

Winter Wonderland

Chatterbooks activity pack



Reading and activity ideas for your Chatterbooks group

Winter Wonderland

About this pack

With the nights drawing in there's no better time to curl up with a good book!

In this Chatterbooks activity pack you'll find some great suggestions for books for your group to explore, read and enjoy this winter season. From new festive favourites to fantastical adventures through worlds of ice and snow, you'll find a range of stories to keep out the winter chill. We hope you enjoy them, together with all the discussion and activity ideas, and further reading suggestions.

This pack is brought to you by **The Reading Agency** and their publisher partnership **Children's Reading Partners**.

Chatterbooks is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 12 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children's literacy development by encouraging them to have a great time reading and talking about books.

Find out more at: www.readinggroups.org/chatterbooks

You can buy Chatterbooks packs in The Reading Agency shop:

<https://shop.readingagency.org.uk/collections/children>

You can find hundreds of free resources for children on the Chatterbooks resources page:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/?programme=chat>

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, the Winter Mini Challenge and Chatterbooks.

Find out more at www.readingagency.org.uk

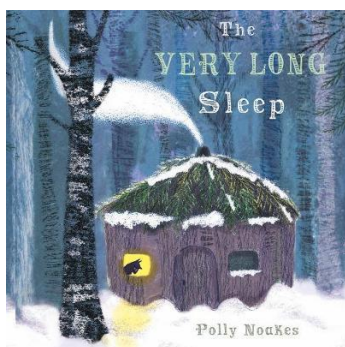
Children's Reading Partners is a national partnership of children's publishers and libraries, coordinated through The Reading Agency, working together to bring reading promotions and author events to as many children and young people as possible.

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[Tips for your Chatterbooks session](#)

The Books



Polly Noakes *The Very Long Sleep*

Child's Play 978-1786281289

Fox, Chipmunk, Marmot and Bear are such good friends that they decide to build a forest home and live in it together. But when winter comes, Chipmunk, Marmot and Little Bear take to their beds. Fox can't wake them up at all. Fox is lonely and confused, especially when parcels start to arrive for the other three animals. What on earth can be in them, and will the three friends ever wake up?

Polly Noakes is an illustrator and author with a passion for creating lyrical images for children's books. Her love of illustration began at Cambridge School of Art years ago and Polly returned to study on the highly regarded MA in Children's Book Illustration, graduating in 2015. Polly lives in the countryside with her husband and her rescue dog Bertie.

Discussion

Some animals hibernate during the winter to protect themselves from the cold weather and from predators. When animals hibernate, they find a safe place and go into a very deep sleep until the weather warms up. Hibernating animals include bats, hedgehogs and marmots. Other animals, like bears, don't fully hibernate, but they do spend most of the winter asleep to save energy. When they wake up, they are very hungry!

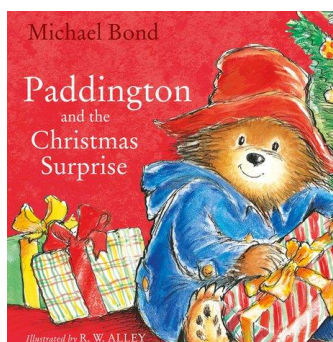
Imagine you went to sleep all winter – what would you want to eat first when you woke up?

Activity

Research some more animals that adapt their behaviour during the cold winter months.

Here are some to start you off:

Animal	What do they do during the winter?
Brown bear	
Bumblebee	
Penguin	
Deer	



Michael Bond & R.W. Alley *Paddington and the Christmas Surprise* HarperCollins 978-0007257737

When the Browns take Paddington to the Christmas grotto at the local department store, their journey through the Winter Wonderland is full of unexpected surprises. But the best surprise is a present from Santa. After all, who else would find the perfect present for a bear like Paddington? Join Paddington on his festive adventure as he discovers why Santa Claus makes everyone's Christmas so special.

Michael Bond began chronicling Paddington's adventures in his first book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, published in 1958. Fortunately, bears don't need much encouragement, and Paddington has since filled the pages of twelve further novels, a variety of picture books, and many other projects written for the young at heart. In 2015, Michael was awarded a CBE for his services to children's literature, to add to the OBE he received in 1997. Michael died in 2017, leaving behind one of the great literary legacies of our time.

R.W. Alley has illustrated over one hundred books for children. For the past twenty years he's illustrated Michael Bond's *Paddington Bear* books in all their formats. Mr. Alley also writes his own picture books and collaborates with his wife, author Zoë B. Alley, on others.

Activity

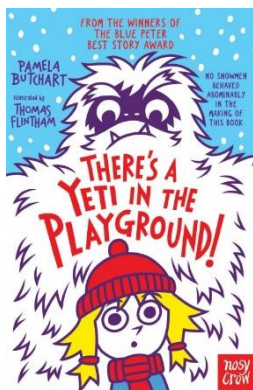
Match up these Christmas gifts with the characters below

Christmas gift	Who is it for?
A jar of marmalade	
A homemade jumper	
One apple, two pears, three plums	
A magnifying glass	
A carrot	
A giant pile of books	

The Snowman
The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Matilda Wormwood
Paddington
Sherlock Holmes
Harry Potter

Discussion

Who are your favourite fictional characters? Can you think of the perfect presents to give them?



Pamela Butchart & Thomas Flintham *There's a Yeti in the Playground!*
Nosy Crow 978-1788001168

Izzy and friends are excited! The snow is falling fast and they're hoping they'll all be sent home early. But then they hear weird noises in the playground, and find a big footprint in the snow...And that's when they know! There's a YETI in the playground and it's HUNGRY!

Pamela Butchart was lucky enough to grow up in a house full of pets, have a mum and dad who were bonkers, and go to The Best Most Awesome Primary School in the World™. Now, Pamela teaches philosophy to teenagers and spends all day pondering questions such as, 'Is time travel possible?' and 'How do I know I'm not really a robot?' The stories write themselves really.

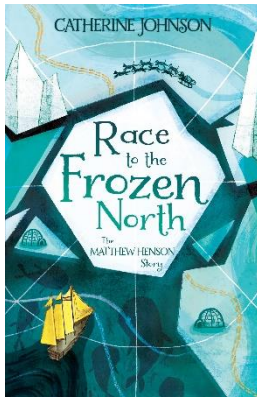
Thomas Flintham loves to draw and doodle, and enjoys disappearing into his own imagination in search of new characters, worlds and ideas to draw. His work is influenced by his interest in all kinds of books, films, comics and Japanese video games. He loves Christmas and chocolate. He owns (almost) too many books.

Activity

Can you find these words hidden in the wordsearch below? Words can run forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally.

j	s	n	o	h	n	y	e	t	i
b	e	p	t	i	a	f	r	c	q
l	k	e	n	f	m	t	e	y	n
i	a	l	i	c	u	s	k	a	y
z	l	c	r	q	k	n	i	l	b
z	f	i	p	a	b	o	h	v	f
a	w	c	t	g	j	w	d	a	r
r	o	i	o	d	y	m	z	z	o
d	n	k	o	s	c	a	r	f	s
g	s	y	f	l	v	n	h	e	t

yeti
snowman
frost
footprint
scarf
icicle
blizzard
snowflake
ice skating
hat



Catherine Johnson & Katie Hickey *Race to the Frozen North: the Matthew Henson Story* Barrington Stoke 978-1781128404

Matthew Henson was simply an ordinary man. That was, until Commander Robert E. Peary entered his life, and offered him a chance at true adventure. Henson would become navigator, craftsman, translator, and right-hand man on a treacherous journey to the North Pole. Defying the odds and the many prejudices that faced him to become a true pioneer. This is his incredible and often untold story.

Catherine Johnson is a novelist and screenwriter who lives in London. She is the author of several books for children and young adults, including *A Nest of Vipers* (2008), the story of Cato Hopkins, the youngest member of a 'family' of skilled fraudsters, and several novels set in Wales and in London.

Katie Hickey is a freelance illustrator recently graduated from Falmouth University. Having grown up in Cornwall, and also in the middle-east, Katie takes inspiration from her travels and surroundings to create her illustrations.

Discussion

Imagine you're about to go on an expedition to the North Pole. As a group, create a list of all the items you will need to take with you. Think about what you will wear, how you will travel and how you will know when you have reached your destination.

Matthew Henson set out for the North Pole in 1908, before the internet or satellites or helicopters were invented! Look at your list and take out any items that use modern technology or materials – what are you left with? What items can you think of to replace them?

Activity

Can you unscramble these jumbled-up words?

TORNAVGA I

THROP LEON

TRICCA

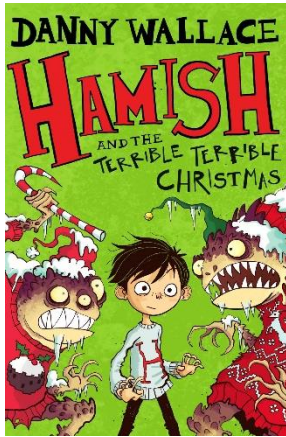
VETADUREN

ALIS

SEEPAC

GLOOI

FOLW



Danny Wallace *Hamish and the Terrible Terrible Christmas and Other Stories* Simon & Schuster 978-1471176579

The important task of saving the world doesn't stop just because it's Christmas, so get ready for THREE festive adventures featuring Hamish Ellerby and his pals in the PDF!

Can Hamish stop a whole hoard of rampaging Terribles hoping to ruin Christmas? How will Elliot deal with a sneaky sweet salesman determined to give Starkley a sugar-crash to remember? And, what will Alice do when faced with an unexpected Christmas Eve visitor? 'Tis the season to be jolly, but will this turn out to be a TERRIBLE Christmas for Starkley?

Danny Wallace is an award-winning writer who's done lots of silly things. He's been a quiz show host. A character in a video game. He's made TV shows about monkeys, robots, and starting his own country. He has written lots of books for grown ups, in which he uses words like 'invidious', and he pretends he knows what they mean but he doesn't.

Discussion

Hamish has his work cut out saving Starkley from a terrible Christmas!

What are your favourite things about the winter holidays?

As a group, discuss the things that make the festive season special for you.

Perhaps you enjoy getting together with friends and family, celebrating special holidays or wearing cosy jumpers and reading lots of books!

Activities

Get a big sheet of card and lots of coloured paper, magazines and other craft materials – plus scissors and glue – and make a group collage inspired by your discussion and all things festive!

Try out these wintry tongue twisters – how quickly can you recite them?

- Seven silly Santas sang seven silly songs
- Tiny Tim trims the tall tree with tinsel
- How many deer would a reindeer reign if a reindeer could reign deer?
- Comet cuddles cute Christmas kittens carefully



Amy Wilson *Snowglobe*

Macmillan Children's Books 978-1509885800

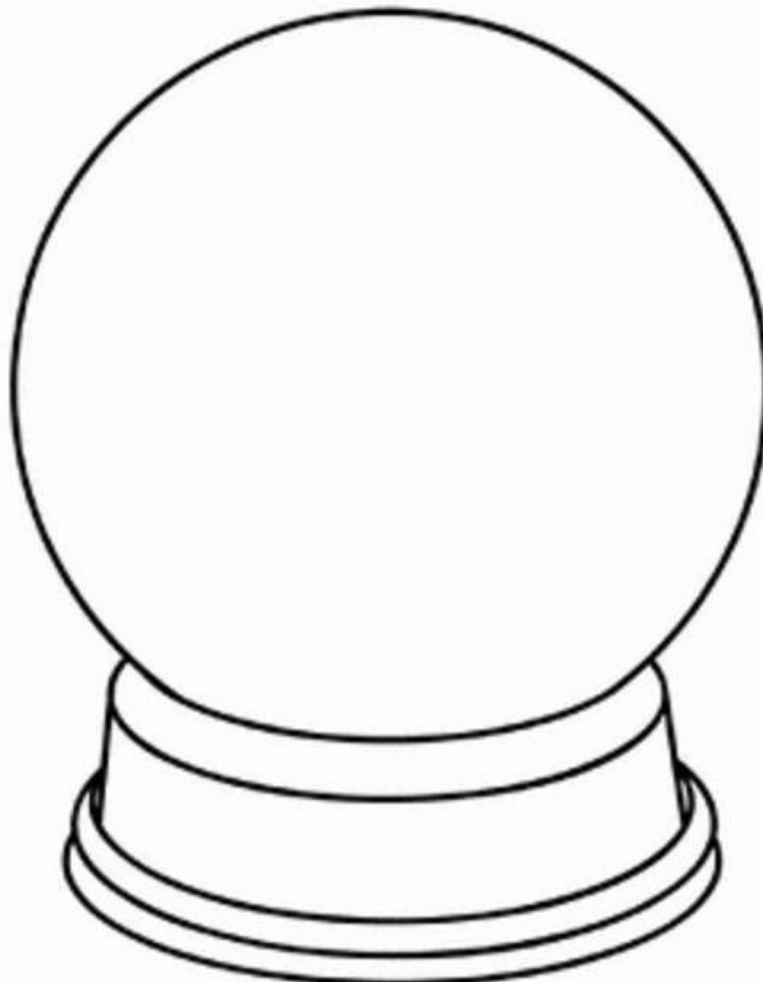
When daydreamer Clementine discovers a mysterious house standing in the middle of town that was never there before, she is pulled towards it by the powerful sense of a mother she never knew. The place is full of snowglobes, swirling with stars and snow and each containing a trapped magician, watched over by Gan, the bitter keeper of the house. One of these is Dylan, a boy who teases her in the real world but who is now desperate for her help.

So Clem ventures into the snowglobes, rescuing Dylan and discovering her own powerful connection to the magic of these thousand worlds. Vowing to release the magicians from the control of their enchantments, Clem unknowingly unleashes a struggle for power that will not only put her family, but the future of magic itself in danger.

Amy Wilson has a background in journalism and lives in Bristol with her young family. She is a graduate of the Bath Spa MA in Creative Writing and is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *A Girl Called Owl* – nominated for the CILIP Carnegie medal – and *A Far Away Magic*.

Activity

Create your own new fantastical world inside the snowglobe. You could draw and colour in your design, cut out pictures from magazines, or even add some winter sparkle with glitter!



Winter Wonderland quiz

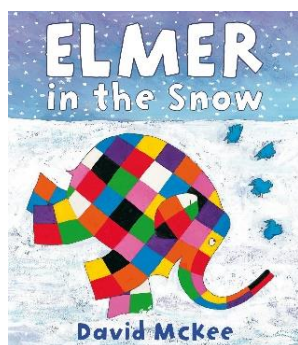
1. Which of these is a character in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*?
 - a. Cindy Lou Who
 - b. Cindy Lou What
 - c. Cindy Lou Where
2. How many sides does a snowflake have?
 - a. 10
 - b. 8
 - c. 6
3. Which mythical creature is also known as the abominable snowman?
 - a. Minotaur
 - b. Yeti
 - c. Griffin
4. Which of these is the name of one of Father Christmas' reindeer?
 - a. Dazzler
 - b. Dasher
 - c. Disaster
5. Which of these is a sweet treat you might enjoy this winter?
 - a. Gingerbread house
 - b. Chocolate castle
 - c. Liquorish library
6. What does *Guinness World Records* say is the height of the tallest snowman ever built? (You get a bonus point if you can guess the country in which it was built!)
 - a. 3.72 metres
 - b. 37.21 metres
 - c. 372.1 metres
7. Pagophobia is the fear of...
 - a. Penguins
 - b. Wrapping paper
 - c. Ice or frost

8. On the 8th day of Christmas what did my true love give to me?
 - a. 8 geese a-laying
 - b. 8 maids a-milking
 - c. 8 swans a-swimming

9. Which of these is not another name for Father Christmas?
 - a. Saint Nicholas
 - b. Santa Claus
 - c. Mr December

10. What holiday is celebrated on December 26th?
 - a. Cricket Day
 - b. Boxing Day
 - c. Foxes Day

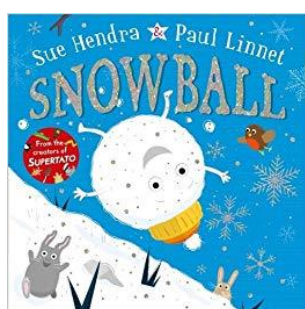
More Winter Wonderland book suggestions



David McKee *Elmer in the Snow*

Andersen Press 978-0008244521

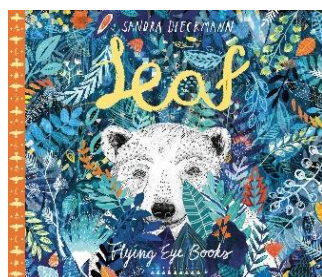
At the first hint of a chill in the air, Elmer's friends start complaining about the cold, so Elmer decides to show them what cold weather is really like. They set off for a walk up a mountain, and the higher they get, the colder it gets. With his typical sense of mischief and fun, Elmer shows how hot and cold are only relative.



Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet *Snowball*

Macmillan Children's Books 978-1509827466

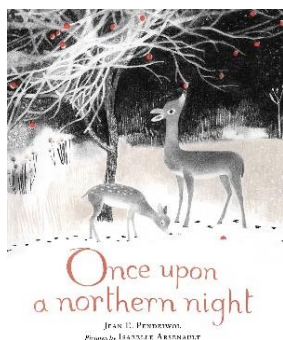
A lonely young snowball, stuck at the top of a mountain, decides to visit the local town for a bit of fun – but on his way he trips, falls, and starts to roll...and when a snowball rolls through snow, we all know what happens! This snowball picks up not only snow, but a myriad of other odd things on his way down – a sheep, a line of washing, a bicycling bear, ending up in the Zoo.



Sandra Dieckmann *Leaf*

Flying Eye Books 978-1911171737

When a polar bear arrives unexpectedly in the woods, the other animals fear and avoid him, suspecting him to be dangerous - and his odd habit of collecting leaves only adds to their distrust. Then one day, they watch as he attempts to fly over the water with wings made of colourful leaves... trying to get back home. Perhaps he isn't so different after all?



Jean E. Pendziwol & Isabelle Arsenault *Once Upon a Northern Night*

Walker Books 978-1406366006

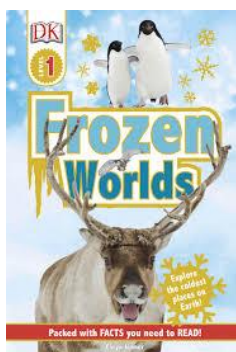
Wrapped in a snug, downy blanket, a snowflake falls, and then another and another. As the magic of the night outside takes hold – animals awaken, snow swirls, stars twinkle and winds whisper – a lyrical, enchanting read-aloud evokes a winter's night.



Alex T. Smith *How Winston Delivered Christmas: An Advent Story in Twenty-Four-and-a-Half Chapters*

Macmillan Children's Books 978-1509851522

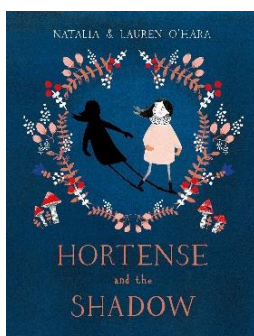
Winston the mouse is on a Very Important Mission. On Christmas Eve, he finds a letter that has gotten lost on its way to Father Christmas – so, with no time to lose, he sets out to deliver it himself in time for Christmas Day! He has a lot of Very Exciting Adventures on his Very Important Mission and makes some wonderful friends along the way.



Caryn Jenner *Frozen Worlds*

DK 978-1465463173

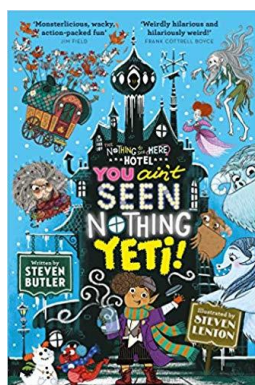
Explore the coldest places on earth. Discover life in the Antarctic, how Arctic people get around and where polar bears live. Find out who is the King of the Arctic and what life's really like for penguins with *DK Reader Frozen Worlds*, packed with facts kids love!



Natalia & Lauren O'Hara *Hortense and the Shadow*

Puffin 978-0241330197

*"Through the dark and wolfish woods,
through the white and silent snow,
lived a small girl called Hortense.
Though kind and brave, she was sad as an owl because of one thing . . .
Hortense hated her shadow."*



Steven Butler & Steven Lenton *You Ain't Seen Nothing Yeti!*

Simon & Schuster 978-1471163852

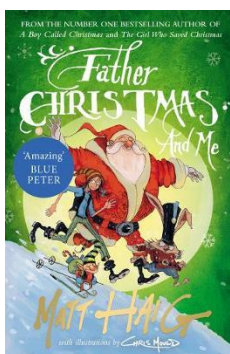
Having just saved their hotel from a goblin prince, Frankie Banister and the guests are looking forward to enjoying themselves and celebrating the summer holiday of Trogmanay! But when a snow storm blows in (complete with Yeti family), and a number of mysterious guests arrive, something sinister seems to be taking over the hotel and celebrating is the last thing on anyone's mind...



Kiran Millwood Hargrave *The Way Past Winter*

Chicken House 978-1911077930

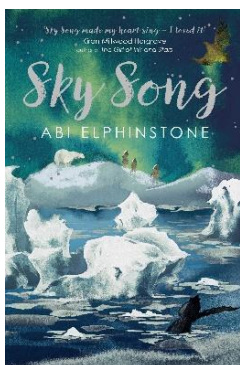
Mila and her sisters live with their brother Oskar in a small forest cabin in the snow. One night, a fur-clad stranger arrives seeking shelter for himself and his men. But by the next morning, they've gone – taking Oskar with them. Fearful for his safety, Mila and her sisters set out to bring Oskar back – even it means going north, crossing frozen wild-lands to find a way past an eternal winter.



Matt Haig & Chris Mould *Father Christmas and Me*

Canongate Books 978-1786890726

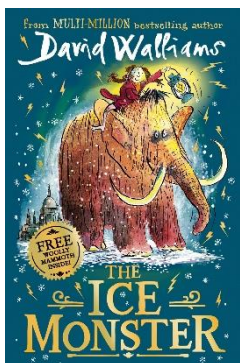
Amelia lives in the magical town of Elfhelm, newly adopted by Father Christmas and Mary Christmas. When the very jealous Easter Bunny launches an attack to ruin Christmas, it's up to Amelia, her family and the elves to fight off the forces of evil. But can they keep Christmas alive?



Abi Elphinstone *Sky Song*

Simon & Schuster 978-1471146077

In the snowy kingdom of Erkenwald, whales glide between icebergs, wolves hunt on the tundra and polar bears roam the glaciers. But the people of this land aren't so easy to find – because Erkenwald is ruled by an evil Ice Queen and the tribes must stay hidden or risk becoming her prisoners at Winterfang Palace.



David Walliams & Tony Ross *The Ice Monster*

HarperCollins 978-1471146077

When Elsie, an orphan on the streets of Victorian London, hears about the mysterious Ice Monster – a woolly mammoth found at the North Pole – she's determined to discover more...A chance encounter brings Elsie face to face with the creature, and sparks the adventure of a lifetime – from London to the heart of the Arctic!

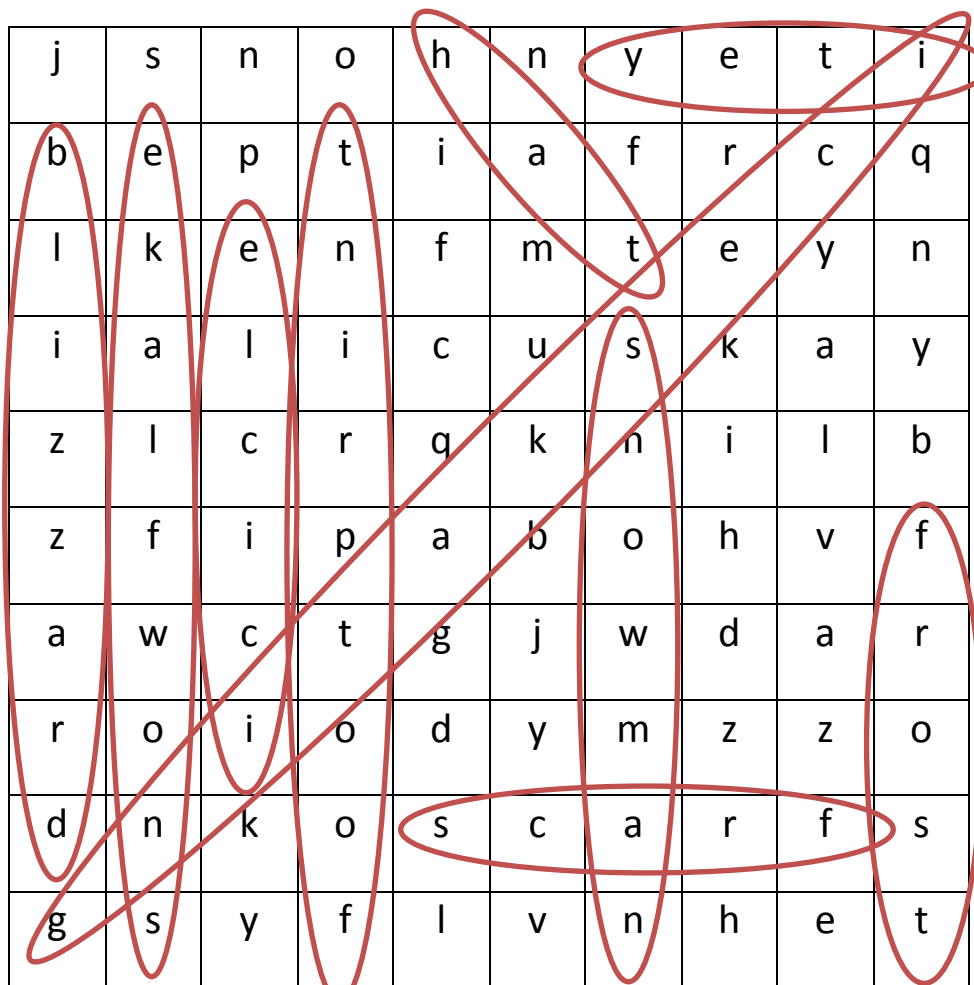
AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER	ISBN
Axel Scheffler	<i>Pip and Posy: The Christmas Tree</i>	Nosy Crow	978-1788000864
Michael Morpurgo & Robin Shaw	<i>The Snowman: Inspired by the original story by Raymond Briggs</i>	Puffin	978-0241352410
Alex Bell & Tomislav Tomic	<i>The Polar Bear Explorer's Club</i>	Faber & Faber	978-0571332540
Katherine Rundell & Gelrev Ongbico	<i>The Wolf Wilder</i>	Bloomsbury Children's Books	978-1408854853
Sangma Francis & Lisk Feng	<i>Everest</i>	Flying Eye Books	978-1911171997
Maudie Powell-Tuck & Karl James Mountford	<i>Last Stop on the Reindeer Express</i>	Little Tiger Press	978-1848696945
Ben Miller & Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini	<i>The Night I Met Father Christmas</i>	Simon & Schuster	978-1471171536
Enid Blyton	<i>Winter Stories</i>	Hodder Children's Books	978-1444942552
Alli Esiri & Zanna Goldhawk	<i>A Poem for Every Night of the Year</i>	Macmillan Children's Books	978-1509813131
Sam Gayton & Chris Riddell	<i>The Snow Merchant</i>	Andersen Press	978-1783441778
Lesley Sims	<i>Christmas Around the World</i>	Usborne	978-0746067826
Oliver Jeffers	<i>Lost and Found</i>	HarperCollins	978-0007150366
Amelia Cobb	<i>Zoe's Rescue Zoo: The Lucky Snow Leopard</i>	Nosy Crow	978-0857633774
Alan Durant & Vanessa Cabban	<i>Dear Father Christmas</i>	Walker Books	978-1406351491
Diana Hendry & John Lawrence	<i>Christmas in Exeter Street</i>	Walker Books	978-1406343038
Shirley Hughes	<i>The Christmas Eve Ghost</i>	Walker Books	978-1406338492
Clement C Moore & Daniel Kirk	<i>'Twas the Night Before Christmas</i>	Abrams	978-1419712333
Clement C Moore & Mark Marshall	<i>The Night Before Christmas</i>	Little Tiger Press	978-1848959125
Niamh Sharkey	<i>Santasaurus</i>	Walker Books	978-1844285235
Atinuke & Lauren Tobia	<i>Have Fun Anna Hibiscus!</i>	Walker Books	978-1406320671
Ulrich Hub & Jorg Muhle	<i>Meet at the Ark at Eight!</i>	Pushkin Children's Books	978-1782690870
Megan McDonald & Peter H Reynolds	<i>Judy Moody & Stink: The Holly Joliday</i>	Walker Books	978-1406313659
Kate Messna & Christopher Silas Neal	<i>Over and Under the Snow</i>	Chronicle Books	978-1452136462
Stuart Hill	<i>The Cry of the Icemark</i>	Chicken House	978-1908435866

Answers

Christmas Gifts

Christmas gift	Who is it for?
A jar of marmalade	Paddington
A homemade jumper	Harrypotter
One apple, two pears, three plums	The Very Hungry Caterpillar
A magnifying glass	Sherlock Holmes
A carrot	The Snowman
A giant pile of books	Matilda Wormwood

Wordsearch



Jumbled-up words

TORNAVGA I	NAVIGATOR	THROP LEON	NORTH POLE
TRICCA	ARCTIC	VETADUREN	ADVENTURE
ALIS	SAIL	SEEPAC	ESCAPE
GLOOI	IGLOO	FOLW	WOLF

Winter Wonderland Quiz

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. B, bonus: USA
7. C
8. B
9. C
10. B