

Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child



*Join Lainey and Landon as they
experience wonder-filled excitement
for the holiday*

7-year old Lainey Ramer, daughter of Matt and Stephanie Ramer of Mendota, and 4-year old Landon Fancher, son of Beau and Abby Fancher of Mendota, are counting down the days until Christmas. They invite you to get a glimpse of Christmas through the eyes of a child.

The Mendota Reporter, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD



Christmas Wishes

Landon and Lainey dream up Christmas wishes as they stand in the gigantic vault at First State Bank in Mendota.



Jingle Bells

The instantly recognizable “Jingle Bells” has become a wildly popular Christmas carol despite not mentioning Christmas or any other holiday. Written by New England native James Lord Pierpont, “Jingle Bells” is commemorated with plaques in two different cities, each of which claims to be the place where Pierpont wrote the song in the 1850s. One plaque is in Medford, Massachusetts, where Pierpont is said to have written the song from a tavern while watching sleigh races taking place outside. The other plaque is in Savannah, Georgia, where locals believe Pierpont wrote the lyrics prior to leading a sing-along of the song at a local church in 1857.

“Jingle Bells”

(Extended version)
 Dashing through the snow
 In a one-horse open sleigh
 O'er the fields we go
 Laughing all the way

Bells on bobtail ring
 Making spirits bright
 What fun it is to ride and sing
 A sleighing song tonight!
 Oh,

Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Jingle all the way,
 Oh what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.
 Hey!

Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Jingle all the way,
 Oh what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.

A day or two ago
 I thought I'd take a ride
 And soon, Miss Fanny Bright
 Was seated by my side,
 The horse was lean and lank
 Misfortune seemed his lot
 He got into a drifted bank
 And then we got upst.

Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Jingle all the way,
 Oh what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.
 Hey!

Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Jingle all the way,
 Oh what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.

A day or two ago,
 The story I must tell
 I went out on the snow,
 And on my back I fell;
 A gent was riding by
 In a one-horse open sleigh,
 He laughed as there I sprawling lie,
 But quickly drove away.

Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Jingle all the way,
 Oh what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.

Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Jingle all the way,
 Oh what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.

Now the ground is white
 Go it while you're young,
 Take the girls tonight
 and sing this sleighing song;
 Just get a bobtailed
 Two forty as his speed
 Hitch him to an open sleigh
 And crack! you'll take the lead.

Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Jingle all the way,
 Oh what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.

Jingle bells, jingle bells
 Jingle all the way,
 Oh what fun it is to ride
 In a one-horse open sleigh.

*Lyrics written by James Lord Pierpont
 Lyrics courtesy of Digital Music News*

The origins of “The 12 Days of Christmas”

Christmas carols can be heard far and wide from Thanksgiving weekend through Christmas Day. “The 12 Days of Christmas” is one of the most recognizable carols, and for good reason, as the popular song can trace its history back several centuries. Researchers have traced the earliest printed version of the poem on which the song is based all the way back to 1780. That's three years before the signing of the Treaty of Paris,

which officially ended the American Revolutionary War. The song has long been suspected to have been a way for Catholics in Britain to teach their children the catechism, as the 1700s was a controversial period for Catholicism in the country. However, no documentary evidence exists in support of that theory, and many historians feel it is inaccurate. Others indicate that, while 1780 is likely the first time the poem was

printed, the poem is likely much older than that, with origins potentially in France or Scotland. What is known is that the version many people recognize today, namely in song form, can be traced to the early twentieth century, when English singer and composer Frederic Austin first popularized the melody for the song. Austin performed that version of the song beginning in 1905, and it was first published in 1909.

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CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD



A Christmas Story

Landon and Lainey each find a great Christmas story from the shelves of Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota.



Puppy Love

Landon and Lainey know they can usually find beautiful and cuddly puppies at Setchell Agency in Mendota.



Dining In

Landon and Lainey are eager to sink their teeth into some delicious food from Main Street Station in Mendota.



How to make Christmas Eve special for kids

Christmas Eve is viewed differently by different people, even those who live under the same Santa-ready roof. Adults may see Christmas Eve as crunch time when they must prepare food for the next day or set up presents for their children to open in the morning. Children, on the other hand, are focused on Santa's visit and little else.

Parents naturally want to make Christmastime as special as possible for their children, and that may involve ensuring that Christmas Eve is just as memorable as Christmas Day. The following are some ways to impart more magic into Christmas Eve celebrations.

Attend Mass at midnight

Practicing Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. On Christmas Eve, churches often hold celebrations that may include late-evening or midnight masses that celebrate the birth of Christ when the calendar switches over to December 25. While it does make for a late night, it can be thought-provoking for kids and a unique experience unlike any other.

Bake fresh cookies

Children like to leave out a plate of cookies and a glass of milk for Santa. That makes Christmas Eve a perfect time to whip up a fresh batch of cookies. Explore different

recipes to come up with a unique offering each year.

Read a Christmas story

Watching television or looking at a tablet or mobile phone before bed can be too stimulating when it's time for children to wind down for bed. Choose a holiday tale or tales that can be read as a Christmas Eve bedtime story. Reciting the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas ('Twas the Night Before Christmas)" is a great way to set the Christmas Eve mood.

Make a batch of 'reindeer dust'

Why should Santa's reindeer be left out when it comes to receiving treats? Reindeer dust, made from a combination of oatmeal, rice cereal, dried fruits, and glitter (if desired), is purported to attract Santa's reindeer and provide them a nibble at the same time. Plus, it's generally safe for other animals in the yard to eat.

Go caroling

Caroling may not be the norm, but some families may want to revive it. Close-knit communities can organize family-centric caroling opportunities and roam the cul-de-sacs and other pedestrian-friendly areas singing popular songs.

Christmas Eve is a great time to embrace various traditions that help to make the season even more special.



Kids Christmas Book List

1. Baby's First Christmas by Tomie DePaola
2. Little Blue Truck's Christmas by Alice Schertle
3. Duck & Goose. It's Time for Christmas by Tad Hills
4. Llama llama jingle bells by Anna Dewdney
5. Grumpy Monkey Oh, No Christmas by Suzanne Lang
6. The Little Reindeer by Nicola Killen
7. Santa's Underwear by Marty Rhodes Figley
8. Pete the Cat Saves Christmas by Eric Litwin
9. Bear Stays up for Christmas by Karma Wilson
10. Counting to Christmas by Nancy Tafuri
11. Dear Santasaurus by Stacy McAnulty

Adult's Christmas Book List

1. Christmas Wishes by Debbie Macomber
2. An O'Brien family Christmas by Sherryl Woods
3. A Very Nantucket Christmas by Nancy Thayer
4. The 19th Christmas by James Patterson
5. A Baxter family Christmas by Karen Kingsbury
6. Christmas Bliss by Mary Kay Andrews
7. The Christmas boutique by Jennifer Chaiverini
8. Christmas Cupcake Murder by Joanne Fluke
9. The Christmas Swap by Melody Carlson
10. Dashing Through the Snowbirds by Donna Andrews
11. The twelve topsy-turvy, very messy days of Christmas by James Patterson and Tad Safran

MERRY
Christmas

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Call or stop in to sign up for our movie night!

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and Yours A Very Safe
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CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD



Toys Galore

Landon and Lainey manage to find the toy section at Nightengales Thrift Shop in Mendota and are amazed by how many children's items there are to choose from.



Yummy Drinks

Landon and Lainey crave the delight of some delicious and healthy beverages, and find what they're looking for at Purpose Nutrition in Mendota.



Comfy Couch

Landon and Lainey relax on one of the large selection of comfortable couches that are available at Meyers Furniture in Mendota.

Movies that are perfect for families this holiday season

Various traditions take center stage during the holiday season. One of those traditions may be sitting down and enjoying any of a number of timeless Christmas movies or even newer holiday films that are quickly becoming favorites.

Film fans have their own ideas about the best films to watch during the holidays, but the following movies are some kids and adults can enjoy together.

- "The Polar Express" (2004): A young boy enjoys a magical adventure to the North Pole aboard the Polar Express train. He learns about the true spirit of the holidays and the value of bravery and friendship along the way.

- "The Muppet Christmas Carol" (1992): Charles Dickens' classic story about a bitter miser might be a little frightening for young children to enjoy in its more theatrical offerings. However, when the Muppet characters tell their version of the classic tale, the story becomes much more family-friendly.

- "A Boy Called Christmas" (2021): Based on the book by Matt Haig, this movie is a reimagined take on Father Christmas. It focuses on Nikolas as he goes on an adventure to find a magical town called Elfhelm.

- "Jack Frost" (1998): When a father dies in a car accident, he comes back to life as a snowman in his son's front yard. Jack learns to keep his promises and make things right with his son — things he wasn't capable of doing as a human.

- "Christmas with the Kranks" (2004): The Kranks decide to forgo their annual Christmas party and plan a vacation since their daughter will be out of town. But when said daughter decides to come home after all, chaos sets in as the couple tries to figure out how to put together an extravaganza at the last minute.

- "Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas" (1997): The Beast does not favor the holiday season, so Belle must change his mind on the matter in this animated Disney offering.

- "Elf" (2003): As a youngster, Buddy was magically transported to the



North Pole and raised by Santa's elves. As an adult, he's determined to find his real dad in New York City and uncover a way to fit in.

- "Santa Hunters" (2014): A young boy teams up with his sibling and cousins to try to capture new footage of Santa in action and prove that the man in red truly exists.

- "The Nutcracker and the

Four Realms" (2018): This is a newer take on the classic Nutcracker tale. This adventure sees Clara defending the Land of Sweets from the evil Mother Ginger.

Holiday films enhance the celebratory nature of the season. Certain movies are tailor-made for families to watch together during this special time of year.

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CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD



O' Christmas Tree

Landon and Lainey love the beautiful Christmas tree at Eureka Savings Bank in Mendota and are counting down the days until the arrival of Santa Claus.

HOLIDAY MAZE

Help Ginger find the way home!



Merry and Bright Coloring Page



What's the difference?

Three of these nine pictures are different. Can you find the differences?



Answers:
Top row: Picture 2, Missing snowflakes
Middle row: Picture 4, Missing eyebrows
Bottom row: Picture 9, Maple leaf blue

Craft an entire day around tree shopping

Though retailers may begin playing holiday tunes shortly after Halloween, for many people, no date on the calendar marks the beginning of the holiday season better than the day they pick up their Christmas tree.

There are many different ways to acquire a Christmas tree. Some people prefer artificial Christmas trees that can be stored and taken out each year. Others make a yearly expedition to a tree lot or a Christmas tree farm to find the perfect fir or spruce. Historians believe a man named W.V. McGallard planted 25,000 Norway spruce seedlings at his Mercer County, New Jersey farm in 1901, essentially establishing the first commercial Christmas tree farm. By 1908, customers could visit the farm and choose trees for \$1 each. McGallard helped create an entirely new industry that now accounts for 350 million trees being grown and sold in the United States every year.

Selecting a Christmas tree may not take more than an hour or two, but there are ways for families and other tree shoppers to maximize their time spent looking for a tree.

- Bring refreshments. Couple Christmas tree shopping with picnicking if the weather is amenable. Pack



some foldable chairs into the vehicle (sitting on the ground on a blanket may be too cold) and bring along thermoses of coffee or hot cocoa. Snacks like granola bars, Christmas cookies or other filling treats can keep everyone satisfied and energized while they shop for a tree.

- Pair tree shopping with a trip to see lighting displays. Find the tree lot or tree farm and then scope out potentially scenic spots to view holiday lighting displays nearby. Neighborhood Facebook or other social media groups often tout homes that put up eye-catching displays. Ask around for addresses and plan your own tours.

- Plan a night out. Everyone may be tired and hungry after a long day of Christmas tree hunting. Plus, it's typically a good idea to wait some time for boughs

to open before decorating. Use this opportunity to dine out and return home ready to decorate. Make it a regular occurrence that Christmas tree shopping is followed by a family meal at a favorite restaurant.

- Watch a classic film. Many different holiday movies are broadcast this time of year and each enhances the Christmas spirit. While putting up the tree, play a favorite film in the background. What better way to enjoy decorating your own tree than by watching Charlie Brown adorn his meager evergreen at the same time?

Make a day of selecting and putting up the Christmas tree each year. Doing so can enhance the holidays and make for an entertaining way to spend time together as a couple or family.



Though it might seem like a tradition without a deep history, holiday decorating with electric lights can be traced all the way back to the nineteenth century.

When did Christmas lights become so popular?

Holiday lights are now everywhere come the holiday season. Private homeowners tend to hang the holiday lights outside their homes around Thanksgiving weekend and keep them up through New Year's Day.

Though it might seem like a tradition without a deep history, decorating a Christmas tree with electric lights can be traced all the way back to the nineteenth century. In 1882, Edward Johnson, who was a friend and colleague of the man who invented light bulbs, Thomas Edison, replaced candles, which had traditionally been used to briefly light Christmas trees, with light bulbs.

But at the time of Johnson's innovation, the high cost and relative infancy of light bulbs ensured the idea did not catch on. And though United States President Grover Cleveland used electric lights to illuminate a Christmas tree in the White House in 1895, it would be another eight years before General Electric would begin selling Christmas light kits. Those kits cost \$12 in 1903, which equates to several hundred dollars today.

The first outdoor Christmas light shows started to become popular in the 1920s, and this is the same time when commercial sales of Christmas lights picked up. In the 1960s, GE's decision to begin manufacturing Christmas lights overseas helped reduce the price of outdoor lights even further, thus paving the way for the tradition of decorating home exteriors with string lights during the holiday season to take a firm hold. And that tradition remains wildly popular today.



Christmas may be just around the corner, but it's not too early to start thinking about Christmas 2023!

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