

A Christmas Story

Where do Christmas presents come from? This is one of the first mysteries that children face during their early years.

The answer to this question depends on where a child lives as the traditions of Christmas vary from country to country and, indeed, very often are different in different areas of the same country. Whether the child learns that Baby Jesus or the witch or Father Christmas is the source of gifts, this initial magic of Christmas only lasts until the discovery of the truth.

It is a magical moment for both children and parents even though from a philosophical point of view we start our children off in life with a big lie!



The Christmas Story that many English children are told

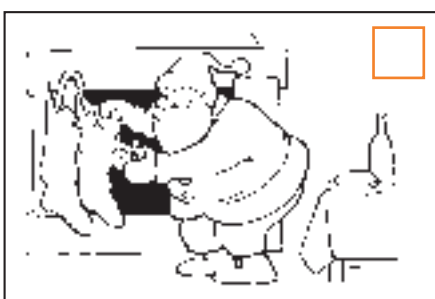
A recording of this story can be downloaded from:
www.langedizioni.com/christmas.mp3

- Divide the children into groups of four or eight.
 - Photocopy, cut out and distribute the pictures.
 - Read the story to the children and ask them to put the pictures in the correct sequence.
 - Read the story again and ask them to hold up the pictures after each paragraph.
 - Ask a child or group to look at a picture and tell the story.
- Then ask another group to continue.

1 Father Christmas lives in the North Pole and, with the help of his elves, spends his life making presents to deliver to the children. Of course, he only gives presents to children who have been good during the year.

2 Father Christmas has a long white beard and wears red trousers and a big red coat. He eats a lot so he is quite fat.

3 On Christmas Eve he puts all the presents in his sleigh and nine reindeers pull the sleigh through the air to visit and deliver presents in all the houses of the children who have been good.





4 The most famous reindeer is Rudolph. He pulls the sleigh from the front and his big red nose lights the way for all the other reindeers. The names of the other reindeers are: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donder, Blitzen, Cupid and Comet.



5 When Father Christmas finds a house where children who have been good live, he lands his sleigh on the roof. He puts some presents in his sack and enters the house by going down the chimney.

6 In some houses he will find a sock near the fireplace together with something for him to eat and drink. When he has filled the sock with presents he puts others around the Christmas tree in the sitting room.

7 Many children, especially those who do not have a chimney on the top of their houses, put a sock, sometimes called a Christmas stocking, on the end of their beds so that Father Christmas has to creep upstairs into the bedroom and fill the sock with small presents such as fruit and nuts.



8 Families open their presents that are around the Christmas tree after breakfast on Christmas morning. Children eat a very, very quick breakfast on Christmas Day and that is another of the mysteries of Christmas!!

