



## Seasons' Greetings from 4-210

Dear Parents,

To celebrate this holiday season, we will be having a Holiday Brunch on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. I will not be here the 20-22<sup>nd</sup>. Although we know the holidays are hectic, we will need some help to make this an enjoyable and memorable party for all. The students voted to have a gift exchange. Therefore, each student should bring in a wrapped gift from the dollar store. If you are unable to donate anything please let me know as soon as possible. I will purchase the additional items. There are 24 students in our class. The following items are needed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Paper Plates & Paper Cups

\_\_\_\_\_ Napkins & Forks

\_\_\_\_\_ Pancake Syrup

\_\_\_\_\_ Fruit snacks

\_\_\_\_\_ Pancake mix

\_\_\_\_\_ Cupcakes

\_\_\_\_\_ Juice boxes

\_\_\_\_\_ Candy

\_\_\_\_\_ candy canes

\_\_\_\_\_ fruit

\_\_\_\_\_ breakfast sausage

Yes, I will donate \_\_\_\_\_

Not at this time \_\_\_\_\_

Please return by Friday.

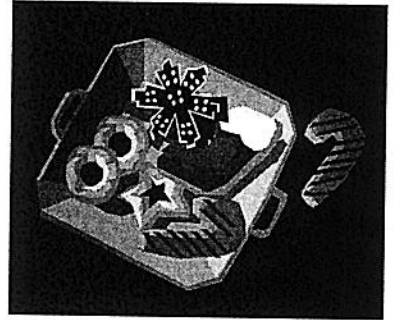


## Christmas Cookies

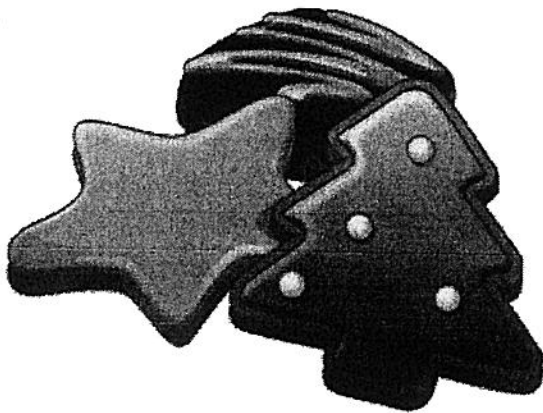
Story By: Andrew Frinkle

It was getting cold out, so it was fun to bake. Janet loved Christmas cookies. She liked to help mom and grandma bake. Even her little brother helped sometimes. Dad just ate the cookies. He didn't like to bake.

They had a cookie press for some cookies. It looked like a tube with a trigger. She filled it with dough and squeezed. Out came a cookie! She could change the shape that came out.



They baked Christmas trees, stars, bells, and snowflakes. Then she put on frosting and sprinkles. The frosting was pink for the stars. It was yellow for the bells. The trees were green. Snowflakes had light blue frosting.



On other cookies, they used cookie cutters. They were not as easy. You had to roll out the dough. Then they pressed the cutter down into the dough. The shape came out. They made Christmas socks and candy canes that way. After they baked them, they put on frosting and silver balls.

The final kind of cookies was a sour cream cookie. They were like little fluffy cakes. On top they put sweet white frosting. They were her favorite ones. Colored sugar made them pretty, but they did not really need it.

It sure was fun to bake for Christmas. Maybe they would make cookies for other holidays, like Thanksgiving, Halloween, or Easter. It was great to spend time with mom and grandma, too.



# Christmas Cookies

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What season must the story be in?
  - A. spring
  - B. summer
  - C. fall
  - D. winter
  
2. What holiday is coming up?
  - A. Easter
  - B. Thanksgiving
  - C. Christmas
  - D. July 4<sup>th</sup>
  
3. What are the girls making?
  - A. cakes
  - B. cookies
  - C. pies
  - D. donuts
  
4. What is Janet's favorite kind of cookies to make?
  - A. sour cream
  - B. cookie press cookies
  - C. cookie cutter cookies
  - D. store bought cookies
  
5. Which of these holidays is NOT one of the holidays Janet might make cookies for?
  - A. Thanksgiving
  - B. Halloween
  - C. Valentine's Day
  - D. Easter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Nothing to Fear

By Kelly Hashway

"What are you afraid of?" Mr. Miller asked the class.

Clayton tried not to laugh. Fear was for babies, not a tough kid like him.

"Snakes," Rebecca said.

"Spiders," Michelle added.

"Okay," Mr. Miller said, "but I was actually talking about bigger things."

"Like sharks?" Joe asked. "They're really scary with their razor sharp teeth and—"

Mr. Miller held up his hand. "I'm talking about the things that scare you in life. Things like failing math or not making the basketball team."

Hands flew up all around Clayton. His classmates named everything from not being popular to losing a loved one. Clayton was barely listening. He didn't want to because every fear his classmates mentioned was something he worried about, too. He'd always thought he was fearless, but here he was afraid of every single thing mentioned in class.

"What about you, Clayton?" Mr. Miller asked.

Clayton crossed his arms and looked out the window. "I'm not afraid of anything."

"Nothing?" Mr. Miller asked.

"You have to be afraid of something," Joe said.

"What about the science test we have coming up?"

Clayton had been studying every night, and he still had trouble remembering everything.

"Nope."

"Isn't your grandfather in the hospital?" Rebecca asked. "You must be worried about him."



Grandpa Mike had to have open heart surgery. The doctors said he'd fully recover, but Clayton couldn't stop thinking about how much older Grandpa Mike had looked in the hospital. "He'll be fine."



"You know," Mr. Miller said, "there's another fear that many people have." He sat down on the edge of the desk and stared at Clayton. "Some people are afraid of fear. They're afraid to admit when something scares them because being afraid makes that thing seem so much more real."

Clayton looked at Mr. Miller. "Are you like that?"

"I was." Mr. Miller walked over to Clayton's desk. "But then I learned that facing my fears allowed me to do something about them. I could take control, even if only in a small way." He leaned down and looked Clayton in the eyes. "When my grandfather was in the hospital, I visited him every day and read the newspaper to him just because it made him smile. His smile made me feel better, less afraid."

Grandpa Mike liked to read the newspaper, too. "I should do that for my grandpa," Clayton said.

"Facing your fear is much braver than pretending you aren't afraid," Mr. Miller said.

Clayton nodded, determined to face his fears.

## About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Nothing to Fear

By Kelly Hashway



1. In the beginning of the story, Clayton...
- a. proves that he's not afraid of anything
  - b. talks about many things he's afraid of
  - c. pretends that he's not afraid of anything
  - d. writes a list of his many fears

2. When Mr. Miller's grandfather was in the hospital, what did he do every day?

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3. According to Mr. Miller, if you face your fears...

- a. you become more afraid
- b. you have more control over them
- c. people will think you are weak
- d. you forget all about them

4. When Mr. Miller first asked the class what they were afraid of, what type of answers did they give?

- a. people they feared
- b. places that scared them
- c. books and movies with scary plots
- d. animals they feared

5. Why was Clayton's grandfather in the hospital?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Nothing to Fear

By Kelly Hashway



Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ babies

a. not afraid of anything

2. \_\_\_\_\_ razor

b. imagining

3. \_\_\_\_\_ popular

c. infants

4. \_\_\_\_\_ hospital

d. mother or father's father

5. \_\_\_\_\_ pretending

e. person or thing that is liked by many people

6. \_\_\_\_\_ grandfather

f. place where medical treatment is given

7. \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned

g. sharp metal blade

8. \_\_\_\_\_ fearless

h. said or referred to something

❖ **Now try this:** Write a sentence using each of the vocabulary words above.



## The Christmas Tree

One of the most common traditions of Christmas is the Christmas tree. Homes across the world decorate an evergreen tree with ornaments, tinsel, and lights. Christmas gifts are placed underneath the tree where they stay until the time comes to open them.

Many stores, offices, and businesses have decorated trees throughout the season. Many government offices and buildings also place trees as a way of celebrating the holiday.

The idea of a decorating an evergreen tree or branch during winter began thousands of years ago in many parts of the world. Because an evergreen tree stays green even in winter, it symbolized eternal life and the hope that spring would come again.



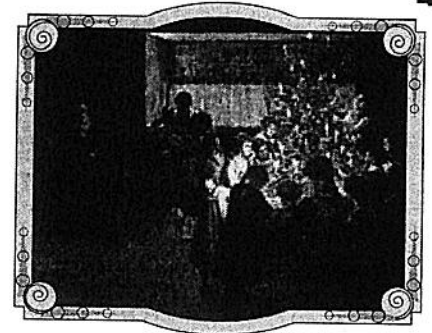
A Christmas tree in the United States

Historians believe the modern Christmas tree began in what is now Germany during the 1500s. Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, is said to have been the first one to add lights to the tree by placing candles on the branches.

It took several centuries for the Christmas tree to become a popular tradition. It was introduced in North America by German soldiers during the American Revolution. In England, the tree was popular with English royalty, many who had come from Germany. Common decorations during the 18th and 19th centuries included fruits, candy, nuts, candles, paper ornaments, and tin stars. An angel or a star topped the tree.

The discovery of electric lights in the early 1900s replaced the candles on the tree. This made Christmas trees much safer. Fruits and nuts as decorations were replaced with glass balls. Artificial trees, or trees made out of aluminum or plastic, also became popular in the mid-1900s.

Today, families around the world establish their own traditions about the type of tree and decorations used. The Christmas tree remains a well-loved part of the holiday season.



1911 painting of a Christmas tree by *Albert Chevallier Tayler*

### Reading Questions

1. What did the evergreen tree symbolize thousands of years ago?

2. What were three common decorations for the tree during the 18th and 19th century?

3. Who is said to have first put candles on a Christmas tree?

4. Who introduced the Christmas tree to North America?

5. When did electric lights replace candles on the tree?

Draw a picture of a Christmas  
Tree.

- The aroma of fresh pine needles lingered in the air.
- I used my red scarf to add the finishing touch to my snowman.
- The entire street was lit up in sparkling lights.
- The chestnuts were roasting slowly over the hot fire.
- The North Pole must be well below freezing temperatures.
- The mall was filled with hectic shoppers.
- My mom makes her own hand-crafted wreath every Christmas.
- I love my grandmother's baked chocolate chip cookies.





# Creative Writing

Try to remember the best gift you ever received for Christmas. Write a paragraph telling us why it was your favorite present. Why was it so special? Do you still have it?  
Merry Christmas!

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