was his/her first job?

Which celebrity does he/she most look like?

If you could get rid of one of his/her possessions, what would it be?

If he/she could live anywhere in the world where would it be?

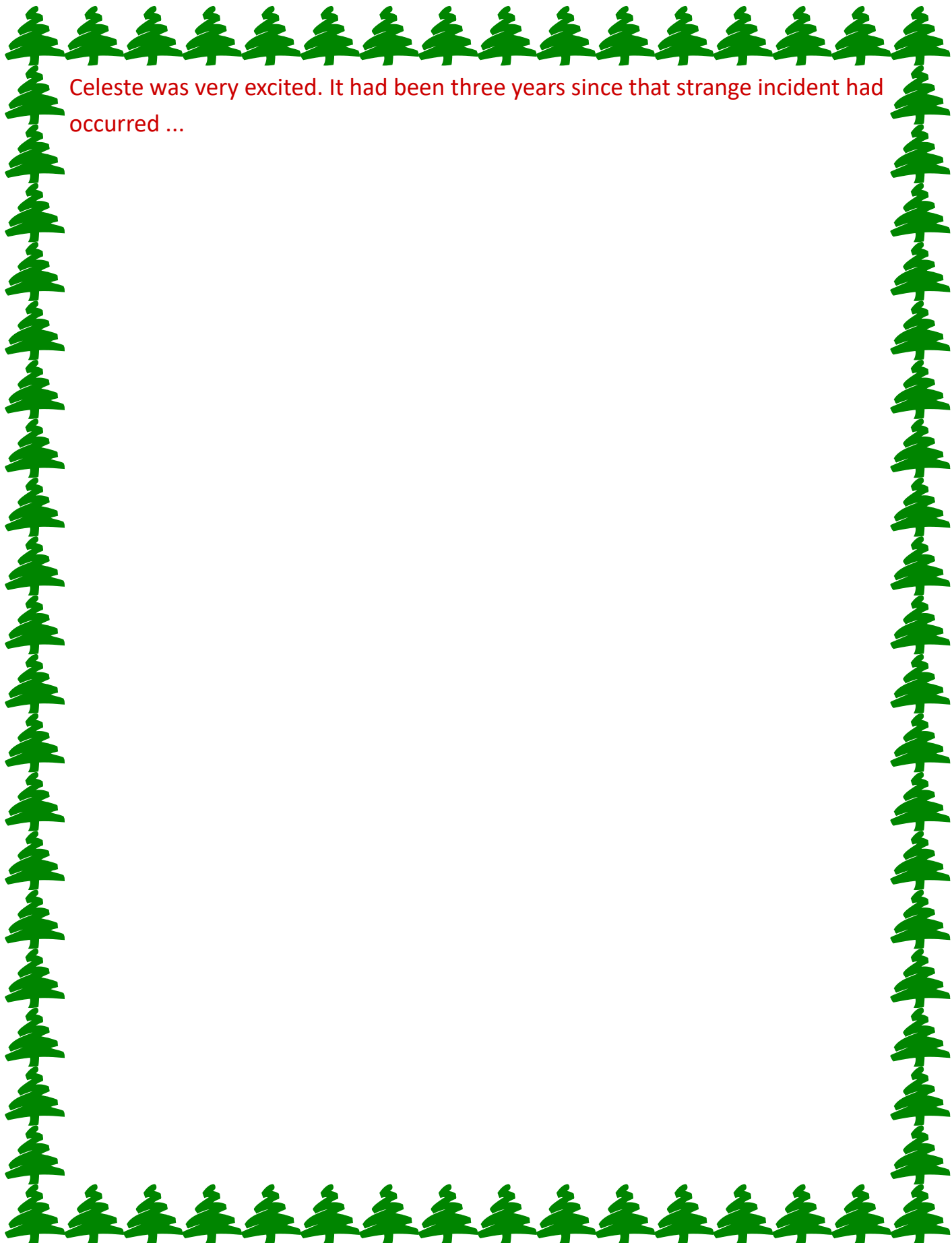
What would he/she do if they won the Lottery?

If he/she could invite anyone to dinner, who would it be?

What word does he/she use a lot?

Short story

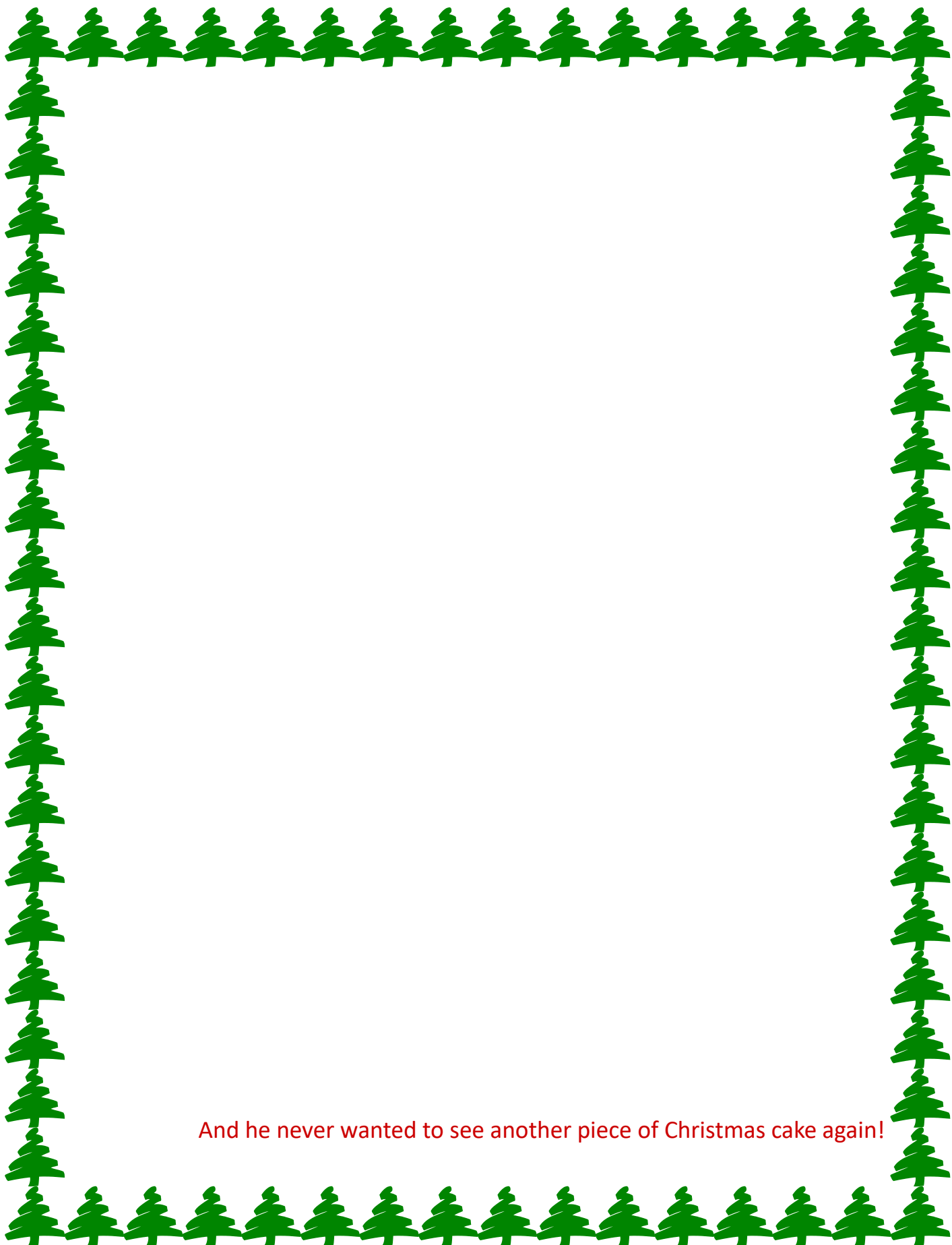
Write a short Christmas story starting with the words given



Celeste was very excited. It had been three years since that strange incident had occurred ...

Short story

Write a short Christmas story finishing with the words given at the end



And he never wanted to see another piece of Christmas cake again!



Christmas Quotes

Christmas! The very word brings joy to our hearts. No matter how we may dread the rush, the long Christmas lists for gifts and cards to be bought and given - when Christmas Day comes there is still the same warm feeling we had as children, the same warmth that enfolds our hearts and our homes. *Joan Winmill Brown*

It is the one season of the year when we can lay aside all gnawing worry, indulge in sentiment without censure, assume the carefree faith of childhood, and just plain "have fun." Whether they call it Yuletide, Noel, Weinachten, or Christmas, people around the earth thirst for its refreshment as the desert traveller for the oasis. *D.D. Monroe*

Were I a philosopher, I should write a philosophy of toys, showing that nothing else in life need to be taken seriously, and that Christmas Day in the company of children is one of the few occasions on which men become entirely alive. *Robert Lynd*

Christmas - that magic blanket that wraps itself about us, that something so intangible that it is like a fragrance. It may weave a spell of nostalgia. Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance - a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved. *Augusta E. Rundel*

Keep your Christmas-heart open all the year round. *Jessica Archmint*

Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. *Calvin Coolidge, 1927*

As long as we know in our hearts what Christmas ought to be, Christmas is. *Eric Sevareid*

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen. *Author unknown, attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby*

When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things - not the great occasions - give off the greatest glow of happiness. *Bob Hope*

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly. *Andy Rooney*

Christmas is for children. But it is for grown-ups too. Even if it is a headache, a chore, and nightmare, it is a period of necessary defrosting of chill and hide-bound hearts. *Lenora Mattingly Weber*

Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts. *Janice Maeditere*

I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month. *Harlan Miller*





Humorous Christmas Quotes

Mail your packages early so the post office can lose them in time for Christmas. *Johnny Carson*

I never believed in Santa Claus because I knew no white dude would come into my neighborhood after dark. *Dick Gregory*

Once again we find ourselves enmeshed in the Holiday Season, that very special time of year when we join with our loved ones in sharing centuries-old traditions such as trying to find a parking space at the mall. We traditionally do this in my family by driving around the parking lot until we see a shopper emerge from the mall, then we follow her, in very much the same spirit as the Three Wise Men, who 2,000 years ago followed a star, week after week, until it led them to a parking space. *Dave Barry*

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries not Included. *Author Unknown*

No matter how carefully you stored the lights last year, they will be snarled again this Christmas. *Robert Kirby*

The worst gift is a fruitcake. There is only one fruitcake in the entire world, and people keep sending it to each other. *Johnny Carson*

Nothing's as mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas. *Kin Hubbard*

Oh, for the good old days when people would stop Christmas shopping when they ran out of money. *Author unknown*

In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukkah' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukkah!' or (to the atheists) 'Look out for the wall!' *Dave Barry*

Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present. *Author Unknown*

That's the true spirit of Christmas; people being helped by people other than me. *Jerry Seinfeld*

What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day. *Phyllis Diller*

I once wanted to become an atheist, but I gave up - they have no holidays. *Henny Youngman*



Ideas for Christmas gifts



Sometimes the giving of an item such as a book, clothing, a gadget and so on, may not adequately express how you feel for another person. Often people will value another way of your showing your love or appreciation for them.

For example:

- * A subscription to a magazine
- * Tickets to the theatre
- * Book an appointment for the person (or people), for example at the hairdresser's; health spa; restaurant. Leave the payment there
- * Make up a booklet of vouchers for things you could do for the person. For example bake a cake; make a meal; cut their lawn; walk the dogs for a week; decorate a room; clean their house; babysit; wash the car; teach them how to use a mobile phone, and so on. Tell them they can redeem the vouchers throughout the year
- * Write a short book for them. You can print it off and have it bound at a stationer's
- * Write a poem or do a painting for them and have it framed
- * Find out some of their family tree for them and make it into a booklet
- * Make up a photo montage of people, pets and items that are special to them
- * Make up a treasure hunt, go with them while they solve the clues, and finish up at a place they would like, such as a restaurant
- * Arrange to spend regular time with them throughout the year
- * Learn a new skill so that you can provide something of benefit to them, eg making curtains; making a bookshelf; knowing how to apply make up; massage and so on
- * Is there someone they would like to connect with, such as a long lost friend; a relative; a famous person they admire? Can you arrange a meeting ; a phone call from them; a letter?
- * Would they like a pen pal? You could get details of pen pal services for them
- * If they need to do more exercise, lose weight or similar, offer to do it with them
- * For your husband/wife/partner could you offer to work one of your bad habits / 'faults'?
- * For a young child, buy a story book and make a recording of yourself reading it out, so they can watch or listen, and look at the book at the same time

Fun food recipes!

These simple recipes require no cooking

SNOWMEN

Ingredients

Large white marshmallows
Wooden kebab sticks
Food colouring

Method

Cut the kebab sticks so they are long enough for 3 marshmallows to fit on.
Place 3 marshmallows one on top of the other on the stick.
Use the food colouring to paint a snowman face and buttons.

APPLES

Ingredients

A block of marzipan
Red and green food colouring
Cloves

Method

Cut the marzipan into two. Add red food colouring to one half and green to the other.
Break marzipan into small pieces and form into balls.
Add a clove at the top of each ball to make it look like an apple.

SNOWY MOUNTAIN

Ingredients

Chocolate chip cookies
Orange juice or sherry
Whipping cream
Silver balls to decorate

Method

Put some juice or sherry into a shallow bowl.
Dip each cookie into the juice/sherry and place onto a plate or dish so they form a small 'mountain'. You may need to pour extra juice/sherry on if they seem too dry.
Whip up the cream and place on top of the cookies so it looks like a snowy mountain.
Decorate with the silver balls.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Ingredients & requirements

Lollipops or sweets
Oasis foam, cone-shaped
Cotton wool
Optional: Glue gun or cocktail sticks; tissue paper; paint

Method

Cover the oasis with sweets to make it look like a decorated Christmas tree.

- Place the lollipop sticks into the cone-shaped foam, taking care not to put in too many in case the foam starts to break.
- OR use marshmallows and pin them to the oasis with cocktail sticks (preferably having covered the oasis with tissue paper first).
- OR use sweets in wrappers and glue them to the oasis.

Place the tree on a plate or tray and surround with cotton wool at the base to look like snow.

Optional extra:

Paint the oasis first or cover with tissue paper to give it an interesting colour

Speaking topics

In a group of people, each takes a speaking topic and speaks to it for one to two minutes.



General

1. The best Christmas present I received as a child
2. If Christmas happened twice a year...
3. The best way to spend Christmas Eve is ...
4. The difference between Christmas in the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere
5. How Christmas has evolved over the years
6. Television programmes over the Christmas period
7. FOR: It's OK for people to spend Christmas on their own
8. AGAINST: It's OK for people to spend Christmas on their own
9. FOR: It's OK to overeat during the Christmas period
10. AGAINST: It's OK to overeat during the Christmas period

Tell a one to two minute story:

1. Why Rudolph has a red nose
2. When Santa got stuck up the chimney

Tell a one to two minute story using the words:

1. Book - Christmas pudding - Family - Television
2. Party - Dress - Cocktails - Going home
3. Wrapping paper - Unusual - Forgot - Sleeping

Tell a one to two minute story starting with:

1. The small child woke up at 5 o'clock on Christmas morning
2. The snow was falling gently on the rooftops
3. Eric had never been so horrified in all his life! How could his wife have given him such a ridiculous present?
4. Santa had finished his stint at the department store and was making his way home
5. "Surprise!" shouted Angela as she ran into the room

Christmas websites

There are many websites for Christmas. Here are links to a few sites, mainly for children and also for adults:

1. <http://www.northpole.com/>
2. <http://www.allthingschristmas.com/>
3. <http://xmasfun.com/>
4. <http://www.whychristmas.com/fun/>
5. <http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Christmas/>
6. <http://www.christmas-time.com/>
7. <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheCozyChristmasCottage>



A tip a day for Christmas week

7 tips for the Christmas period:

Day 1

Spend 5 minutes thinking - if I could look back on the coming week and say 'That was exactly how I wanted that week to be', what will have happened? Write it down.

Day 2

Get all the coins you can find, put them in an envelope and leave it out for the rest of the week. Keep adding to the envelope for the next few days, then give it to someone who might appreciate it or donate to a worthy cause.

Day 3

Make contact with someone you like, who you haven't spoken to for a while and see if you can re-establish regular contact with them.

Day 4

Find something that will make you laugh for at least 5 minutes. Could you watch a humorous film, read a book, watch a YouTube video, speak to someone who always makes you laugh?

Day 5

What can you do to make someone's day a bit nicer today? Phone them; pop in for a cup of tea; email them; bake a cake for them; listen to them; offer to do a task for them...?

Day 6

What treat can you give yourself today? A nice hot soak in the bath; a peaceful walk; a look through old photos...?

Day 7

Tell your partner or close friend "The most wonderful thing about you is..."

Happy Christmas!

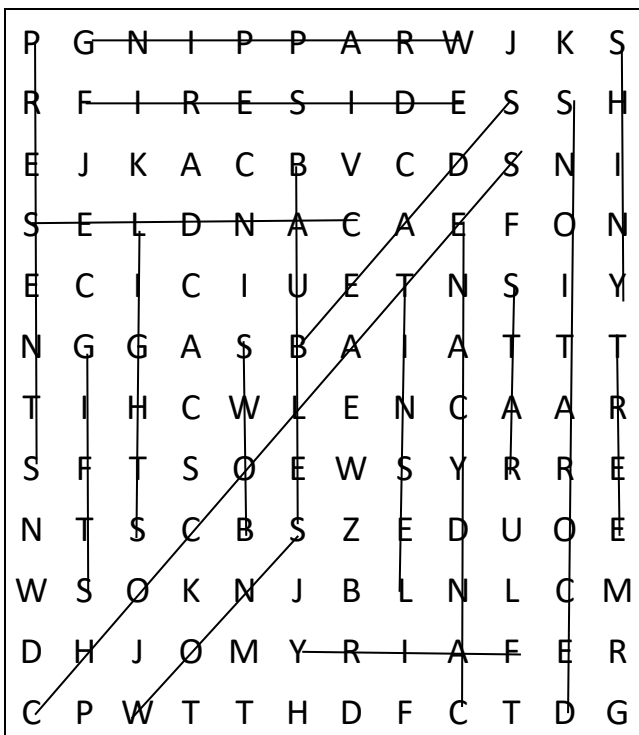


ANSWERS

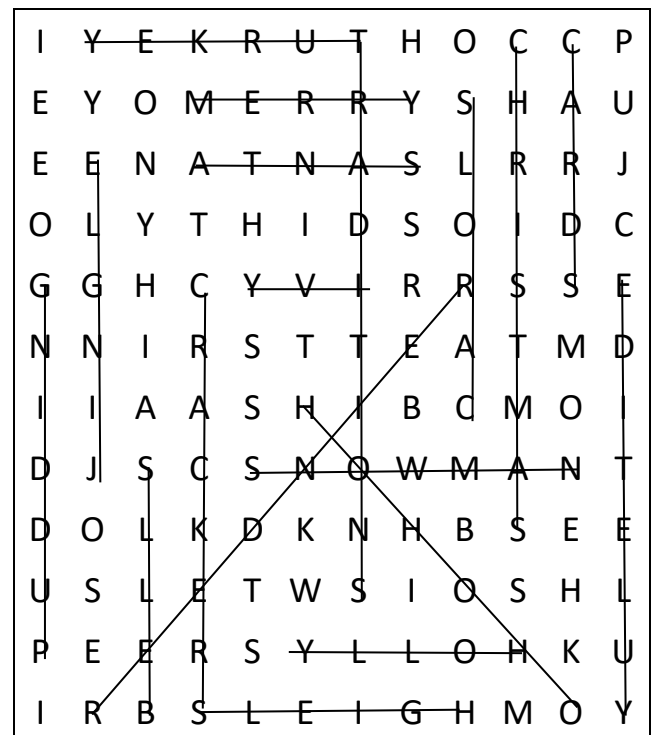
First lines of Christmas songs and carols

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | A I A M, N C F A B | Away in a manger no crib for a bed |
| 2. | C I C T G A G F | Christmas is coming the geese are getting fat |
| 3. | D T H W B O H | Deck the halls with boughs of holly |
| 4. | D D M O H | Ding dong merrily on high |
| 5. | T F N T A D S | The first Noel the angels did say |
| 6. | G T I O T M | Go tell it on the mountain |
| 7. | G R Y M G | God rest ye merry gentlemen |
| 8. | G K W L O, O T F O S | Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the feast of Stephen |
| 9. | H T H A S | Hark the herald angels sing |
| 10. | T H A T I | The holly and the ivy |
| 11. | I S T S C S I | I saw three ships come sailing in |
| 12. | J B J B J A T W | Jingle bells jingle bells jingle all the way |
| 13. | L D, L D, O T D R | Little donkey, little donkey, on the dusty road |
| 14. | O L T O B | O little town of Bethlehem |
| 15. | O I R D C | Once in royal David's city |
| 16. | S A T W S | See amid the winter's snow |
| 17. | S N, H N, A I C A I B | Silent night, holy night, all is calm all is bright |
| 18. | O T F D O C M T L G T M | On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me |
| 19. | W W Y A M C | We wish you a merry Christmas |
| 20. | W S W T F B N | While shepherds watched their flocks by night |

Christmas word search 1



Christmas word search 2



HIDDEN MESSAGE: I hope you enjoy this Christmas book.
Best wishes, Kim

Anagrams

Christmas books

1. A CHRISTMAS CAROL
2. TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
3. ONE WINTRY NIGHT
4. THE CHRISTMAS TREE
5. THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD
6. LETTERS FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS
7. THE OXFORD BOOK OF CHRISTMAS POEMS
8. THE THOUSAND NIGHTS AND ONE NIGHT
9. WHAT DOES SANTA DO ON BOXING DAY
10. THE NUTCRACKER

Christmas film titles

1. WHITE CHRISTMAS
2. WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING
3. TRADING PLACES
4. STALKING SANTA
5. THE POLAR EXPRESS
6. HOME ALONE
7. HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS
8. THE SNOWMAN
9. THE MAN WHO SAVED CHRISTMAS
10. SCROOGE

Definitions

BIENNIAL	Twice a year
BARBICAN	Outer defence of a castle or walled city
BUZZARD	Hawk like bird of prey
BLANDISH	To coax a person with kind words or flattery
BELLIGERENT	Hostile and aggressive
BAROQUE	A style of architecture, music, and art of the 17th and 18th centuries
BYSSUS	A fine textile fibre and fabric of flax
BENEFICIATE	Treat a raw material to improve its properties

With all best wishes for the
Christmas season

Kim

www.kimchamberlain.com

