



# I'm Dreaming of a Write Christmas

short story competition

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# Introduction

Christmas is a time for stories. From the traditional nativity to pantomimes, ballets like the Nutcracker and unforgettable classics such as A Christmas Carol.

It's a magical time of year; the perfect season from which to take inspiration and allow our imaginations to fly.

So I was delighted to be asked to judge this year's [catridgesave.co.uk](http://catridgesave.co.uk)'s Write Christmas competition.

And the entrants didn't disappoint! The variety of stories and poems was breathtaking. We had dancing Christmas dinners, Santa losing his underpants and some very badly-behaved Brussels sprouts!

The standard was exceptionally high, which made choosing the winners a very difficult task. But a few stories and poems really stood out.

In the 4-6 age category Tom O'Kane's story about Father Christmas needing a new Santa suit really made me smile. While Bailey Amesbury's winter poem had such beautiful imagery; he captured the landscape of the season perfectly.

In the 7-9 age group, Phoebe Hall's funny poem about Mrs Christmas having to take over the deliveries when Santa gets the flu was very jolly. While Peter O'Hara Ratcliffe's poem about Santa moving into the modern age by buying Toys R Us really made me chuckle!

In the 10-11 category, it was a very original story by Edwin Walker that caught my eye. Written in the form of a police report, it detailed how one snowy night someone breaks into a little girl's house, puts sweets in her socks, pinches milk and mince pies from the fridge and leaves sooty footprints all over the house, I wonder who! Such an unusual and clever way to tell a story. I loved it!

Another well-written entry in this age group came from Ruby Eve Angus. I really enjoyed her story about a flying reindeer who dreams of joining Santa's sleigh team!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading all the entries. Thank you so much to everyone who took part and Merry Christmas to you all.

## Sam Hay

*Sam Hay is a children's writer and champion of book clubs for kids. She's had more than twenty books published including the Undead Pets series about zombie animals and Screaming Sands, a ghostly trilogy set at the seaside.*



Ages 4 - 6



# Santa Claus' New Clothes



CATEGORY  
WINNER



One snowy night there was a little boy called Tom. He was getting his Christmas stuff ready. It was bed time, he got into bed and started to fall asleep. In the middle of the night he heard bells. He quickly tiptoed downstairs and he saw a very fat burglar that was eating mince pies. He looked like he was stealing a present! Tom opened the door with a big creak; Tom was about to shout 'burglar' but the burglar said, "Wait! I'm not a burglar I'm Santa Claus and I've lost my whole outfit and even if I found it, it wouldn't fit me because I've eaten too many mince pies!" "I've got an idea!" said Tom. "What is it?" said Santa Claus. "I'm going to knit you a bigger outfit!" "Ho, ho, ho, you are a jolly good boy" Santa said. "You better go back to bed because I haven't put any presents in your stocking and it's nearly day time and I need to go to another country." When it was morning he opened his presents and he got some magic wool and a new pair of knitting needles and if you looked very closely you could see them sparkle.



Tom O'Kane





# The Winter Poem



The winter robin is in the garden again looking up at my window.

He's checking if I'm being good. I'm wondering if it will snow.

I giggle in the morning when my mum scrapes the ice off the car.

My little brother's in a play, he's dressing up as a star.

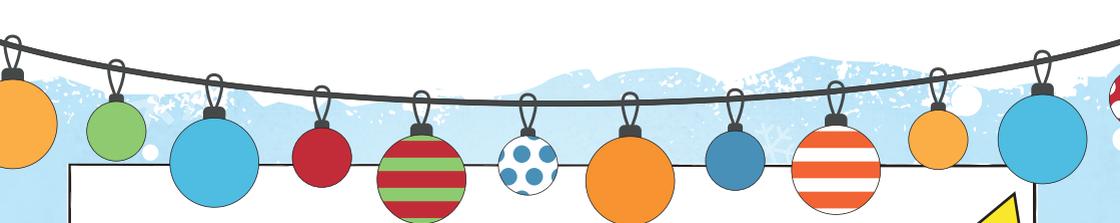
I pretend I am a dragon with cold breath like smoke in the air.

The trees are tall and sparkly but without their clothes they look bare.



Bailey Amesbury





# Santa Dog

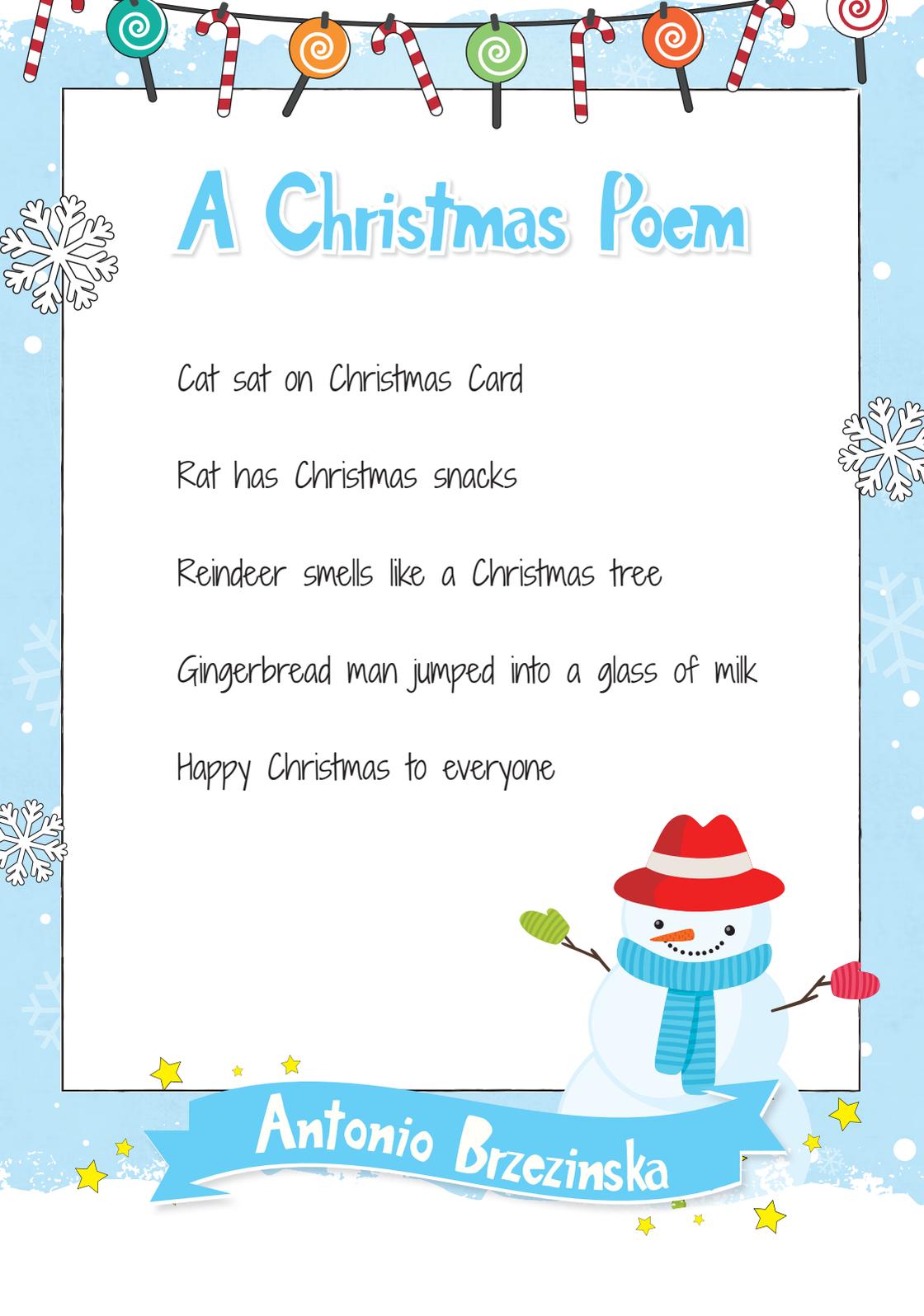


HIGHLY  
COMMENDED

Santa dog has a special wand. He bangs it on the presents and they fly away to the chimneys. The presents fall down the chimneys and land for the cats and dogs. Inside there are cars, dog castles, dog knights and people. Santa dog is very special.



Angus Bethune



# A Christmas Poem

Cat sat on Christmas Card

Rat has Christmas snacks

Reindeer smells like a Christmas tree

Gingerbread man jumped into a glass of milk

Happy Christmas to everyone



Antonio Brzezinska



# I hope the snow lasts forever and ever

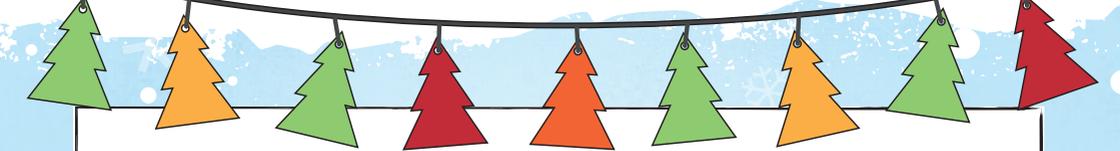
There's blue and a lot of snow on the ground. A snowman I'm building like a block of ice or an ice sculpture.

I have my scarf, I have my gloves, I have my wintertime hat. It's all snugly buggly!

It's really fun to play in the snow, snowballs are my favourite, I look everyday for Christmas. I hope the snow lasts forever and ever.



Evelyn Tomlinson



# How Father Christmas met Rudolph



One Christmas Eve, when all the children were fast asleep, Father Christmas was busy delivering presents. He looked at his watch and shouted, "We are nearly out of time!" "What do you mean out of time?" came a voice from the woods below.

Father Christmas stopped his sleigh and landed in a clearing. "Who said that?" he shouted

"Please don't shout at me. I'm only a little reindeer" said the voice.

"What's your name?" asked Father Christmas kindly.

"My Mummy calls me Rudolph, but the other reindeer call me 'Glownose'" answered the reindeer with a sigh.

"Why do they call you Glownose?"

"Because my nose lights up. Look!"

The little reindeer came out of the woods to show his glowing nose.

"I like your glowing nose, Rudolph. Would you and your family come and guide my sleigh tonight?"

"Yes, please" exclaimed Rudolph.

"Hurry little reindeer, we have no time to lose!" said Father Christmas.

Rudolph's family joined the other reindeer and they flew off together. Now with eight reindeer to pull the sleigh, and Rudolph's glowing nose to light the way, they delivered the presents just in time for Christmas morning.

That's how Father Christmas met Rudolph.



Anna Field





# Santa and the Christmas Demon



Once upon a time there was a friendly person called Santa Clause. One day he was off to give out beautiful presents. Suddenly, a squeaky noise trembled. He looked back and saw the Christmas Demon. Santa Clause shivered with fright. He dashed to give out presents. He was so quick the Christmas Demon could not keep up. He dashed to his cottage in the North Pole. He shut the door as quick as he could.



He banged the door. He tried to smash the door. Soon he smashed the door. Santa screamed and shouted. The Christmas Demon ran after Santa. Santa was so quick and the Christmas Demon lost him. Some police saw the Christmas Demon. They ran after the Christmas Demon. They caught him. The Christmas Demon shouted. Santa Clause was glad because the Christmas Demon got arrested. At midnight it was time to deliver the beautiful presents. The next morning it was Christmas. Everyone enjoyed their presents. They even put up a Christmas tree. They loved it.



The end



Greta O'Toole-Akraka





# Rosa and the Snowman

Long ago in London there lived a little girl called Rosa and she wished it could snow. She decided to go and play outside. Suddenly it began to snow! She ran inside to get her coat.

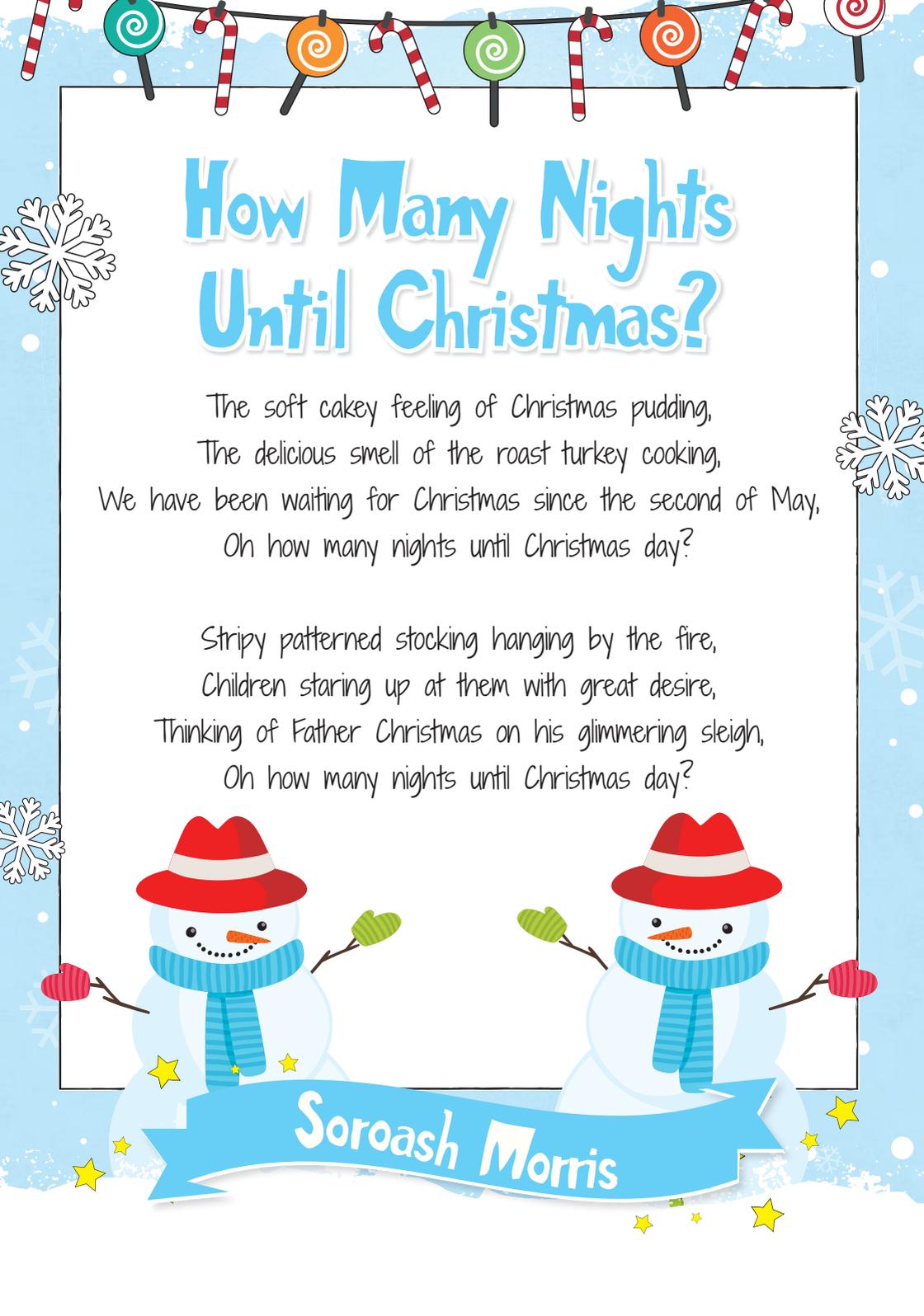
When she got back she saw a magic snowman that had appeared from nowhere. She scaredly whispered: "Hello. I am Rosa who are you?"

"Me? - I am Ice-berg. I love white and fluffy snow." Said the snowman.

Ice-berg told Rosa he was magical and if she built a boat out of snow they could go on magical wonderful adventures together. They finished building it and went to see Santa!



Minnie McNamara



# How Many Nights Until Christmas?

The soft cakey feeling of Christmas pudding,  
The delicious smell of the roast turkey cooking,  
We have been waiting for Christmas since the second of May,  
Oh how many nights until Christmas day?

Stripy patterned stocking hanging by the fire,  
Children staring up at them with great desire,  
Thinking of Father Christmas on his glimmering sleigh,  
Oh how many nights until Christmas day?



Soroash Morris



Ages 7 - 9



# Santa's Got The Flu



Achoo! Achoo! Achoo!  
Santa's got the flu!  
His nose is red  
And he's stuck in bed  
Achoo! Achoo! Achoo!

The work's been done by all the elves  
They've stacked the toys along the shelves  
Achoo! Achoo! Achoo!  
Santa still has the flu!

The reindeer are munching away at their hay  
Getting ready to put Santa's sleigh  
But Achoo! Achoo! Achoo!  
Poor Santa's still got the flu!

Santa's still not feeling better  
He hasn't read a single letter!  
But Mrs Claus knows what to do  
To help Santa when he's got the flu!

She puts on her gloves and hat  
And takes the shed key from under the mat  
She knew exactly what to do  
When poor old Santa's had the flu!

She headed off into the night  
And saw the moon shining brilliant white  
She collected the toys from the shed  
And left poor Santa sneezing in bed

She put the toys into her sack  
And carried it carefully on her back  
She harnessed the reindeer to the sleigh  
Looked at the houses and flew away.

She delivered all the Christmas toys  
To the very sleepy girls and boys  
She got back home Achoo! Achoo!  
Mrs Claus has caught the flu!



**CATEGORY  
WINNER**



Phoebe Hall





# Santa's Problem



HIGHLY  
COMMENDED



The elves sat around, not a smile in sight, Santa came in and gave them a fright.

He asked what was wrong, why all sat around, all sat in a circle not making a sound?

A spokeself replied "We have nothing to make and Christmas is coming for goodness sake!!"

"The kids want new things, Wii, Xbox and Sony, gone are the days of cars, trains and a pony!"

"The lists keep on coming and are getting really long! Nerf, Lego, Star Wars, even Pokemon!"

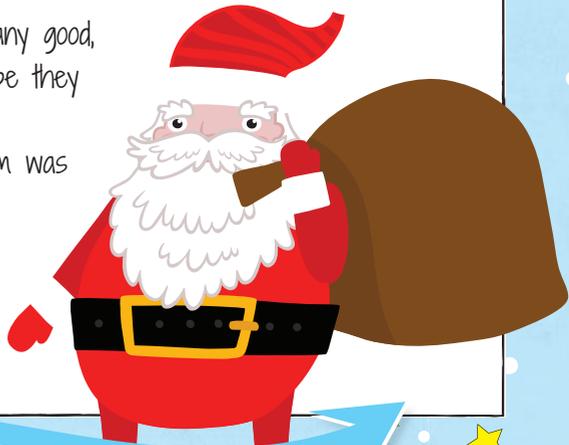
Santa thought deeply, he knew not what to do, how could he sort this? Make something new?

It had to be special, new for girls and boys, how could he design and make new toys?

The ideas kept coming but none any good, then one elf commented that maybe they should...?

Santa now had a plan, the problem was solved.

He bought Toys 'r' Us and Father Christmas evolved!



Peter O'Hara Ratcliffe





# The Christmas Elves



It was the night of Christmas Eve. Outside the snow silently fell. The only light in the house was the glimmer of the Christmas tree. The only noise was the creak of a little wooden elf door opening in the fireplace, as four elves; Peppermint, Poinsettia, Pine and Pax tiptoed under the Christmas tree and started climbing up. They swung from branch to branch "Woohoo" shouted Pax. "Shh" exclaimed Peppermint, they all giggled.

Just then Santa burst through the chimney coughing, then said with a smile: "Let's get Christmas started." Two minutes later the living room was full of presents. "Let's have some fun" said Pine. So all of the elves jumped on the train that was chugging around the tree on its track. "Let's get back to delivering these presents to the other children" chuckled Santa. "Can we come with you?" said Poinsettia. "Of course" said Santa, so they climbed back up the chimney, hopped into Santa's glowing red sleigh and set off. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Brooke Gunn



# A Christmas Journey

Santa was busy - so busy he couldn't check on all the children that morning. This was because he was getting ready for his travel across the Atlantic, to England. He chose to do this because then he didn't have to take the strain of all the presents, instead a zeppelin would carry it from England.

"Huff!" Santa wheezed as he heaved the gigantic golden embroidered sack into the exquisite sleigh. "This will be a long ride!" Santa warned Gary the elf who had ADHD. "Yes, sir" Gary said shakily and without a doubt they set off on a fine morning.

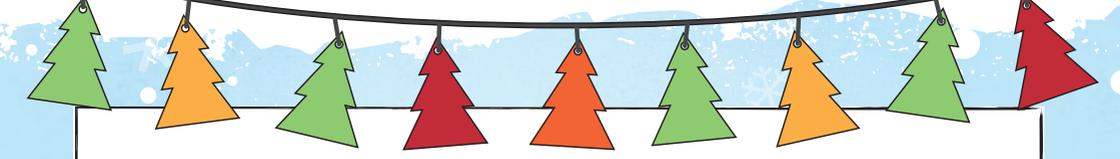
It was a soothing ride but even still they galloped faster, all the reindeers were sprinting! Santa wondered, why? But as he took a glance out of the sleigh the zeppelin was leaving..

As they rushed out of the sleigh Santa found that the zeppelin had left. Gary, however was twitching dangerously close to Rudolph's nose. Rudolph sneezed a bitterly cold sneeze and blew all the gadgets toys and boxes to the children.

That morning a child woke up. "Mommy, why are my presents sticky?"



Edward Cook



# Christmas Eve

Excited children peacefully sleep,  
In their dreams, counting sheep.

Santa enters without knocking,  
There in the lounge, is their stocking.

Santa strides to the stocking,  
Which is quietly and gently rocking.

After Santa fills it up,  
And drinks his milk from the cup.

He proceeds to his sleigh,  
In his usual silent way.

He continues to soar across the world,  
The sleigh, to the world is unfurled.

This time next year,  
Santa will, again, come here.



Alice Dorrell



# The Invisible Gift



Fire engine – red was the colour of Amara's father's face, he was angry and displeased. Amara couldn't understand why he was so upset, all she had done was wrap a shoebox in new and expensive wrapping paper.

Amara's father was a handsome, young, rich, business man, who was busy all the time and forgot about the important things in life, like Amara, ever since Amara's mother passed away. Amara is strong-willed, attractive, brave and thoughtful.

Christmas morning was cold and crisp. Amara was excited and couldn't wait to give the golden-wrapped present to her father. She gave it to him. He was overjoyed! He opened the beautifully-wrapped gift. Suddenly, he was very cross! The box was empty!



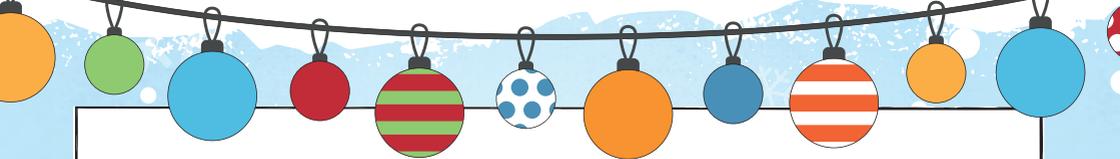
"Amara! If you give someone a gift, it's got to have something inside it!" he said sharply. Tears rolled down Amara's rosy cheeks. She said "Father, I blew kisses into the box and filled it up to the top. So, whenever you think about mum you can take out a kiss and place it on your cheek."

He felt crushed. He threw himself on his knees and hugged Amara so tight she could hardly breathe.

The end



Scarlett Reid-Gordon



# The Dancing Christmas Dinner!

Cooking in the oven was the turkey. It lay still, the soft, colourful, vegetables surrounding it. While the family slept in their cosy beds, the children dreaming of the presents that they would get. As the family had great dreams the dinner did not, no they had bad nightmares bad, bad nightmares.

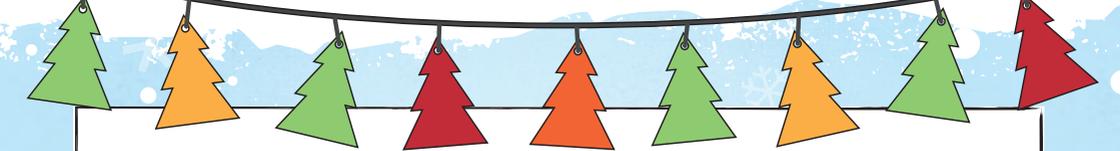
Suddenly a carrot named Chadd jumped up and carefully tried to open the oven, but, oh the noise that it made was horrendous, it sounded like a monster angrily crashing around! Then Chadd leaped out of the oven and woke all his veggie friends and then...

## They All Started Dancing!

The problem with veggies dancing is they tend to fall over which makes a lot of noise, which wakes up the humans! The thing is waking up a human is dangerous because they can eat you and cut you if you're a vegetable, or a turkey. One potato, who was a burnt, black potato named Grandpa Peter was mean and always grumpy. Just then a noise was made but it wasn't the veggies, or the turkey... it was coming down the stairs! Then they realised what it was, it was a HUMAN!



Isabella Freeman



# Ho Ho Ho

Far, far away in the North Pole there lived Father Christmas and his daughter who was an elf.

The elf loved to ice skate with her iridescent skates on. She skated to make patterns on the ice. Her name was Daisy White. Her friends were very pleased that they had a friend that was an elf. One day she thought she wanted to have a secret so she secretly when on an adventure to a little stream. She took off her clothes and had a paddle in it. She walked down it until it reached the mouth.

Then she saw a big fish and caught it because Father Christmas really wanted it the night before.

She jumped out carrying the fish and she didn't have a secret after all, because Father Christmas asked where she had got it from so they had fish to eat. They lived happily ever after with iridescent fish.



Bryony Chesneau



# The True Meaning of Christmas



Once upon a time, there lived a young greedy boy called Tom. It was Christmas eve and Tom wanted a PlayStation, a dog, a Wii U and fifty-eight pounds. He thought Christmas was all about him and presents. Tom and his sister Lana, crept upstairs, brushed their teeth and went to bed. Tom had a dream that night about a child his own age sleeping in the street with nothing to look forward to, only hunger, cold and loneliness.

Tom suddenly woke up, the window was wide open...In the morning Tom and Lana raced down the stairs. After Lana had opened all her presents, which were wrapped in silver paper, Tom opened his massive presents. But, to Tom's surprise, he felt no happiness at all. Instead, all he could think about was the homeless child who had nothing. That afternoon, Tom and his mum drove to the homeless shelter, where Tom left his presents for someone less fortunate. Now he understands the true meaning of giving.

Merry Christmas!





# Fairy Magic



At Christmas time, the Poppy family all gathered around to put their Christmas tree up. One by one they put baubles and other delightful decorations on the tree. Posy Poppy who is the youngest in the Poppy family shouted, "Can Shimmer and Shine my fabulous fairies go at the top of the tree?"

"Nooo" exclaimed Alfie, Posy's older brother.

"No Posy, your fairies went up last year" said Mum.

"It's your brother's turn this year" responded Dad.

"Anyway Ben, my elf, is going at the top" replied Alfie.



However, what the Poppy family didn't know was that Ben had no idea what it was like to be at the top of the tree and that made him frightened. He was so anxious that he was violently sick. He just was not brave enough. The other decorations teased Ben "scaredey-elf scaredey-elf, Ben's a big fat baby" everybody laughed. Everybody except Shimmer and Shine and the kind friendly fairies. They were trying to think of a way to build Ben's confidence. Suddenly they thought of the perfect plan.



Shimmer and Shine could use their fairy magic to help Ben see himself the way they saw him - a generous, caring elf who would help out anyone in need. Waving their wands, the fairies whispered their wish "Shimmer and Shine, party divine". Just then, Ben jumped up like a rocket and began climbing the tree until he reached the top. Ben felt like a superstar!



So this year in the Poppy house, Ben the elf stands proudly at the top of the Christmas tree whilst Shimmer and Shine look on from the windowsill - pleased that they had helped their friend.



Serena Anne Semplay





# Raspberry Snow

Sleep with your spoon in your pillow,  
Don't be the witch that bends the willow.

No matter how old you grow,

Morning may bring raspberry snow.

Little boys and girls make raindrops turn to lemon,  
Then little boys and girls they turn into men and women.

Those that are happy and those that still know,

Morning may bring raspberry snow.

Smile through your heart has no reason,

Drink every day that's the season.

Ask little children they know,

Morning may bring raspberry snow.



Lucas Perkins



# You Don't Want a Repeat

It was a crisp Christmas Eve and all were busy. All the elves were concentrating, making sure everything was perfect. Santa was sternly talking to his eight reindeer. "Now, Dasher, now Dancer, Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph, we don't want a repeat of last year. I can't afford another speeding ticket!"

Once all the presents were on the sleigh, Santa set off to deliver the children's treasures. He flew over London, dropping toys down chimneys, gobbling up all the tasty treats.

Flying over all the cities and countries, the sleigh got lighter and lighter. Coming into Rudolph and his compatriots' view was the Sky Patrol, who gave the team a speeding ticket last year.

The team changed their attitude from last year - and slowed down. Phew!

There was no ticket, no harm, but a safe arrival!



Olivia Palmer



# I Dreamt of a White Christmas

I dreamt of a white Christmas and this I  
what I found,  
When I flung open my shutters and the  
snow was all around.

I ran around to the garden and built a  
lovely man,  
Entirely out of snow, what a wonderful plan.  
"Hi" said the snowman, which took me by  
surprise.

He turned around to stare at me with his  
big black eyes.



Isla Bethune



# Ben's Snowman



Ben marvelled at his snowman. It was Boxing Day and Ben had come out to build his masterpiece in sheer depression of not getting the brand new watch he wanted.

The snowman was quite a sight with its rock eyes, saucepan hat, pebble buttons, branch arms and twig mouth.

However, something was missing, something important. Then it came to him, a nose. All snowmen need noses! This is when peculiar things began to happen. Trudging through the deep snow, Ben held a fresh pointy carrot from the kitchen. He then placed the carrot into the snowman's head and to his surprise, the snowman politely raised its hat.

Ben stumbled back in shock.

"Come with me," it said, before shuffling along like a penguin to the garage. Ben could not help but follow.

Once inside the garage, the snowman pointed towards a present sitting on an old shelf.

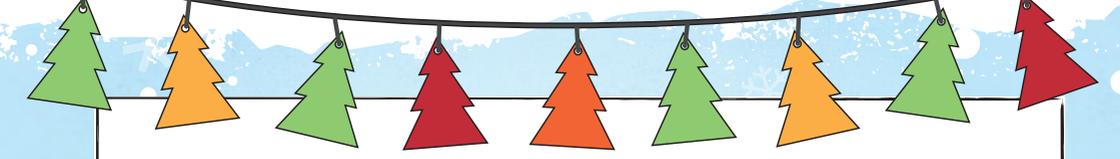
Ben rushed forward in delight and read the label that said 'to my creator' - then tugged at the wrapping until it revealed the watch he desired.

In excitement, he leapt towards the snowman, hugging and thanking it. In return for its kindness, he remade him every Boxing Day for years to come.



Benjamin Neville





# The Robin Who Saved Christmas



It was a cold winter morning,  
children were playing on the grass,  
though the snow will get thicker,  
as time will pass

Meanwhile,  
back in the North Pole,  
all of Santa's reindeer licked clean their  
empty bowls

Although one reindeer didn't lick his bowl  
clean,  
and this little naughty reindeer is nowhere  
to be seen!



Santa ordered a robin,  
who was flying through the sky,  
to go and find Vincent,  
so robin searched low and high

In Liverpool, chewing scrumptious carrots,  
was Vincent the reindeer,  
when he was finally found,  
robin gave out a little cheer!

He led Vincent back to Santa's shed,  
Santa looked pleased and said:  
"Thank you robin, from Vincent and me,  
"as a reward, you can live in a bigger tree!"



"You know what, Santa?  
"I'm totally fine,  
"I'm managing great,  
In that little house of mine."

"It's getting late now,  
"That's goodbye from me,"  
said robin as he flew off,  
smiling with glee

Now if you want,  
you can volunteer,  
to help Santa,  
if he is ever missing reindeer



Katie Turner-Wilson



# The Ghost Turkey



My dad (a pilot) was away on Christmas Day so it was just me and my mum. I was going downstairs to see what I had in my stocking when I heard a strange noise from the kitchen. I went to see what the noise was when I saw the ghost of a turkey. He walked into my body. I immediately ran into the kitchen.

I was thinking, what if the ghost could be thrown up? I always threw up when I ate chilli. I raided the fridge but there was none in there. I looked out the window and then I remembered. We were snowed in.



I sat on my bed in thought that night. Maybe the turkey would come out at the end of Christmas. But until then I would just have to wait.



On the 6th of January I woke up feeling happy. Today at Christmas turkey would disappear. Suddenly I heard a strange cackle it got louder and louder until BANG everything went black. I woke up a few minutes later. I tried to stand up but I stepped out of my body. I was a ghost. The turkey had got its revenge.



Abigail Thomas



# The Smallest Polar Bear

In the misty mountains lived a family cosy polar bear - all except one - the youngest. He has small button eyes, like tiny black diamonds piercing the white landscape. All was well apart from one thing - he was always cold.

Deep in the swirling snowstorm a tiny igloo rested alone in the snowy drifts while the family of cubs sat joyfully inside, sheltering from the icy blasts.

Christmas was coming and the weather was getting colder by the second. Alone in the corner and shiver the smallest bear tried to pretend he was warm as he thought to himself - why am I the only polar that's cold?

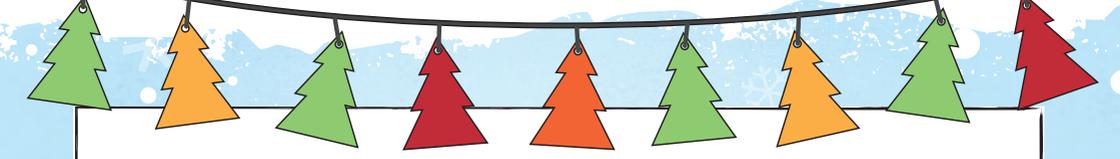
On Christmas eve, the young bear sat writing his Christmas list when finished he crept into bed. Later Father Christmas came he looked at the list and chuckled in surprise then dropped the present into the stocking.

In the morning the young bear unwrapped his presents a look of excitement spread across his face. Out of his stocking came hats scarves and gloves. Never again did he feel the cold and wearing bright colours he could always be seen on the misty mountains!



Jasmin Jamieson





# The Magic Little Elf



One Christmas Eve, there was a little elf that needed to urgently give Santa a potion since he was sick. The elf had to go through a freezing cold forest because Santa lived in a massive forest which always stayed cold. The elf was now on his way to Santa's hut. On the way he met a green hairy thing. "Where are you going young elf?" asked the thing. "I'm going to give Santa this potion to help him get better. Bye." said the elf. "Bye" said the thing, with a huge grin.

The elf could just about see Santa's hut and then he strangely spotted the thing in there. He bolted into the hut to find the thing smashing some of the Christmas presents as Santa slept in his cosy bed. Santa was too weak to do anything. Quickly, the elf gave him the potion and then he woke up. Santa used his magical icy powers to freeze the thing. Christmas was saved.



Santa could now hand out presents to well behaved children and we could celebrate Christmas. The elf was now known as Little Magic Elf, the greatest elf to ever live.



Fabio Mathew



# The Delivery Man



Christmas Eve is when I'm very busy.

It really does put min in a tizzy.

Months of preparation for just one night.

Lots to do before I take flight.

So many letters come in the post.

Children asking for what they want most.

I must be careful that no one is missed.

I wonder if you will be on my list.

When you're in bed, fast asleep

In I come, creep, creep, creep.

I won't come in if you're awake

I hope you've left me a slice of cake.

I can come in without a key

And I will leave something under your tree.

In the morning, your stocking is full.

I wish you a very good Yule.



My helpers and I head home for a rest.

We're so tired and that's for the best.

We might see you next year. Enjoy your pud.

It depends whether you're rude or good.

The rooftops are sparkling in the snow.

Looking down, the street lamps glow.

I'm just as busy as the man in red

But I'm the coal truck driver, going to bed...



John Oscar Walker





# Winter Poem

When the snow falls on the ground and covers all the land around,  
I just want to shiver and shiver the ice has covered all the river!

The trees are bare and hibernating animals are in their lair,

It's awfully cold and all the trees are turning bald,

It's Christmas girls and boys so be good or Santa won't give you your toys,

When people sing and sing and church bells ding-a-ling-a-ling,

Finally the cold is over and the clover grows,

Winter is no longer here it's a brand new year!



Joseph Waite



# The Gingerbread Man Who Wanted To Be Loved



One snowy, cold Christmas Eve, a shop was open. Not just any old shop, but a Christmas shop, with festive and colourful decorations everywhere. A little gingerbread man was hanging on a Christmas tree, but one of his legs had snapped off. A family were in the shop choosing a perfect golden reindeer to buy, which was glimmering in the lights.

"I wish somebody would choose me", sniffed the gingerbread man, as a tear dripped down his cheek.

Nearby, the Millers were at home happily putting up their Christmas tree. Maddie was 8 years old, her younger brother called Niall was 4, and mum and dad. Maddie suddenly remembered their family tradition of buying a new Christmas tree decoration every year! "Mum! We forgot to buy a new decoration for the tree!", she exclaimed. "Oh dear", replied mum, "Shall we go get one from the shop?" "Yes please!", shouted the children.

Inside the shop, they looked around. Maddie saw a lonely gingerbread man hanging on a tree. She felt sorry for him as he had a leg missing. "Mum, Dad, please could we get him? He's so cute!"

The family took him home and hung him upon a tree. It was starting to get dark and the children wrote their letters to Santa and, of course, decorated them too! They left mince pies and carrots and went to sleep thinking about Santa.

On Christmas morning, the children ran downstairs excitedly and after seeing the tree they quickly woke mum and dad up! Everyone discovered that the little gingerbread man's leg was mended. A note next to it read:

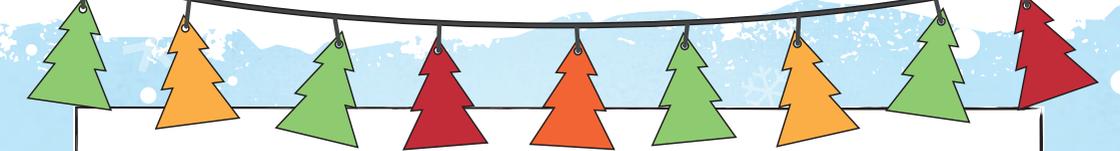
"I fixed this little fellow's leg for you. I'm so happy that somebody loves him. Love Santa."

Hooray for the little gingerbread man!



Keiva Bhanabhai





# Santa's Missing Underpants



One foggy morning on Christmas Eve day Santa woke up on got his special Christmas dressing gown on and went downstairs and he ate up his breakfast and went upstairs to get dressed but where was his underpants? He looked everywhere but he can't find his underpants so he went to the sewing machine but he didn't know how to sew so he accidentally made trousers with bums on. Then he asked his elves to do it but there was no fabric left. Just then he crept into Mrs Claus' wardrobe but Mrs Claus woke, she screamed as he was putting her knickers on, so he gave them back. Then for his final attempt to get some underpants he went to the ice, got his stuff and clink clonk, he started carving, they turned out perfect, he put them on then, from his toes to his head turned blue, his eyes turned purple and his bum froze. He went back home and got in a nice bath and he melted his bum then Rudolph came to bring him a drink then when Rudolph came in he asked Rudolph "what is that on your head?" "It's my Christmas scarf," replied Rudolph. "Come closer, that's not a scarf, that's my underpants," said Santa so Santa got changed and Christmas was saved.



Leighton Bolt





# Christmas Poem

Christmas is fun!

Tonnes of glittery designed presents shimmering under the Christmas tree.

Waiting to be opened

The velvet soft ribbon is perfectly tied

The wrapping paper is nicely packed

Gloves on because it is chilly

Christmas pudding YUM YUM!

The roasted turkey is on the plate

My temptation can no longer wait

The room is full of happiness

The bells on the Christmas tree are jingling from side to side

The shiny tinsel on the Christmas tree is rustling

As I look outside the window

The snowy glittery snowflakes dirtying the cold sky

Gently touching the floor

I am making a snowman

Sticking the strange carrot into his white nose

Pushing the chocolate circles into the snowman as buttons

I wonder what Santa will give me



Nivetha Murugiaraj





# The Night of the Sprouts



It was Christmas Eve and in the Smith's house the dinner was ready to eat on the table. Though one thing was missing...the brussel sprouts! Nobody had ever forgotten the sprouts before, not even when nobody liked the! The Smiths regretted that mistake as soon as they woke up on Christmas.

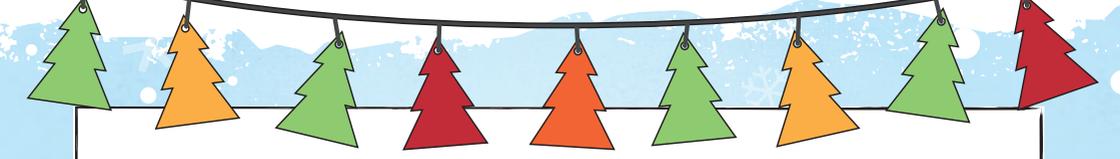
It was the middle of the night on Christmas Eve and the house next door to the Smiths had their brussel sprouts on the table. They knew the Smiths had forgotten their sprouts so one by one they hopped out of their bowl and on to the Smiths window and onto the Smith's dinner table. Then they started to feast on the feast.

They ate all the carrots, peas and Yorkshires, as well as the beef, gravy and everything else! They only left the pudding! They slowly started to jump back into their house.

On Christmas Day the Smiths woke up and looked in awe at their empty table. There wasn't even any empty plates! So never leave out the brussel sprouts!



Sophie Jagger



# A Rubbish Christmas Dinner



A few Christmas's ago, a small family of rats thought how much they would like a proper Christmas Dinner. So Dad Rat went out that night and left the stinky sewers in search of some better smells. First he went to number 24, his favorite because the bins at that house were always full. It was no good, the bins were full but with plastic wrappers, tin cans and wrapping paper. Rubbish rubbish! It was no good to anyone, not even a family of rats.

Just then Dad Rat smelt something good. The bin at number 32 had been knocked over. He ran over and found a big pile of yucky goo. Dad Rat took one of the plastic bags and put inside two half chewed turkey legs, one small roast potato smothered in cold gravy, lots of carrot peeling and a whole pile of brussel sprouts. Finally he found a bit of Christmas pudding with a strange bit of metal in it. He left the metal bit and added it to his bag.



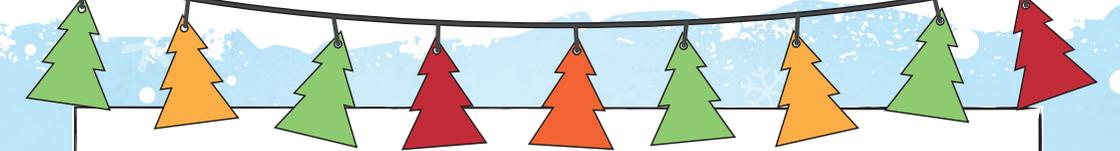
That night the rat family had the best rubbish Christmas Dinner ever!



Will Southam



Ages 10 - 11



# An Unexpected Visitor



Dear Inspector Elfson,

Someone broke into my house last night. I can't understand why. The intruder removed one of my socks from the drawer and filled it with some random items such as tangerines, sweets and clockwork toys.

I also found that the contents of our fridge had vanished, including some mince pies and a whole bottle of milk. Strangest of all, the intruder took an entire bag of carrots. I know it sounds ridiculous by it's true.

My grandmother and I found all the doors and windows still locked this morning. However, the floor in front of the disused fireplace in our living room was smother in soot. There were also very large footprints (they looked about a size 14) heading up the stairs to my bedroom.

Then I remembered that, during the night, I thought I heard a deep voice calling something like 'ho ho ho'. There also seemed to be scraping on the roof and loud bells.

I hope that you will find this sock-filling, carrot-eating villain before he strikes again. What a thing to happen on Christmas Eve! I hope he didn't visit anyone else.

Ella, 8

P.S. the sweets were very good.



**OVERALL  
WINNER**



**Edwin Walker**





# The Ninth Reindeer



Once upon a Christmas, there lived a cute little Reindeer named Tinsel. Tinsel loved to fly way beyond the clouds and longed that one day he would fly with Santa all around the world! But there was just one problem, Santa didn't need another Reindeer.

As Tinsel was gliding through the frosty air, he noticed a crowd gathering below.

"Wow!"

"How can this be?" Tinsel heard from below.

"What's going on?" asked Tinsel as he quickly flew down to meet the crowd. When he landed on the snowy ground he read the flyer:

Reindeer In Need!

Dear all aspiring Reindeer, just today my head Elf, Holly, examined my sleigh only to find that it was unbalanced and therefore

I am in need of a new Reindeer! If you are interested, meet me on the flying ground tomorrow at 12am.'

"Ok, Tinsel, you last up! If you can fly up just beyond the cloud, you will be my ninth Reindeer!" Said Santa encouragingly.

"Ok, I've got this." Tinsel said under his breath. He took a big run up and away he flew! Straight up beyond the clouds!

"I did it! I'm the ninth Reindeer!" He cried.



**HIGHLY  
COMMENDED**

Ruby Eve Angus





# Urgent! Make Santa Happy!

On the 12th October Father Christmas wanted to quit his job. The one and only reason he wanted to quit his job was because he thought that children didn't love him. Obviously, that is wrong. Everyone loves Santa.

At three o'clock in Warrington, Charlotte was shocked. Shocked because Charlotte (age 10) whilst eating a ham and pickle sandwich, was reading a note and was shocked about it.

Luckily, Charlotte knew what to do. Although she knew it was going to be tough, she wanted to take on the challenge. Anyway, lots of children will then love her.

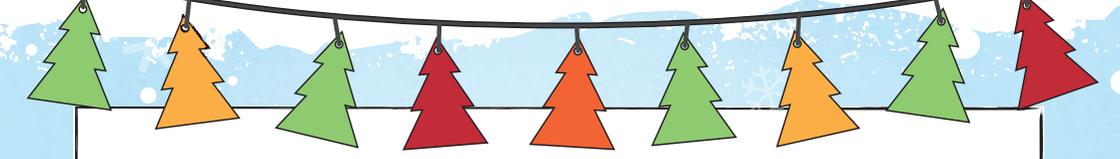
Amazed, amused, shocked, Charlotte managed to get 13,000 children to say how much they love Santa. Despite the fact that there were lots of readings Charlotte wanted to read them just to make sure they are positive comments.

3 hours later, she got 15,000 to sign. She realised now that that was enough.

Whilst at the North Pole, Santa received a weird letter and was going to read it, then he said, "forget about what I said" happily spoke Santa, jumping up and down.



Joseph Albinson



# Santa's Flight



All the children tucked up in bed  
Waiting for the day ahead.  
Santa is ready to go on his ride  
All the reindeer side by side.  
He waits for the children to sleep  
tight  
So he can go on his tiring flights.  
Off he zooms into the sky  
Below the moon but still quite high.

The first house was small on  
Tamworth Street  
Santa got up and out of his seat.  
Down the huge chimney off he went  
Delivering the presents from the list  
they sent.  
Finally Santa delivered his last gift  
Now it is December the 25th.

Back at home Santa puts up his feet  
Whilst Mrs Claus bakes a tasty treat.  
Santa's busy time was all done  
But the children's day had just begun.  
They awake with huge grins on their  
face  
Excitement and happiness filling the  
place.  
Unwrapping their gifts carefully  
Gathered around the Christmas tree.

But children before you are cheeky  
you should think twice  
Santa has a list of who is naughty  
and nice.



Amara Martin



# Christmas is Here

On Christmas Eve,  
The trees are waving,  
Snow is gliding down from the sky,  
A white blanket is covering the rocky land,  
All the children putting up their smiling stockings,  
Christmas is here,  
Time for cheer,

The fire is warm,  
Just like the Sun,  
Just look at it you will see,  
Beautiful bells are ringing.  
Just one day left,  
It is nearly here,  
We love Santa,  
We hope he comes soon.



Bradley Allen



# The Magical Elf



At sunrise I awoke, I slipped out the front door and ran across the street to a statue of an elf. In my town people said if you were first awake great things happened when you told your wish to an elf. That's when I saw it. The elf winked. I started, then blinked twice. The elf winked again. Then its frown turned into a cheery smile. "Hello" the elf whispered, "follow me". Grabbing me by the hand the elf took off. We raced up and down a maze of streets until we reached the Centre of town. The elf clicked her fingers twice and out of nowhere a reindeer appeared. We leapt onto the reindeer's back and zoomed into the sky. Up, up we flew until an icy blast hit me. We had arrived at the North Pole. The elf dragged me down a burrow filled with elves. Some wrapping toys, some making toys, some nesting toys. She led me through endless corridors until I caught a glimpse of a man in a red with a long white beard... Father Christmas.



Cerys Orla Grimshaw Mates



# The Boy and The Toy

It was Christmas Eve and everyone was asleep but tiny toy who was really small and couldn't fall asleep knowing that someone was soon going to find him under the bright, twinkling Christmas tree.

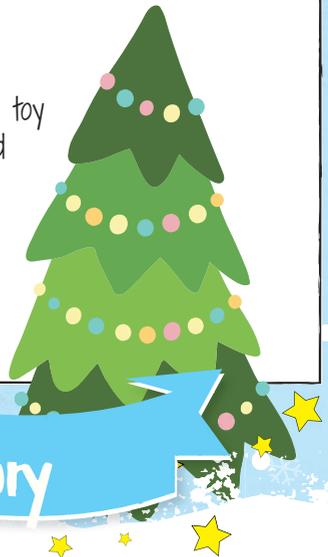
Suddenly a chime came from the grand clock that stood in the corner of the room.

Stumbling down the soaring flight of stairs came a boy of only about nine, waiting to see what Chris Cringle had brought for him this year.

Creeping under the Christmas tree, Alex (the boys name), grabbed the first present with his name on it and tore it open without even looking at who it was from.

Squealing, the toy, who was so excited that he had been picked first and was filled with such joy, that he accidentally let this one and only secret out... He talked... "Yay! Thank you."

Screaming, Alex chucked the toy on the floor and sprinted up the cold wooden stairs. Disappointed, the toy jumped back under the now dim Christmas tree and fell asleep waiting 'til the crisp and early morning when he knew he was going to be thrown into the dirty dumpster. That was the story of the tiny toy!



Ellie P Sainsbury





# Dancer's Inspiration

One snowy Christmas Eve, Dancer the little brown reindeer wandered round the moonlit forest wondering if he's ever find his way back to his herd.

He'd followed the right path, he was sure of that... Suddenly, he heard a noise coming from the snow-tipped trees - it sounded like a large animal pawing. Dancer, an inquisitive reindeer, wandered over. Suddenly, a huge, glossy reindeer appeared, towering above him!

"Hello, I'm Dancer," Dancer stammered. "Hello Dancer. I'm Rudolph," Rudolph said in his deep voice. Staring, Dancer realised there was something strange about Rudolph - his nose was red! Could he possibly be THE Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?!

"Why are you out in the forest little one?" Rudolph asked.  
"I'm lost," Dancer murmured. "I can't find my herd."

"You mean this herd?" Rudolph said cantering ahead and pulling back a branch. Dancer gasped in delight as he spotted his herd!

"Thank you Rudolph!" Dancer cried. He galloped towards the herd and looked back to see Rudolph walking away towards Santa and his sleigh! Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer had interrupted delivering presents on Christmas Eve to help him find his family! From then on, Dancer's destiny was to join Santa's team.



Isabella Cole



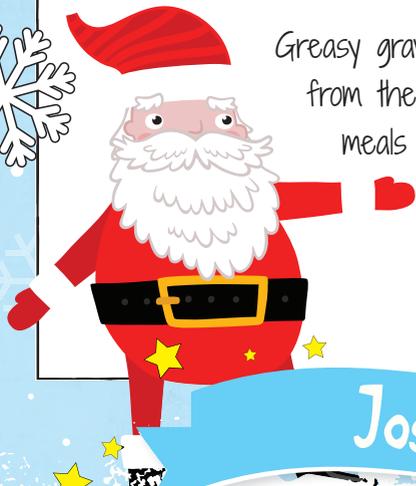
# The Poor Soldiers on Christmas

Bang! Goes the poor soldier. Yay! Goes the excited child.  
You're all having fun at home, while they're all dying on  
their own.

Whoosh! Goes the voice of the sleigh, Swoop! Goes the  
noise of the plane, You're all opening gifts at home, while  
they're hurting on their own.

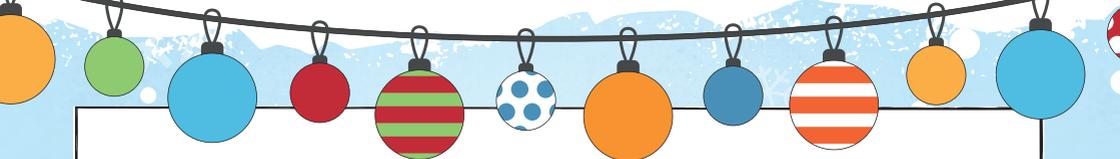
"Ho Ho Ho!" Shouts Santa, "No no no!" scream the soldiers.  
You're all eating fresh turkey, while they're eating rotten  
beef jerkey.

Greasy gravy, from the turkey, deathly blood,  
from the water that's murkey. You're all eating  
meals at home, while they're all starving  
on their own.



Joseph James





# The Snow People



Intrigued by the selection of snow globes Chloe peered up at the shelf. "Hmmm..." She thought to herself. "Which globe fits the theme Christmas more?" She picked up a globe with a Santa's sleigh and had a snowman in it too. "I like this one!" She said excitedly. She then grabbed another globe which contained a snow woman too and Santa stuck in a chimney.

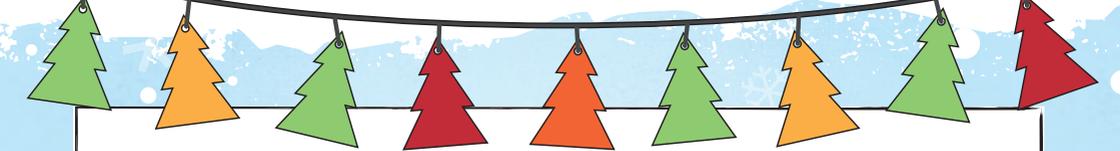
Chloe looked at both snow globes "Which one is more Christmassy?" SMASH! She dropped both globes with shock.

The shopkeeper ran over to Chloe and shouted, "Get out!" Chloe screamed. Meanwhile, something surreal began to occur. The snowman and snowwoman magically came to life! They both waddled towards each other slowly and hugged. The snowman introduced himself as the snowwoman smiled. They both ambled out of the shop and into the snow scene which greeted them outside.



Kyle Wilkie





# Love That Lasts Beyond Life



Once in an icy castle, there lived an elf named George. George is utterly lonely and this Christmas wants love. One morning, Santa strolled to George and whispered "George I've got you a Christmas present" then he skipped away joyfully. "Whaat, what, what do you mean?" bellowed George. That night all George could think about was what Santa meant, so he turned off his lamp and the golden glow disappeared. The next morning, George slowly got out of his comfy as white as snow bed. Santa came to him and said "There is a girl from the bad side of the North Pole and she wants you..."

"What do you mean she wants me?" asked George.

"She wants you, you've always reamed of this", said Santa.

"I know but she's from the bad side, I'm from the good side, we don't match!" said George.

"Who cares your leaving tomorrow to the bad side", then Santa strolled away leaving George to make some toys. That nights Santa rang and all George could hear was Santa's joyful laugh. The next day George packed all his things to go to the bad side. George went over to Santa to say goodbye, "This girl's name is Wendy" said Santa and winked very mysteriously. George appeared through the portal to the bad side...

When George arrived in the bad North Pole all he could see was an ugly green face and horrible yellow teeth, it was the Grinch! This tremendous voice echoed saying "What are you here for!" "Erm, Erm, I'm here because Santa sent me" said George. "Oh really, well I'd better show you the way out" shouted the Grinch. Then out came a beautiful girl, she had golden hair and sky-blue eyes, she screamed "No, don't let him stay here!"

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE. . .





THE STORY CONTINUED. . .



"Wendy, go!" said the Grinch.

"Fine" said he Grinch and strolled to the other bad elves.

"Hi Wendy", said George.

"Hi", she said shyly.

"I want you to come with me, I'll show you my room" said Wendy. When they arrived in her room, it was full of cross bones and eye patches.

"Wow, your room is cool!" Said George. "I know", boasted Wendy. When it was night, Wendy let George sleep next to her, then she turned the lamp off and the bright green colour disappeared. In the morning Wendy jumped on George to wake him up, "Aah" screamed George.

"Chill out", said Wendy.

Then they both went into the hall the Grinch stayed. Santa has to come back for you. Santa went up to her "What do you think of him?"



Kyra Russell





# Christmas Morning



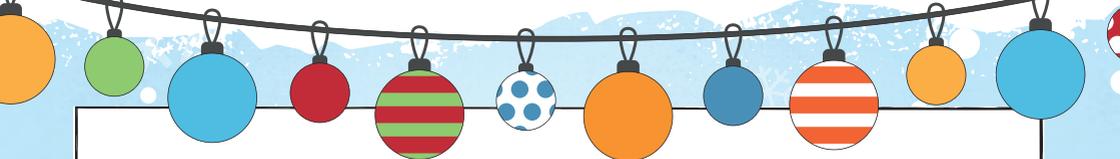
On Christmas day everything's white.  
The children went to sleep in the night.  
Santa came through the magical light of the stars.  
And in the morning the children scream with delight.  
The trees dance in the snow because it is Christmas.

The wind whispers in the sky as it flies.  
Bang go the crackers as the children pull.  
The Christmas tree swayed to the music in the hall.  
The party goes on all night long.  
The nutcracker blinked at me.



Phoebe Faulkner





# The Lost Reindeer



Santa walked past, busy with his last-minute checks.

"Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer... Prancer?" It was too late to find him...

Curious, the young reindeer followed the elf's scent through the deep drifts of fresh, white powder. The tiny footprints were leading him farther and farther away from the chiming and shouting and chaos by the sleigh, but he kept going. The elf had the last present; it mustn't escape. If he gave in to the growing force of the treacherous blizzard, if he surrendered to the urge to reach the sleigh, one little child, somewhere out there, would never get her present.

There!

The elf zigzagged unpredictably across the thawing ice. Prancer eyed the broken surface, watching for the signs that would mean danger. The creature trotted off to the centre of the ice. Desperate to save the present, the reindeer leapt towards the elf... and missed, plunging into the icy water.

Get the present, Prancer...

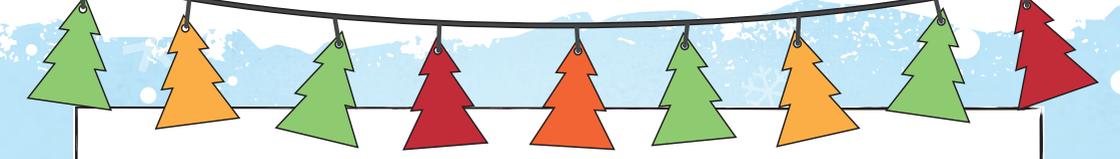
In a final effort, Prancer kicked out. His hooves hit the side of the iceberg and he pulled himself up. He had the elf.

Christmas was saved.



Roisin Vail





# Christmas Time

Crack! Goes the wrapping paper flying around  
Christmas has come quicker.

ZZZ! People snore like pigs as the candles flicker.

Shhh! Winter's land covered by snow.

Whoosh! Trees dance around like ballerinas as the  
wind blows.

Ring! "Santa's here," kids scream and cheer.

Ahh! Shout parents, "We're trying to drink our beer!"

Munch! Santa's been eating yummy mince pies.

Woohoo! Children wave goodbye.



Leah Miller



# Winter



Winter is the time of year that shuts away fright  
and fear,  
In this special season there is a day when we get  
to thank and pray,  
Near Christmas Eve there is such an applause as  
we see Santa Claus,  
Trees stacked with presents while the sky fills with  
Frankincense essence,  
Entering the end of the day the snow clears away,  
Ready for summer ready like no other.



Tikia Mack





# The Christmas Trees

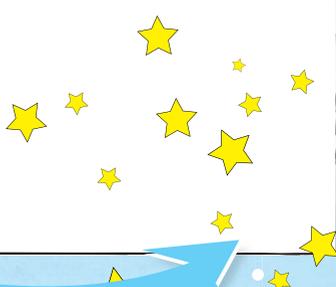


Crack goes the voice of the crazy nut cracker  
On Christmas Day,  
The trees waved like a Mexican dancer,  
Santa brought massive presents "YAY".

ON Christmas Day,  
The trees are sleeping like a big bear,  
Dinner time has come,  
The turkey was put in the burning oven  
The roasties are burnt but scrumptious.

On Christmas morning,  
The trees are full white snow,  
The trees are prickly like a pikey pine cone.

Christmas might  
be tonight  
The trees are bright



Toby Jones

