

# MONTHLY MUSTANG

## Christmas Poem!

By: Moussia Elyashkevich

Santa, Santa don't be sly,  
tell me how you ride those reindeer in the sky,  
and how do you fit those presents in a big red sack,  
could it be a magical bag?

Tell us your secrets about Christmas cheer,

How do you do it every year?

Merry Christmas!

Monthly Mustang

Parent Editor: Amanda  
Cooley

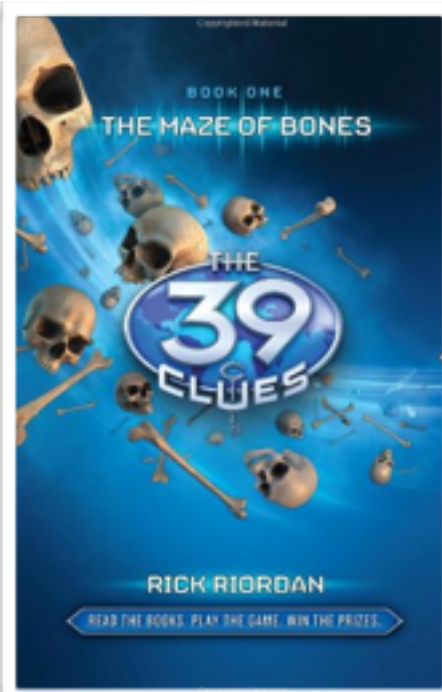
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## Book Review: The 39 Clues

By: Milo Jenq

Do you like  
reading  
mysterious  
and dangerous  
clue hunt  
books  
involving  
ancient  
artifacts?  
Then you  
should read  
*The 39 Clues:  
The Maze of  
Bones (Book*



*One*) written by Rick Riordan, who is also known for authoring the *Percy Jackson* series.

*The 39 Clues* is about an 11-year-old boy named Dan Cahill and a 14-year-old girl named Amy Cahill. They attend their grandmother's funeral and wait at the cemetery in the enormous crowd of people. The Cahill family is the most important family that is divided into five branches, including the Ekaterina, the Tomas, the Lucian, and the Janus branches. The fifth and final branch is a secret branch, the Madrigal branch. After the funeral, their grandmother's lawyer, William McIntire, announces that certain people attending the funeral will receive a gold invitation card that will allow them into the Great Hall. Others who do not get the (Continue on page 2)

## Book Reviews and COVID Vaccine

(Jenq, continued from page 2) invitation card cannot come in. William McIntire reveals that the people who get the invitation card can leave the place with one million dollars or get the first clue of the 39 clues.

I like this book because it is dramatic, suspenseful, and pulls you in. There are eleven books in this series. Find out what the 39 clues are for, and join Dan and Amy on the hunt for the 39 clues around the world!

### Book Review: *Mystery On Magnolia Circle*

By: Kelsey Yip

*Mystery On Magnolia Circle* by Kate Klise is a book full of mysteries. This book is about a girl, Ivy Crowden, who breaks her leg on the first day of summer vacation. Her best friend Teddy can't cheer her up because he's going through something hard too; his dog died. When they both find out about burglaries happening very close to where they live,



everything changes. Will Ivy and Teddy be able to solve this mystery? Read the book to find out!

My favorite character in this book is Ivy because she has a very interesting personality. She is always curious and (Continue on page 3) (Yip, cont. from page 2)

up-to-date on what is happening in her neighborhood. The part when Ivy and Teddy find out about the burglaries is my favorite part because it is especially mysterious. They keep finding more information day by day, and they tell each other all the clues they have discovered.

(Continue on page 2)

## COVID Vaccines Available

By Alice Kate Allison

On October 29, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration approved the Covid-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11. I got mine at Memorial Hermann. They don't have a big wait, and you can walk in and get it. I walked in, and they let me sit down. Then, they wiped my arm with alcohol wipes. Next, they put a mechanical bee on my arm called "The Buzzy." They put an ice pack under The Buzzy and strapped it to my arm. They did it to calm the nerve, so it won't hurt at all. Lastly, they put the shot in. It didn't hurt at all! I admit it was scary at first, but I could hardly feel it. The nurse was nice, and she let me get a fidget prize. I got a pop it fidget spinner. I also got a piece of candy and a sticker. The next day, my arm was sore but nothing that I couldn't handle. I hope you get the vaccine!



(Yip, cont. from page 1) I recommend this book because it is so suspenseful, and the kind of book where you start reading and then you can't put it down until you finish it. I would rate this book 5 out of 5 stars!

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### Top 5 Movies To Watch During The Holidays

By: Maria Neata and CoCo Rahbar- Daniels

**#5 The Nightmare Before Christmas.** The 1993 classic is the story of the Pumpkin King, otherwise known as Jack. Jack lives in the thrilling Halloweentown where the only holiday is-well you guessed it- Halloween. Year after year, they celebrate and Jack is tired of it. One night, he wanders into the woods and finds a portal to a whole new world and a whole new opportunity. Soon, he finds himself in a Christmastown and is determined to bring it to his home. Only one girl warns him that he brings death to their town, but by the time he realizes it, it's already too late.

**#4 Elf.** If any movie will keep you laughing the whole time, it's *Elf*! One Christmas, an orphaned toddler creeps into Santa's present bag. When he is brought to the North Pole by accident, the elves decide to raise him and give him the name Buddy. But as Buddy grows up, he becomes stronger, taller, and bigger than his elf peers. Feeling as though he doesn't belong, Buddy travels to the "real world" to find his long-lost family. And P.S. to those elves out there, if you're traveling, don't wear the outfit!

**#3 The Polar Express.** A timeless classic comes to life in this movie. The movie stars a young boy whose heart yearns to believe in Christmas, but his mind tells him otherwise. On the night of Christmas Eve, a mysterious train arrives, bringing along with it a trip to the North Pole and a chance to see Santa. While aboard, he meets a lonely boy and a brave girl, and the three children bond quickly. Soon, disaster strikes that very train, and little do they know what they will face on their journey!

**#2 Noelle.** This funny, spectacular movie is an amazing family watch that deserves to be on everyone's movie list. It follows the story of the spoiled daughter of Santa Claus. After her father dies, Noelle's brother, Nick Kringle must become the next Santa. But, when Nick goes missing, and Christmas is approaching, Noelle must go and find her brother and bring him back in time. Can Noelle save Christmas, or will she let everyone down?

**#1 Home Alone** is a must see if you're a child dreaming of freedom. A young boy is accidentally left at home on Christmas break. After being punished by parents and annoyed by cousins, the hint of freedom is welcome by young Kevin. But when two not-so-bright burglars arrive at his front door, he has to protect his home. So, are you ready to watch this movie or are you thirsty for more?

These are five must-see Christmas movies, and we hope you enjoy them!

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### A Christmas Carol Is Not A Bah Humbug

By: Gibson Allison

I had a chance to review Charles Dickens' animated Disney movie *A Christmas Carol* directed (continue on page 4)



(Allison, cont. from page 3) by Robert Zemeckis. The starring actors are Jim Carry, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, and Robin Penn Wright.

A Christmas Carol is about Ebenezer Scrooge and how he changes his life from

a selfish miser to a generous citizen. Four ghosts visit Scrooge on Christmas Eve. The ghosts are his former business partner Marley, as well as the ghosts of past, present, and future.

I recommend it because it has realistic animations. The movie closely follows the book by Charles Dickens published in 1843. The music was written by Alan Silvestri. There are many movie and play versions of this holiday classic available. I give this animated Disney version five out of five Gibsons!

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### Fighting Child Hunger

By: Brayden Lim

Have you ever felt hungry? It's an unpleasant feeling. When I'm hungry, it feels uncomfortable. Did you know that hunger in children is a big problem? Houston ranks number five in the United States with food insecurity. Every day in our community, there are 88,740 children who are unsure of when their next meal will be. That's one out of every four Houston preschool-aged children.

There are many organizations in Houston that help with child hunger. One organization is Kids' Meals. Kids' Meals delivers approximately 7,000 meals to Houston's hungriest preschool-aged children. The meals consist of a sandwich, nutritious snacks, fruit item, and 100% juice or milk. They deliver the meals Monday through Friday to children enrolled in their program



You can help Kids' Meals by decorating paper lunch bags. For example, you can draw Pikachu, a wolf, and a happy face. Kids' Meals uses the paper lunch bags to pack the meals for hungry children. If you want to learn more about Kids' Meals, here's their website: <https://kidsmealsinc.org>.

If we all do our part in helping hungry children, they will not be hungry anymore. Also, don't forget about the WUES annual Souper Bowl of Caring, another way to combat hunger.

## Interviews

### Interview with Ms. Wheelock

By: Willa Castle



**Willa:** How do you help support the students at West U?

**Ms. Wheelock:** By making students feel like they belong - because they do!

**W:** What made you decide to pursue a career in education?

**MW:** I always wanted to be a teacher. When I was in first grade, I used to write on my mom's walls while playing school with my sister.

**W:** Who was your favorite teacher when you were a kid? Why?

**MW:** Ms. Clay, my first grade teacher, and Ms. Tate, my fourth grade teacher, because I love how they decorated their rooms.

**W:** What are your favorite hobbies?

**MW:** My favorite hobbies are shopping, trying new restaurants in Houston, naps, and scrolling on social media.

**W:** Tell us your favorite joke or riddle!

**MW:** What has 1 letter in it and starts with an E and ends with an E?

Answer: An envelope.

**W:** Who is a person that inspires you? Why?

**MW:** My parents because they have sacrificed many things for me and my education.

**W:** What is your favorite book? Song? Movie?

**MW:** Favorite movie: *Matilda*, favorite book: *Ramona Quimby*, and favorite song: Black and Gold by Sam Sparro

**W:** What career goals do you have? Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

**MW:** To become a part of the WUES community and to help as many families as I can. Also to be at WUES greeting families every morning.

**W:** If you had one superpower, what would it be?

**MW:** To read people's minds.

**W:** What advice would you give for a student who is considering a career in education?

**MW:** "Experience will be your best teacher..." and "Embrace it all."

### Interview with Mrs. McClintock



## Interviews

By: Keira Thomas

**Keira:** What is your favorite part about being a teacher?

**Mrs. McClintock:** Seeing students grow and developing relationships with them.

**K:** How many years have you been teaching?



**MM:** 13 years of teaching.

**K:** What has been your favorite grade you have taught?

**MM:** Third grade because of science experiments.

**K:** Do you want a pet? If you do, what type?

**MM:** Yes, a horse, but I have nowhere to put it.

**K:** What is your favorite subject to teach? Why?

**MM:** Science because you are teaching and learning about nature.

**K:** What is your favorite hobby outside of school?

**MM:** Exploring new places while hiking outside or fishing.

**K:** What are your favorite colors?

**MM:** Navy blue, green, and light pink.

**K:** Do you have a nickname? If you do, what is it? If you don't, do you want one?

**MM:** Spears because people think I look like Britney Spears.

**K:** What is a benefit that teachers have and students don't?

**MM:** Students bring treats and yummy food.

**K:** Do you like being a teacher?

**MM:** I love it, and it is something I have wanted to do since kinder.

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### 1st Grade Interview - Brady Wagner

By Ethan Duguid

**Ethan:** How old are you?

**Brady:** 6

**E:** What's your favorite food?

**B:** Calamari

**E:** Do you play any sports? If so, which ones?

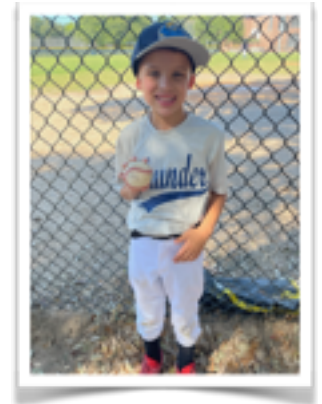
**B:** I play tennis and baseball.

**E:** What subject at school do you enjoy the most, and why?

**B:** I enjoy recess because I can have fun and see my friends.

**E:** Do you play video games?

**B:** Yes. I love Minecraft.



## How To Make Your Own Winter Snow Globe

By: Lila Cooley

To make your own winter snow globe, you will need a clear glass or plastic jar with a matching lid. You will also need a small winter-themed or holiday-themed figurine or toy



that is not water-soluble. Choose a jar that matches the size of your figurine. If you have a smaller figurine, you might want to use a spice jar or a baby food jar. If you have a larger figurine, you might want to use a Mason jar. You might have to ask for help in removing the label from the jar using warm water and a dish scrubber. You will also need some glitter, glue that is not water-soluble, and water. For this craft, I used a small jar for capers; a snowman and a penguin Lego figurine; and pink iridescent glitter.

The next step is to glue your figurine to the interior part of the lid of the jar. Let sit for several hours to make sure that it is affixed to the lid. You will know when it is ready by doing the upside down test, where you flip the lid over to make sure the figurine does not fall off. If it does, you will need to add more glue and wait for a longer period of time. When the glue has dried and you can pass the upside down test, add some water to the jar. Next, add glitter to the water. I recommend a lot of glitter. Then, tighten the lid onto the jar. You might want to ask your parents to help to make sure that

the lid is on very tight, so that the water does not spill out of the jar.

Then, you can turn it over, shake your snow globe, and watch the pretty snowflakes swirl all around your new winter scene!

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## Gingerbread Cookies

By: Maggie Chen

My mom and I made yummy gingerbread cookies today! Here is what we did. First, we melted butter in a bowl by putting it in a pot with boiling water. Next, we added sugar and mixed it until the butter was not white. Then we added an egg and molasses and mixed it some more. In a different bowl, we mixed flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and ginger powder with a spoon. Next, we mixed everything together with our hands until it was like play dough. Then we formed balls that were a bit smaller than golf balls. You can add M&M's for decoration and more flavor.

Finally, we baked them for 11 minutes and let them cool. We shared the

cookies with friends. They were delicious. You can try this simple recipe for the holiday season. For more detailed information about the recipe, visit <https://www.lovefromtheoven.com/gingerbread-cookies/>



### Hot Chocolate

By: Ana Choi

Holiday season is right around the corner, and all you are craving is something warm to drink. Something with chocolate and marshmallows. I know, hot chocolate! Here is a hot chocolate recipe perfect for winter.

Servings: 4 servings

Ingredients:

8 ounces of hot chocolate mix

4 cups of hot water or warm milk

Marshmallows (optional)

Mug or cup

Directions:

First, heat up milk or water and pour it in a mug or cup.

Then, pour hot chocolate mix into the cup or mug of milk/water and stir.

Don't forget to put an abundant amount of marshmallows into the hot chocolate. (Optional)

Lastly, enjoy your hot chocolate! You made it, so you deserve it!

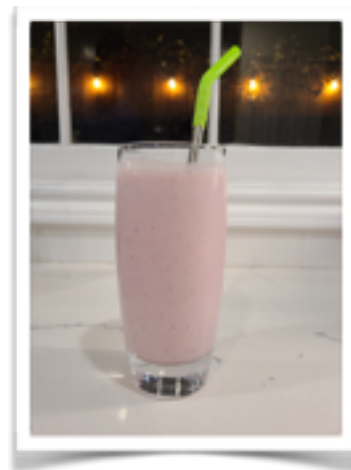


### Recipe for Strawberry Banana Smoothie

By Valentina Di Fiori

This is a recipe for a banana and strawberry smoothie.

For this smoothie, you will need a blender, milk, two strawberries, one banana, honey, plain yogurt, vanilla extract, and kefir berry mix.



First, you cut the banana into three equal pieces.

Next, you add one cup of milk.

After that, you need to put two strawberries into the blender.

Then, you add the honey. You need only a little bit of honey.

Next, you add a tiny bit of vanilla.

After that, you add two spoons of plain yogurt and two spoons of Kefir in it .

Next, you mix everything together. Blend for one minute.

Then enjoy!



# Cookies for Christmas

By: Juliet Kuban and Ana Sofia Munoz

Welcome Mustangs! You are in for a treat. Today, we will be baking Christmas Cookies. I hope you enjoy this amazing recipe.

Christmas is not just about getting gifts. It is also about being with family and friends, but mostly sharing love with others.

Baking and cooking are one of our favorites things to do around the holidays. These are ways to connect and make memories together that will last forever.

We hope you try our recipe and have as much fun as we did. Enjoy and thank you!



*Sprinkle love*

## Cookies Recipe (6 dozen cookies)

### Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Stir together flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside.
3. In a separate bowl, beat the butter with a mixer until softened. Add sugar and mix until light and fluffy. Add egg, vanilla extract, and orange zest. Beat well.
4. Gradually add flour mixture and beat until well mixed.
5. Put the cookie dough in the Cookie Press and position the cookies 1 to 2 inches apart on the baking tray. You can also roll the dough on the table and use cookie cutters instead.
6. Bake at 350°F for 18 minutes.
6. Drizzle with chocolate or top them up with sprinkles.



## Ingredients:

- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups unsalted butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons orange zest



## December Holidays

By: Naomi Fan

There are many holidays in each and every month that we probably have never heard of! Here is the full list, visit <https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/calendar-december-2021/>.



December 1st: National Christmas Lights Day

December 2nd:

International

Day for the Abolition of Slavery

December 3rd: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 4th: National Cookie Day

December 5th: Day of the Ninja and International Volunteer Day



December 6th: Last Day of Hanukkah

December 7th: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 8th: National Brownie Day

December 9th: Christmas Card Day

December 10th: Human Rights Day and Nobel Prize Day

December 11th: International Mountain Day

December 12th: International Universal Health Coverage Day

December 13th: National Violin Day

December 14th: National Free Shipping Day

December 15th: Bill of Rights Day and National Cupcake Day

December 16th: National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

December 17th: Wright Brothers Day

December 18th: International Migrants Day

December 19th: National Emo Day

December 20th: International Human Solidarity Day

December 21st: Winter Solstice and National Homeless Persons' Remembrance Day

December 22nd: National Short Person Day

December 23rd: Festivus

December 24th: Christmas Eve and The Feast of Seven Fishes

December 25th: Christmas Day



December 26th: Kwanzaa and Boxing Day

December 27th: International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

December 28th: Pledge of Allegiance Day

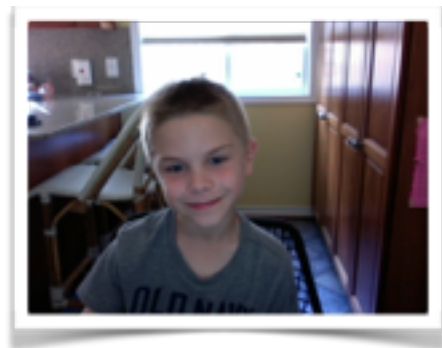
December 29th: Still Need To Do Day

December 30th: National Bacon Day

December 31st: New Year's Eve and No Interruptions Day

### Ways To Catch an Elf

By: Matthew Herman



In the North Pole, on Christmas Eve, a special elf named Santa Jr. was all snug in his bed.

Santa Jr. was a special elf because his dad

was Santa. He wondered what it was like in other parts of the world. "What other Christmas traditions could be out there?" he thought. Because he was only eight, he wasn't able to join the older elves "on watch" for the "Naughty Or Nice" Corporation. This was a group of elves that would check kids' behavior before Christmas to make sure they were deserving of gifts from Santa. He had to wait until age 11 for this special privilege. Sometimes elves in the "Naughty Or Nice" Corporation lost their elf powers and "Santa Savers" would come to the rescue and take their place.

Several years passed and Santa Jr. grew older, until his eleventh birthday finally arrived! He had great luck too! His birthday was also the day that Santa would post all the jobs on "ELFPOSTNews corporation." So, Santa Jr. looked at his phone where the jobs were posted, but as he did his smile drooped because he was not selected to be part of the "Naughty or Nice" Corporation. Instead, his father had selected him to be a maker elf! (Dun dun dun!) The maker elves would create toys, and, occasionally, they would create a brand new toy. Though his friends said it was fun to be a maker elf, he would not have it, so he decided to escape!

His plan was to escape at the dead of night (midnight!) with his Snowspeeder 2019293 (elf model). He would go to one of the forgotten zones scattered across the globe where nobody would find him. His plan should work, but he was scared because the forgotten zones were forgotten for a reason! Many elves that went to the few scattered houses either lost their magic, or "**The Most Horrible Thing Ever**" would happen to them! They could be attacked by "monster pets." But don't worry...elves cannot get hurt! If attacked, they are instantly teleported back to the North Pole and are replaced with a doll.

So, he picked a house in the forgotten zone (2876 University Boulevard, Houston, TX, 77005 U.S.A.) What he did not know was that the boy who lived there (Oliver), SHOT AN ELF OUT OF A ROCKET last year. As Santa Jr. entered the house on University Blvd, Oliver had left a devious trap to catch him. The details of the trap are below.

#### Button Trap

Step 1: Elf presses a button

Step 2: Mousetrap captures the elf

Santa Jr. tip-toed past the trap, resisting the urge to press the button, but another trap awaited him, Box trap.

#### Box Trap

Step 1: Elf walks by the "floating box" that is held up by invisible supports

Step 2: Supports fall and box falls onto elf

Something rustled as he passed. Suddenly, something started falling! It was a box! Santa Jr. ran as fast as he could. Now he knew that someone was (continue on page 12)

## Battles and Word Search

(Herman, cont. from page 11) trying to capture elves! He would have to be very careful to not be caught! Suddenly, something cracked under Santa Jr.'s feet! "Ah!" he exclaimed! Luckily, it was just a candy cane. "Thank goodness," he whispered. He planned to just grab the candy cane and go, but then he looked up and saw a sign on the fridge that said: **Candy Canes Inside! Only For Elves!** So, he opened the fridge and another trap:

### Food Trap

Step 1: Elf follows trail

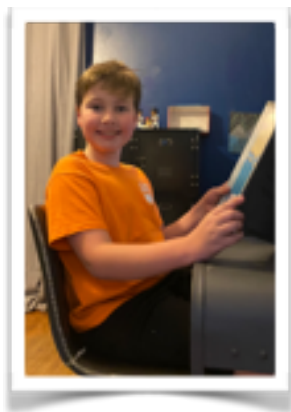
Step 2: Elf freezes in fridge

It was so cold he ran outside as fast as an elf could ever go! He jumped in his Snowspeeder and went home to be an elf maker where he could bring happiness to many boys and girls across the world. As he left, he thought, "I'd rather be home than anywhere else!" **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!**

### Battle of the Month

By: Sam Atha

Hi, my name is Sam, and I like the history of battles. You have probably heard of the battles of Pearl Harbor and D-Day, but have you heard of the Battle of the Bulge? Let me tell you about it.



After the success of D-day, the Allies were marching to Western Germany to take back lost territory. On the way to Germany, they met the Germans several times, but The Battle of the Bulge was

Hitler's last major offensive against the Western Front. The battle lasted for six long weeks, starting on December 16, 1944, and ending on January 25, 1945. One reason for the lengthy battle was the weather.

When they reached the Ardennes Forest in Belgium, the temperatures were frigid. The name, Bulge, comes from how the Germans moved the Allies apart: it looked like a bulge. The battle took a large toll, an astonishing 181,000 deaths in total. But the Germans were ultimately harmed, which paved the way to Allied victory in World War II.

I hope you learned something about this battle.

URL: <https://britannica.com/event/Battle-of-the-Bulge>

### Holiday Word Search

By: Alexander Kim

X P Q S E E K P S Z S C S A E  
B D O P T N O G C N H A N A G  
H A K K U N A H O R A W O B Y  
Z K I O A Z E W I V N W W P Y  
I S B D Y X B S M O Q S R Y X  
V S E O N A T E E G E A X M N  
R Z D K L M K H L R T A O T A  
E L K L A A N V Q S P W D L M  
E N S S B L V S K I K Q T H W  
D Y F R X A F Y W F E Q P Y O  
N O L Q T H N W J D Y F J O N  
I Q Z N K Y I A O S X I H N S  
E R A O G L C K B N L Y L V P  
R S S Y B L Z Q Y G S A I V A  
D R A O B W O N S F V Z Y M V

Christmas	Hanukkah	Presents	
Reindeer	Santa	Ski	
Slay	Snow	Snowballs	
Snowboard	Snowflakes	Snowman	Star

# Winter Holiday Word Search

By: Emma Goldstein

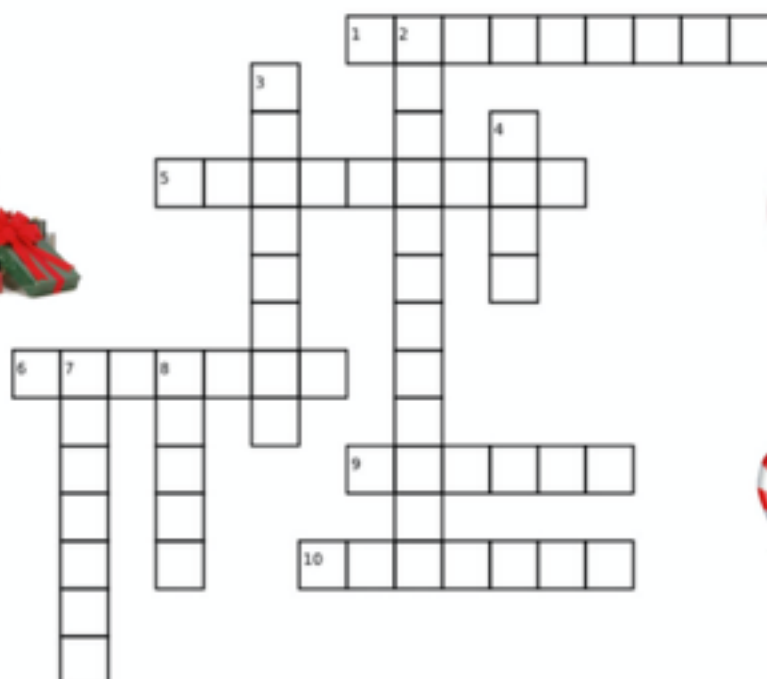
UNITY	WINTER	CHRISTMAS	DREIDEL	GELT
GIFT	HANUKKAH	HOLIDAYS	KWANZA	MENORAH
MISTLETOE	ORNAMENT	PRESENTS	SANTA	SNOWBALL
		SNOWFLAKE	SNOWMAN	

VVANPBM  
 VZRUYLRDI  
 JKFHDLQBXRE  
 OMFTWYYWUDH  
 XSSCQGFADKI  
 HPIHHABZGWZ  
 PYZRVFLKLOX  
 KMIRRYEXD  
 RIGLSRQHHJAAD  
 ERENQTUBWIGPWZP  
 DHWASUMAFUNSSFMZM  
 INGWEVAXOIHWNDUG  
 JMIZMGUSOPKABZPDVIA  
 HBAQEIZEJCWHRFBIBFQ  
 GNHZNFQZPGFPWSBUBTV  
 JLKPOOYWYRBIVNFFKQE  
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 JGNEFDIMRNEAZBE  
 XUNZNAXZPETIKPIEL  
 WWDVLTHYSNSADEGXRST  
 XSVEWTJMSZFEUEQYOKFAU  
 IEJMMSDBEZGNMLONNSSEX  
 WSATXPRIVMILTEBFFNFIBUR  
 JYKFCCUVXYENSQXGAEUYJOA  
 ILETUCRLIJALXCHMFUXPJUB  
 NGVYFWBIJJBVSNOWBALLKNG  
 BHSXFWGNGMECHHOQFCHKWIO  
 RWMISTLETOESHVFGGGRATX  
 XXXEVONXANPAGDRIHUONY  
 PPXTPLAQWINTERAWTPJZU  
 NKRHJRVTREROHMNFPGA  
 AAJTVACXOSEVQDJQC  
 IEGKUHANUKKAHCF  
 XCPJZWVQJQJ





## Holiday Crossword Puzzle



### Down:

2. a hot brown liquid
3. something that hangs from a tree
4. white fluffy particles of precipitation
7. all the other rain deer loved him
8. another name for Saint Nick

### Across:

1. a holiday on 12-25-21
5. a red and white hard, tasty candy
6. another word for gift
9. a group of relative
10. a Jewish top

By: Evelyn Watson

## The Really, Really Itchy Sweater

By: Samuel Arrayo and Alexander Beddar



## Christmas Comes

By: Jack Bridges

