



A Christmas Carol; Charles Dickens

. "Bah Humbug!" exclaims Scrooge when he is wished a merry Christmas by his nephew. Scrooge has no time for Christmas until he is visited by three spirits, the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. A ghost story, moral lesson, and social commentary, this is one of Dickens' best known and loved tales, made into scores of films, and enacted by dozens of theatre companies every Christmas. It is a fantastic book to read aloud. Look out for the

version with illustrations by PJ Lynch in particular.

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How the Grinch stole Christmas by Dr Seuss

"He puzzled and puzzled til his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.

"Maybe Christmas.." he thought "Doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

This book is silly and crazy, but it also gives a very important Christmas message. It's so easy to get caught up in the holidays (or

hating the holidays, a la Grinch), that we forget the true meaning of Christmas; the time we spend with family and friends.

Readers young and old will love this classic Dr Seuss title which is also available as a movie.

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Gift of the Magi; O. Henry (illustrated by PJ Lynch)

This exquisite story beautifully captures the spirit of the season. It's one for the whole family to enjoy as, with warmth and wit, it imparts the age old lesson about it being better to give than to receive. PJ Lynch's beautiful watercolour illustrations add enormously to this classic tale that will delight all the family.

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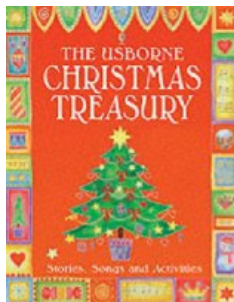
Twas the night before Christmas; Clement C Moore

A great children's classic which evokes the spirit of Christmas Eve. This is a lovely story told in rhyme about the Night Before Christmas seen through the eyes of two excited little mice who prepare for Santa's visit and are too excited to go to sleep. To their delight they watch as Santa comes down the chimney and

enjoy all the treats they left for him.

Read it at least once every Christmas.

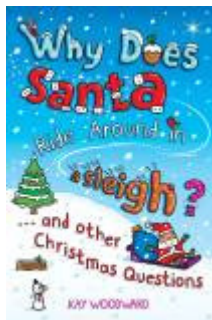
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Usborne Christmas Treasury

The celebration of Christmas can be many things to many people and this treasury will provide children with an early understanding of traditions at this special time, including carol singing, present giving and the original Christmas story. This is a mini book full of stories, Christmas songs and activities to do and things to make for Christmas. The Christmas Treasury is good for age 4 and older. It is a colourful, beautifully illustrated collection. It has The Christmas Story, The Story of Saint Nicholas, Santa Claus, A Visit from Saint Nicholas, The Story of Cinderella going to the Christmas ball, The Story of the Nutcracker, The Little Fir Tree, and Christmas Traditions. Children enjoy hearing these stories read to them and making things for Christmas.

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Why does Santa ride around in a sleigh: Kay Woodward.

This cool Christmas-themed book for girls and boys explains the reasons for and the stories behind our festive celebrations and traditions. Why does Father Christmas have three different names? Was there ever really a Good King Wenceslas? Why do we eat mince pies? These questions and many more are answered along with a fun make-and-do Christmas activity. Entertaining and informative, the book is illustrated throughout in black and white.

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