

The Interim

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Curriculum Supplement For Schools

The *Interim Plus* is a periodical dedicated to educational matters and specifically designed to assist teachers in integrating relevant life issues in their lesson planning.

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What is the central truth of the Christmas miracle? Why is there so much joy in the air? What have notable people said about this holy season? Is it a hokey nostalgia of a bygone era? How is Christmas seen and experienced through the eyes of children? How do adults celebrate the feast? These are some of the questions we want to explore as we live Christmas in 2019.

Christmas and associated themes have been portrayed in art, in music, in literature and in film. We are familiar with many of these expressive media – from greeting cards (print or digital), to songs and carols heard constantly in shopping malls, poems, short stories and novels, and endless cartoons and feature films set in a Christmas environment. Thus we are presenting some Christmas lore to add to the festivities surrounding the holy feast. We include some trivia questions that students could grapple with, as well as a crossword puzzle with a Christmas theme. And to bring home to younger children, the meaning of Christmas and the joy of giving we present one short story and several websites that contain many such stories. Ultimately the best way to enjoy the Christmas season is to actually read the biblical story and to prepare spiritually for Christmas day.



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With all the joy and merriment it is still true that unfortunately for some people Christmas is a feast that evokes ambivalent feelings. For many, it is no doubt, the “most wonderful time of the year” as the song says. But in our modern society we also hear some say “all these coloured lights and Christmas music everywhere are supposed to make us happy, but I can’t stand it”. Is this an echo from Ebenezer Scrooge? “Christmas, Ah, humbug!” Some people have no desire to celebrate, no appetite for exchanging greetings, let alone gifts. They want the holiday period to come and go as quickly as possible. The build up is too much for them. Many become upset because they let the consumerism overtake them. Others resent what they perceive as a kind of forced or artificial happiness, having to feel happy even if one is not, or perhaps not in the mood for a certain degree of frivolity. Today all the negatives are accentuated by social media.

Some studies suggest that some people do suffer some sort of sadness, emptiness, and actual depression around the Christmas season. Those feelings or emotional states may be triggered by any number of things – a personal loss of job or friendship. Or, the unease may stem from taking stock of what we want versus what we have. The depression may be due to real fatigue and tiredness from having begun a new cycle of work or return to school in September, and for teachers it may be the stress of marking exams and engaging in parent-teacher conferences. But, it may be caused by the change of seasons, the onset of winter blues associated with cold, snow and slush, lack of sunlight, and shorter days. Whatever the reason, it appears that some people do experience loneliness and failure more acutely at Christmas time, while others are disappointed because of broken promises



and expectations not met. While there is an increased sense of melancholy for many people, whether young or old, it is not necessarily Christmas itself that causes the depression and anxieties. The expectations, pressures and stressed out feelings may be largely self-imposed.

How does one fight or cope with these blues? Well, perhaps it would help if we: reduce expectations; be aware of obligations; do not go over board; do nothing to excess; slow down our pace; avoid frenetic activities; set reasonable timelines for preparations; plan dinner and parties in advance; do modest gift shopping and gift giving; relax more and get some exercise like winter walks in bracing fresh air.

However, a slow, profound spiritual preparation during the advent season may be the most useful thing we can do to ward off these feelings of loss, loneliness or empty materialism that threatens to engulf us. We should treat the whole Christmas season, including advent, as a prayerful time to give thanks for the gift of life and the coming of Jesus. When seen and experienced within this perspective Christmas does not lose its magic at all.

Christmas Is Preceded by Advent

Advent has three meanings for the Christians, the believers in Christ’s message: Jesus came into the world as a baby of real human flesh and died for us on the cross; Jesus is coming into our hearts and our lives now; Jesus will return to earth as king and judge.

The New Year in the Church begins with the season of Advent — a time to help Christian believers to prepare for Christmas, when we celebrate the fulfillment of our longing for the Savior with the birth of Jesus.

The Advent season lasts about four weeks, beginning four Sundays before Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve. Simply put, it is a season of anticipation, hope and joy that leads up to Christmas.

Each Sunday during Advent a candle is lit on the Advent wreath. Each candle lit represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The circle of branches of the wreath symbolize the eternal cycle of the seasons while the evergreens and lighted candles signify the persistence of life in the midst of winter.

As Advent ends on Christmas eve we might share the prayerful wish expressed by Umberto Saba:

Night has fallen and the brilliant comet signals the way. I am before you, Holy Child! You, the King of the universe, who has taught us that all creatures are equal, that what makes them distinct is only goodness, an immense treasure, given to the poor and to the rich. Jesus, help me be good, that in my heart I have nothing but sweetness. Make your gift grow in me every day and let me spread it all around, in your name.

Quotations on Christmas

Quotes are chosen because they are striking or memorable in some way. They may describe what the author thinks about something, and wishes to make a comment. Sometimes the quotes are profound, carrying deep meanings and insights. They may prompt genuine reflection about a situation, an event, or a human experience. We have selected a number of quotations about Christmas from a variety of sources. We hope that you enjoy them and find them edifying and appropriate for the holy season.

Christmas time! That man must be a misanthrope indeed, in whose breast something like a jovial feeling is not roused - in whose mind some pleasant associations are not awakened - by the recurrence of Christmas. Charles Dickens



Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you. Steve Maraboli

And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans--and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused--and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself. Sigrid Undset

Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home. G.K. Chesterton

I know what I really want for Christmas. I want my childhood back... it is about the child of now. In you and me. Waiting behind the door of our hearts for something wonderful to happen. A child who is impractical, unrealistic, simpleminded and terribly vulnerable to joy. Robert Fulghum

The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son. Robert Flatt

He was born of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute. St. Augustine

The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation. J.I. Packer

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. Oren Arnold

This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ. Frank McKibben



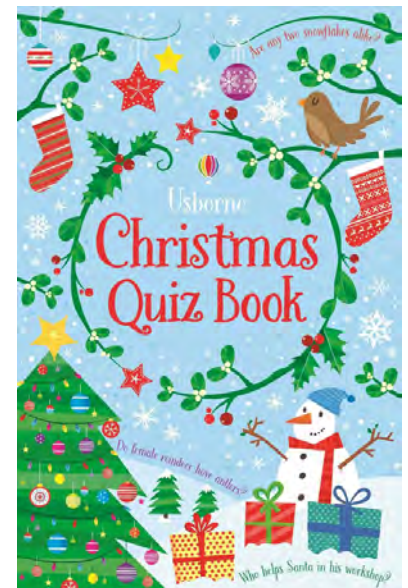
Questions for reflection

1. Which quote speaks to you personally and more effectively?
2. Which quote speaks to our time and events in the news today?
3. Which quotes reveal the spiritual meaning of Christmas?
4. Is there any quote that appeals to the sense of nostalgia, something missed terribly?

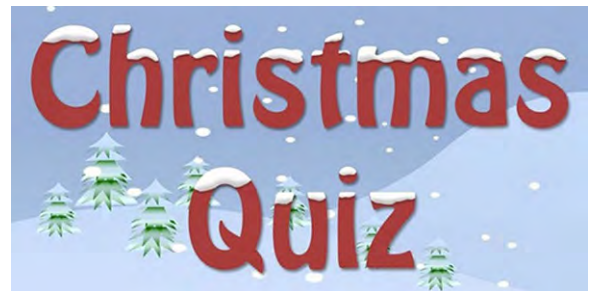
The Master Trivia Christmas Quiz

For your enjoyment we have provided a series of questions on the lore, past and present, associated with the celebration of Christmas. Some of it is scripture based and some is drawn from the field of literature, song and popular entertainment. It is a tough quiz, with some questions on the rather easy side, but many requiring a certain erudition in multiple fields. Circle the answer that you think is correct. Good luck!

1. *Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more! From what children's classic does this quote come from?* a) How the Grinch Stole Christmas b) The Nutcracker c) Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs d) The Ice Cinderella
2. **Who composed the first Canadian Christmas carol based in an aboriginal language?**
a) St. Jean de Brebeuf b) Samuel de Champlain c) Jacques Cartier d) St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
3. **What was that aboriginal language?** a) Huron b) Iroquois c) Algonquian d) Mi'kmaq



4. **St. Stephen was the first martyr and the date of his feast day is** a) December 26 b) January 1 c) December 8 d) July 6
5. **In Charles Dickens' novel *A Christmas Carol*, who was Scrooge's dead business partner?** a) Bob Cratchit b) Stuart Blake c) Jacob Marley d) Theodore Sims
6. **The song *White Christmas* was first performed in which 1942 film?** a) Brigadoon b) Holiday Inn c) Mad, Mad Mad Mad World d) Oklahoma!
7. **Who put a thumb in his Christmas pie and pulled out a plum?** a) Peter Piper b) Pinocchio c) Little Jack Horner d) Jughead Brown
8. **In the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, '...my true love brought to me nine...' what?** a) Ladies dancing b) teeth a' aching c) yellow ribbons d) mothers of pearl
9. **Two of the original reindeers in a famous poem were called Donner and Blitzen. In German these mean** a) Thunder and Lightning b) Clever and Agile c) Bow and Arrow d) Loud and Quick
10. **During Christmas in Quebec, a Yuletide tradition is a réveillon. What exactly is it?** a) A Christmas dance b) A Christmas bouquet c) Francophone Trivial Pursuit d) A Christmas banquet
11. **Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics *To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray...*?** a) We Three Kings of Orient Are b) God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen c) Deck the Halls d) Good King Wenceslaus
12. **In 1905, which company sponsored the first Santa Claus Parade in Toronto?** a) The Bay b) Le Château c) The T. Eaton Company d) Simpsons Sears
13. **What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?** a) white b) pink c) blue d) red
14. **In the inspirational 1946 film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, who starred as George Bailey?** A) Spencer Tracy b) Tyrone Power c) Gary Cooper d) James Stewart
15. **From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?** a) Colombia b) Mexico c) Venezuela d) Dominican Republic
16. **What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?** a) Panettone b) Torta Dorata c) Zabaglione d) Tira Misù
17. ***And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas day in the morning...* is from which Christmas carol?** A) Silver Bells b) O Little Town of Bethlehem c) I Saw Three Ships d) Mary's Little Boy Child
18. **Marzipan is made mainly from sugar and the flour or meal of which nut?** a) chestnut b) almond c) hazel d) pecan
19. **Which American-born English poet, having first names Thomas Stearns, wrote the poem *The Cultivation Of Christmas Trees*?** a) T.S. Caldwell b) T. S. Eliot c) T.S. Baldwin d) T.S. Owens
20. **In Britain it is traditionally believed that eating a what each day of the twelve days of Christmas brings happiness the following year** a) sausage b) mince pie c) plum pudding d) turkey drumstick
21. **What is the surname of the family in the 1989 film '*National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*'?** a) Griswold b) Pillsbury c) Washington d) Bussbaum
22. **Who composed the music for the Christmas themed ballet *The Nutcracker*?** a) Chaliapin b) Prokofiev c) Tchaikovsky d) Rachmaninoff
23. **In which country does Santa have his own personal postal code HOH OHO?** a) Japan b) Canada c) Finland d) Denmark
24. **To which country did the Holy Family flee to seek refuge from King Herod?** a) Jordan b) Syria c) Egypt d) Lebanon
25. **Which angel visited Mary, the mother of Jesus?** a) Raphael b) Michael c) Gabriel d) Samuel
26. **Which city is officially known as "The Christmas Capital of Canada"?** a) Toronto b) Montreal c) Winnipeg d) Victoria
27. **Which Canadian chain store once featured Give like Santa, Save like Scrooge as its sales slogan during the holiday season?** a) Rona b) Tip Top Tailors c) Canadian Tire d) Mark's Work Warehouse



28. How did the Magi find the location where to visit Jesus? a) in a dream b) through an angelic messenger c) secret spy d) followed a star
29. What huge Christmas gift did France give to the United States of America in 1886? a) the State of Louisiana b) Sculpture on Mount Rushmore c) the Golden Gate Bridge d) Statue of Liberty
30. How many gifts in total were given in the song *On the Twelfth Day of Christmas*? a) 78 b) 364 c) 156 d) 234
31. During the last seven days of December, many of Canada's Inuit celebrate Christ's birth. Which of the following is true? a) Gifts are only given to children aged 12 and under b) Gifts are exchanged every day from Dec. 25 to 31 c) Gifts exchanged can only be homemade d) No gifts are exchanged at all
32. Which classic movie is repeatedly referenced in the 2003 Christmas in Canada episode of the animated series *South Park*? a) It's a Wonderful Life b) Gone with the Wind c) The Wizard of Oz d) Casablanca
33. Every Christmas season, kids and parents enjoy the antics of Canada's late John Candy in the 1990 Christmas classic *Home Alone*. Which part did he play? a) Bumbling robber b) Wacky neighbour c) Parent of the movie's then-young star Macaulay Culkin d) A polka-band leader who helps Macaulay Culkin's mom get home
34. Which of these Canadians was born on Dec. 25? a) Celine Dion b) Wayne Gretzky c) Gilles Vigneault d) Justin Trudeau
35. Canada's National Christmas Tree Growers Association reports that real Christmas trees have positive spin-offs. Which of the following is true? a) They produce oxygen, rid the air of carbon dioxide and reduce the greenhouse effect b) They are a renewable resource, biodegradable and a wildlife habitat c) Neither a or b d) Both a and b
36. In Labrador, which vegetables are saved from the summer harvest, hollowed out, fitted with a candle and given to children at Christmas? a) Cucumbers b) Turnips c) Pumpkins d) Potatoes
37. How often does the average Canadian eat turkey? a) Once a year b) Twice a year c) 11 times a year d) 25 times a year
38. What brought Frosty the Snowman to life? a) sprinkling of pixie dust b) an old silk hat c) a magic wand d) a kiss
39. In the Christmas carol when did 'Good King Wenceslas' look out? a) feast of Lucy b) feast of Stephen c) feast of James d) feast of Gertrude
40. In The Christmas Song what was roasting on an open fire? a) lamb b) boar c) capon d) chestnuts
41. Christmas gifts are bestowed by different gift givers in various countries. All of these but one are aliases for the gift bringer a) Père Noël b) Sinter Klaas c) the Three Kings d) the Ice Queen.
42. Reindeer a) are a subspecies of caribou found around the world b) are herbivores c) generally don't run very fast d) all of the above.
43. *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, one of the longest-running Christmas specials in television history is narrated by a) Burl Ives b) Gene Autry c) Jimmy Durante d) Jonathan Winters
44. What gift did the Little Drummer Boy give to the new-born Christ? a) played a song for him on his drum b) a lullaby sung in harmony c) a toy drum to practice on d) statues of an ox and a lamb
45. What musical term indicates a chord where the notes are played one after another rather than all together? a) Allegro b) Arpeggio c) Andante d) Lento
46. In what country did the custom of putting up a Christmas tree originate? a) Austria b) Switzerland c) Germany d) Netherlands
47. In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, how many cents does Lucy charge for her psychiatric services? a) 2 dollars b) 5 cents c) 50 cents d) 5 dollars
48. What song is full of threats and warnings about Santa Claus? a) Blue Christmas b) Santa Claus is Coming to Town c) Must Be Santa d) Run Rudolph Run



49. Who first recorded Here Comes Santa Claus a) Gene Autry b) Roy Rogers c) Hank Snow d) Johnny Cash
 50. In the Night before Christmas where were the stockings hung? a) on the railing b) by the bannister c) the chimney d) by the foot of the bed

ANSWERS

- 1 a 5. c 9. a 12. c 16. a 20. b 24. c 28. d 32. c 36. b 40. a 43. a 47. b
 2. a 6. b 10. d 13. a 17. c 21. a 25. c 29. d 33. a 37. b 41. d 44. a 48. b
 3. a 7. c 11. b 14. d 18. b 22. c 26. c 30. b 34. d 38. b 42. d 45. b 49. a
 4. a 8. a 15. b 19. b 23. b 27. c 31. b 35. d 39. b 46. c 50. c

Let's test your musical memory. See how many of these carol/song lines you can identify. We provide a little help. You only need to match the line with the correct carol/song. Place the number representing the line beside the correct song/carol title.

1. And heaven and nature sing
2. Tis the season to be jolly
3. The angel of God came down And glory shone around
4. Dashing through the snow
5. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
6. Round yon Virgin mother and child
7. Bearing gifts we traverse afar
8. That mourns in exile here
9. O Tidings of comfort and joy
10. On a cold winter's night
11. God and sinners reconciled
12. Joyful and triumphant
13. Come on, it's a lovely weather
14. City sidewalks, busy sidewalks
15. And if you ever saw him
16. Please have snow and mistletoe And presents under the tree
17. Twas in the moon of wintertime
18. Long lay the world in sin and error pining
19. Said the night wind to the little lamb
20. That glorious song of old

- A. Hark the Herald Angels Sing _____
- B. Sleigh Ride _____
- C. Silver Bells _____
- D. The Huron Carol _____
- E. Do You Hear What I Hear _____
- F. Silent Night _____
- G. We Three Kings _____
- H. The First Noel _____
- I. O Come O Come Immanuel _____
- J. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear _____
- K. O Holy Night _____
- L. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer _____



- M. O Come All Ye Faithful _____
- N. Joy to the World _____
- O. Jingle Bells _____
- P. I'll Be Home for Christmas _____
- Q. Deck the Hall _____
- R. Away in a Manger _____
- S. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen _____
- T. While Shepherds Watched _____

ANSWERS

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

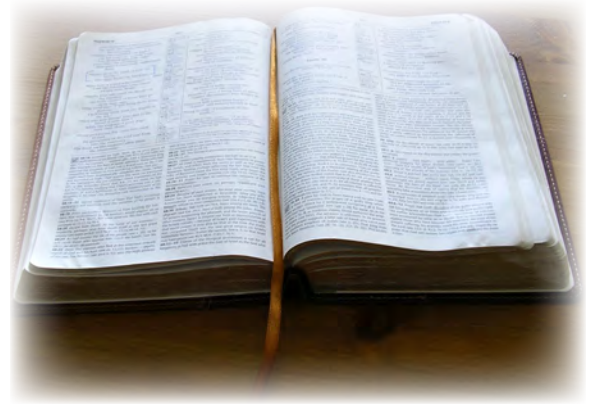
Biblical Knowledge

In this little quiz we test your general knowledge about the Bible, the personages, the wise sayings, acts and deeds, poetry and history, wisdom and geography and much more.

1. **Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan?** a) tax collector b) innkeeper c) the priest d) judge?
2. **What did King Solomon ask God to give him?** Was it a) prosperity, b) new barn for his grain c) fame d) wisdom?
3. **What location does Jesus say to light a lamp for all to see?** a) on a hill b) out in the open c) on a stand d) on a roof?
4. **What piece of clothing made Joseph's brothers jealous?** a) a coat b) shoes c) belt d) headpiece?
5. **To what city was Saul traveling when he saw a great light and Jesus asked, "Why do you persecute me?"** a) Jerusalem b) Damascus c) Jericho d) Cairo?
6. **Where did Jesus grow up after returning from Egypt?** a) Nablus b) Nazareth c) Jerusalem d) Bethlehem
7. **What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert?** a) locusts b) ants c) dew worms d) scorpions
8. **Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby?** a) Zachariah b) Simeon c) Zaccheus d) Nicodemus
9. **St Paul was shipwrecked on what island in the Mediterranean Sea?** a) Sicily b) Malta c) Ischia d) Elba
10. **Before he chose to follow Jesus, Peter earned a living as?** a) a carpenter b) a tentmaker c) a fisherman d) a scholar
11. **In the Gospel of St. John, for whom does Mary Magdelene mistake Jesus in His first Resurrection appearance?** a) the gardener b) the weaver c) the baker d) the salt merchant
12. **When Judas betrays Jesus to the Roman officials how does he signal Jesus' identity?** a) a nod b) a kiss c) pointing with finger d) none of the above
13. **After Jesus was arrested, the first apostle to deny knowing him was?** a) Andrew b) Peter c) Bartholomew d) Thomas
14. **The Feast of the Holy Innocents refers to?** a) baby boys killed by King Herod b) first born Egyptians killed before the Exodus c) the Maccabean brothers killed d) the children sacrificed to Moloch
15. **The queen who saved the Jewish people when captive in Babylon was?** a) Jezebel b) Esther c) Bathsheba d) Tahpenes
16. **If one were to read the Bible in one sitting, how long would it take if reading at 150 words a minute?** a) 90 hours b) seven days c) a fortnight d) one month



17. **The Bible is a best seller. Approximately how many copies of the bible are sold each day on average?** a) 1,000,000 b) 87,000 c) 275,000 d) 750,000
18. **Who was the oldest person mentioned in the Bible?** a) Adam b) Noah c) Jared d) Methuselah
19. **The holy Bible is very deep and rich, but what is the most commonly used word in it?** a) God b) man c) Israel d) Lord
20. **The last book of the Bible is?** a) Book of Ecclesiastes
b) Book of Maccabees c) Acts of the Apostles d) Book of Revelation
21. **On the day of Pentecost the disciples were?** a) visited by the Holy Spirit b) able to speak in foreign languages
c) gathered in one place d) all of the above
22. **According to St. Paul the fruits of the Spirit include all but one of the following?** a) peace b) joy c) self-control d) manliness
23. **What foods did Jesus most likely eat?** a) bread b) lentils c) lamb d) all of the above
24. **If one travelled from east to west in ancient Israel which of these towns/cities would one enter first?**
a) Jericho b) Jerusalem c) Caesarea d) Bethany
25. **Who led the Hebrews in entering the Promised Land?** a) Joshua b) Aaron c) David d) Isaiah



ANSWERS

1. c 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. b 7. a 8. b 9. b 10. c 11. a 12. b 13. b 14. a 15. b 16. a 17. c 18. d 19. d 20. d
21. d 22. d 23. d 24. a 25. a

Short Stories of Interest For Young Children

Young people are not always presented with heart-warming stories at any time. But it would be appropriate to have teenagers read some of these short stories to their younger siblings or children of neighbours. Such stories can be found at these sites among many.

<https://www.bedtimeshortstories.com/the-gold-wrapping-paper> eg. The Gold Wrapping Paper

<https://freestoriesforkids.com/children/stories-and-tales/christmas-presents> e.g. Christmas Presents

<https://www.bradaronson.com/true-meaning-of-christmas/> e.g. A heart-Warming Story about the True Meaning of Christmas

<https://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/holidays-christmas/inspirational-christmas-stories1.htm>

Here is an full length example of such a story with meaning.

A Slice of Life

By Carol McAdoo Rehme

Jean heaved another world-weary sigh. Tucking a strand of shiny black hair behind her ear, she frowned at the teetering tower of Christmas cards waiting to be signed. What was the point? How could she sign only one name? A “couple” required two people, and she was just one.

The legal separation from Don had left her feeling vacant and incomplete. Maybe she would skip the cards this year. And the holiday decorating. Truthfully, even a tree felt like more than she could manage. She had canceled out of the caroling party and the church nativity pageant. Christmas was to be shared, and she had no one to share it with.

The doorbell’s insistent ring startled her. Padding to the door in her thick socks, Jean cracked it open against the frigid December night. She peered into the empty darkness of the porch. Instead of a friendly face -- something she could use about now -- she found only a jaunty green gift bag perched on the railing. From whom? she wondered. And why?

Under the bright kitchen light, she pulled out handfuls of shredded gold tinsel, feeling for a gift. Instead, her fingers plucked an envelope from the bottom. Tucked inside was a typed letter. It was a...story?

The little boy was new to the Denmark orphanage, and Christmas was drawing near, Jean read. Already caught

up in the tale, she settled into a kitchen chair.

From the other children, he heard tales of a wondrous tree that would appear in the hall on Christmas Eve and of the scores of candles that would light its branches. He heard stories of the mysterious benefactor who made it possible each year.

The little boy's eyes opened wide at the mere thought of all that splendor. The only Christmas tree he had ever seen was through the fogged windows of other people's homes. There was even more, the children insisted. More? Oh, yes! Instead of the orphanage's regular fare of gruel, they would be served fragrant stew and crusty, hot bread that special night.

Last, and best of all, the little boy learned, each of them would receive a holiday treat. He would join the line of children to get his very own....

Jean turned the page. Instead of a continuation, she was startled to read: "Everyone needs to celebrate Christmas, wouldn't you agree? Watch for Part II." She refolded the paper while a faint smile teased the corner of her mouth.

The next day was so busy that Jean forgot all about the story. That evening, she rushed home from work. If she hurried, she'd probably have enough time to decorate the mantle. She pulled out the box of garland, only to drop it when the doorbell rang. Opening the door, she found herself looking at a red gift bag. She reached for it eagerly and pulled out the piece of paper.

...to get his very own orange, Jean read. An orange? That's a treat? she thought incredulously.

An orange! Of his very own? Yes, the others assured him. There would be one apiece. The boy closed his eyes against the wonder of it all. A tree. Candles. A filling meal. And an orange of his very own.

He knew the smell, tangy sweet, but only the smell. He had sniffed oranges at the merchant's stall in the marketplace. Once he had even dared to rub a single finger over the brilliant, pocked skin. He fancied for days that his hand still smelled of orange. But to taste one, to eat one? Heaven.

The story ended abruptly, but Jean didn't mind. She knew more would follow.

The next evening, Jean waited anxiously for the sound of the doorbell. She wasn't disappointed. This time, though, the embossed gold bag was heavier than the others had been. She tore into the envelope resting on top of the tissue paper.

Christmas Eve was all the children had been promised. The piney scent of fir competed with the aroma of lamb stew and homey yeast bread. Scores of candles diffused the room with golden halos. The boy watched in amazement as each child in turn eagerly claimed an orange and politely said "thank you."

The line moved quickly, and he found himself in front of the towering tree and the equally imposing headmaster. "Too bad, young man, too bad. But the count was in before you arrived. It seems there are no more oranges. Next year. Yes, next year you will receive an orange."

Brokenhearted, the orphan raced up the stairs empty-handed to bury both his face and his tears beneath his pillow.

Wait! This wasn't how she wanted the story to go. Jean felt the boy's pain, his aloneness.

The boy felt a gentle tap on his back. He tried to still his sobs. The tap became more insistent until, at last, he pulled his head from under the pillow.

He smelled it before he saw it. A cloth napkin rested on the mattress. Tucked inside was a peeled orange, tangy sweet. It was made of segments saved from the others. A slice donated from each child. Together they added up to make one whole, complete fruit.

An orange of his very own.

Jean swiped at the tears trickling down her cheeks. From the bottom of the gift bag she pulled out an orange -- a foil-covered chocolate orange--already separated into segments. And for the first time in weeks, she smiled. Really smiled.

She set about making copies of the story, wrapping individual slices of the chocolate orange. There was Mrs. Potter across the street, spending her first Christmas alone in 58 years. There was Melanie down the block, facing her second round of radiation. Her running partner, Jan, single-parenting a difficult teen. Lonely Mr. Bradford losing his eyesight, and Sue, sole care-giver to an aging mother....

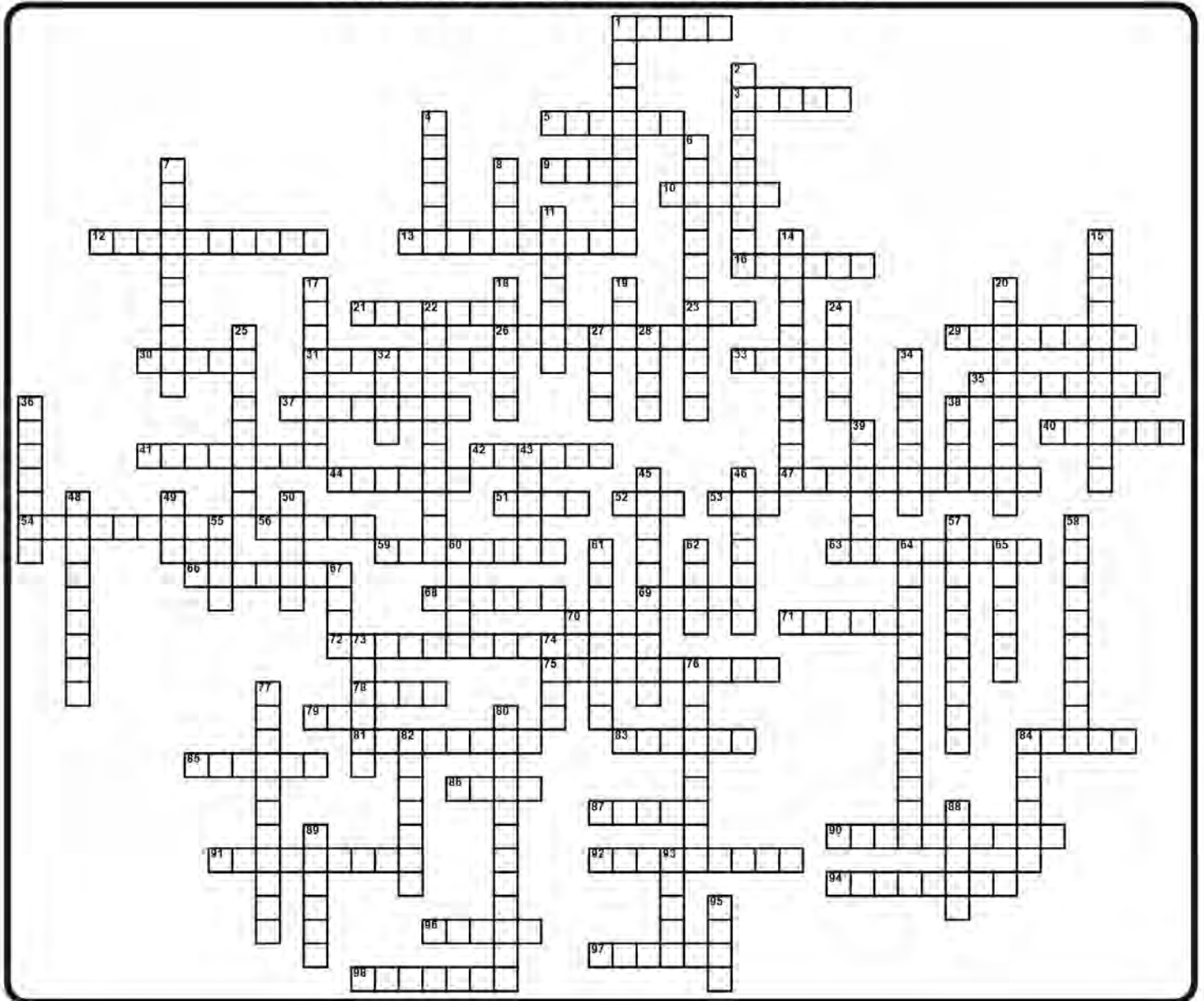
A piece from her might help make one whole.

Reminder of the deadline for the Father Ted Colleton Scholarship and essay contest.

Monday, December 2, 2019

Although it is still November, this is the last curriculum resource for this calendar year, and we take the opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful, serene, and happy Christmas. May the whole period of Christmas bring joy and merriment along with blessings for you, your family and the whole school community.

Christmas Crossword Puzzle



For Clues To Puzzle See Page 11

For Solution To Puzzle See Page 12

Across:

- 1 what the Hebrews ate while wandering in the desert
- 3 deck the halls with boughs of this
- 5 basic cell of civilization
- 9 the three wise men
- 10 cross in French
- 12 Merry Christmas en franc;ais (2 wds)
- 13 O Come All ye Faithful, Joyful and _____
- 16 Dr. Seuss character hears a Who
- 21 one of the twelve chosen ones
- 23 in French 'auberge'
- 26 expert keepers of woolly flocks
- 29 event of being born
- 30 fragrant tree native to Lebanon
- 31 soft piece of frozen water that falls from the sky
- 33 Chapter and
- 35 A type of music that is usually lengthy and based on some Biblical or religious event
- 37 St. Stephen's feast day is the 26th of this month
- 40 original Silent Night was written in this language
- 41 tax-collector who climbed the sycamore tree to see Jesus
- 42 cake in French
- 44 Land of the real St. Nicholas
- 47 "Gloria in ". (2wds)
- 51 one appeared over the birthplace of Jesus
- 52 tremendous happiness
- 53 tree cursed in the New Testament
- 54 Mary visited her immediately after the angel appeared to her
- 56 He is the Alpha and the Omega
- 59 Jewish feast celebrating the Exodus
- 63 God Rest Ye Merry
- 66 introduced the first creche, St.
- 68 sound made by sleigh bells
- 69 tried to trick the Magi
- 70 sweet stripd candy
- 71 where the baby Jesus was found by the shepherds
- 72 Patron saint of Lawyers (2 wds)
- 75 a showy Mexican flowering plant

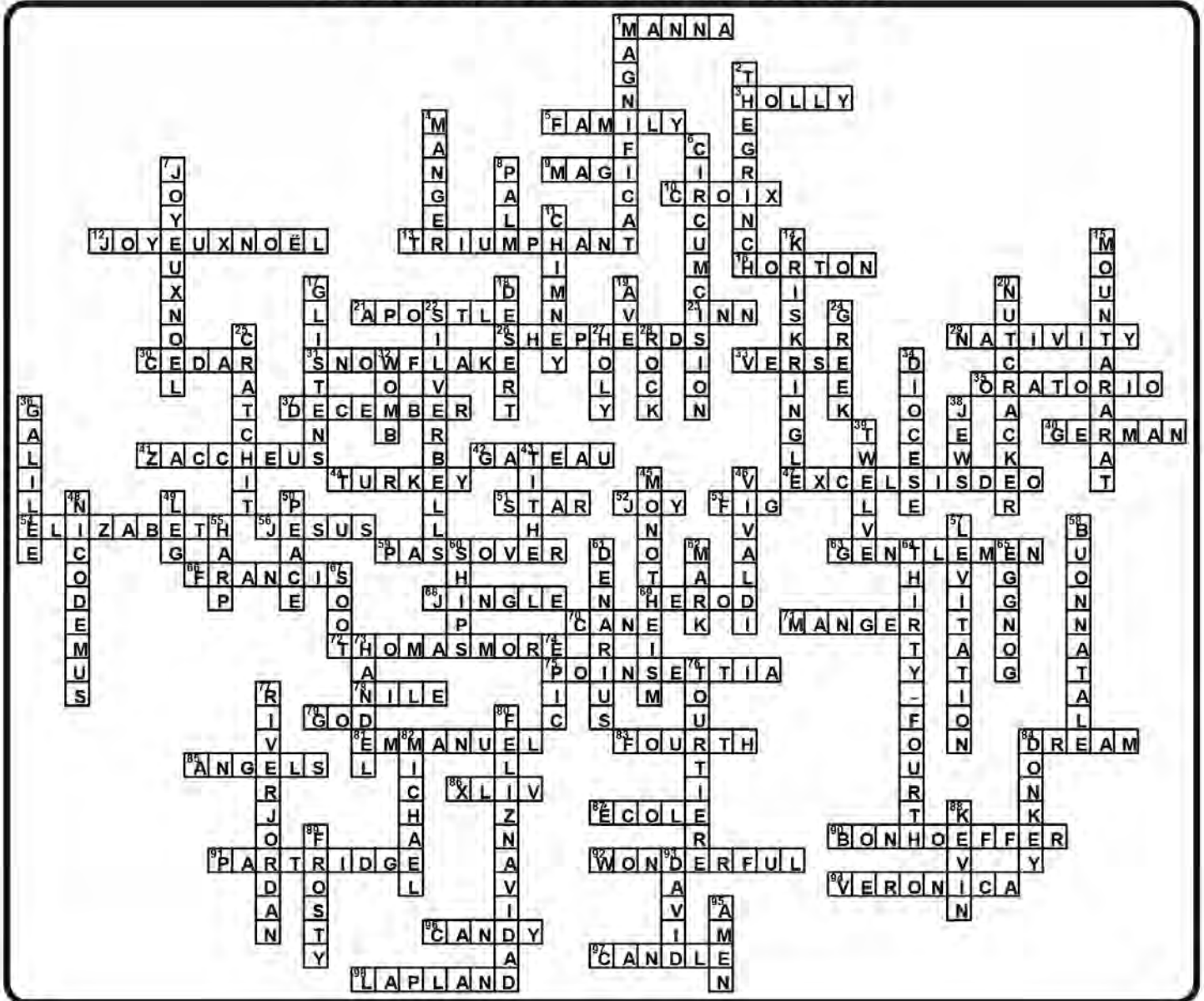
- 78 river turned bloody by Moses
- 79 In the Book of Esther who is not mentioned directly?
- 81 O Come O Come , advent song
- 83 The City of God was written in the _____ century
- 84 the means by which Joseph was warned to leave Israel
- 85 winged messengers from on high
- 86 to Cicero it was 44
- 87 where the elves go Monday to Friday
- 90 Gave his life in Nazi prison, Dietrich
- 91 bird in the pear tree
- 92 It's The Most _____ Time Of The Year
- 94 she dried the face of Jesus with her veil
- 96 bonbon
- 97 stick of wax with a wick in the middle
- 98 Home of reindeers

Down:

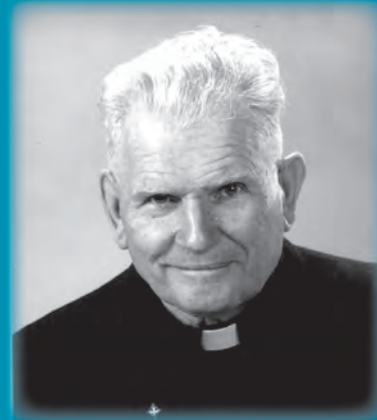
- 1 name given to Mary's spontaneous praise of God
- 2 fictional character who "stole" Christmas (2 wds)
- 4 an animal trough used as baby's bed
- 6 surgery undergone by baby Jesus
- 7 French Christmas greeting (2 wds)
- 8 Sunday preceding Easter
- 11 entryway for Santa
- 14 Department store santa who goes on trial, (2 wds)
- 15 Likely resting place for the Ark of the Covenant (2 wds .)
- 17 how snow shines
- 18 Joseph and Mary likely had to travel across one to reach Egypt
- 19 Latin salutation to Joseph's wife
- 20 name of the Tchaikovsky ballet performed around Christmas time each year
- 22 what you hear when "it's Christmas time in the city"
- 24 The New Testament was written in this language
- 25 Bob , Ebenezer Scrooge's underpaid nephew
- 27 Sanctified
- 28 the wise man built his house on this
- 32 The child leaped in her _____

- 34 organizational unit for Christian churches
- 36 Inland biblical sea
- 38 The chosen people
- 39 number of tribes of Israel
- 43 donate a portion of money to church
- 45 belief in one God
- 46 priest composer of the Four Seasons, Antonio _____
- 48 member of the Sanhedrin who visited Jesus by night seeking truth
- 49 In the film A Christmas Story lamp was in the shape of a _____
- 50 shalom
- 55 heavenly instrument
- 57 ability to fly enjoyed by some saints
- 58 Christmas greeting in Italian (2 wds)
- 60 A caroling favourite, I Saw Three _____
- 61 Roman currency used at time of Jesus
- 62 tax collector who wrote a gospel
- 64 New York street where the "miracle" happened (2 wds hyphenated)
- 65 popular yuletide drink
- 67 Might blacken Santa as he comes in
- 73 Composed The Messiah, George ____
- 74 type of history
- 76 a French-Canadian meat pie usually made with ground pork and/or veal , or beef
- 77 Watery site of Christ's baptism (2 wds)
- 80 Spanish Christmas greeting (2wds)
- 82 the archangel who led the battle against Satan
- 84 the animal that carried Mary to the stable
- 88 The McCallister child left Home Alone was
- 89 Name of the mythical snowman of songs
- 93 This ancestor of Jesus wrote lots of psalms
- 95 so be it

Christmas Crossword Solution



FATHER TED COLLETON SCHOLARSHIP



Niagara Region Right to Life is once again pleased to offer The Father Ted Colleton Scholarship essay contest as part of its mandate to reach out to society in an educational format. In particular, Niagara Region Right to Life wishes to help educate and inform the younger generation about the preciousness and possibilities of human life from conception to natural death and how certain threats affect those possibilities in its beginnings.

All students in grade 11 or 12, attending a Canadian high school (or being homeschooled in Canada) are invited to participate.

Three prizes of \$1500 (1st), \$800 (2nd) and \$500 (3rd) respectively will be awarded. Candidates are required to submit a personal profile, a letter of recommendation and a 1200 word essay on the theme outlined below:

"Choose a feature film or documentary that deals with sensitive material regarding pregnancy and the abortion issue. Analyze the film as to its content, plot, and main characters and explain how it promotes a positive outlook about human life."

**SUBMIT DOCUMENTS VIA EMAIL BY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019**

Email: dirocco@theinterim.com

Phone: (416) 204-1687 ext 233