

Holiday Crafts 4 Kids

The Only Magazine for Kids, Parents and Teachers

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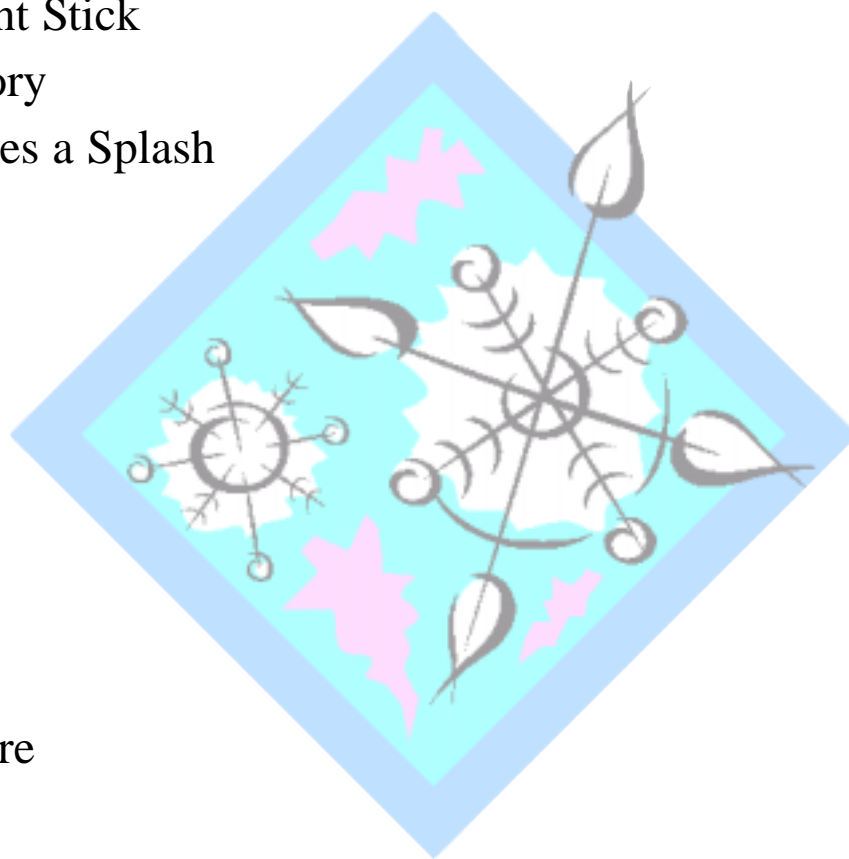
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Winter Wonderland



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A Surprise Visitor for Christmas

By Nancy Castaneda

My Gosh what had happen inside the cabin while we were gone? George scrambled to his feet and just stared at the horrible mess. What are mom and dad going to say when they get home? About that moment, the door flung open and dad and mom stood silent looking around. The look on there face said it all I was in trouble.

"You do not understand!" George pleaded, as he carefully walked up to them. "I did not do this. I barely got home five minutes before you. When I walked in the door, I tripped on the Christmas tree. It was already lying on the floor. Honestly, you have to believe me." He tried to convince them.

As they took a closer look around, they noticed tiny animal tracks in the spilled flour.

"It was some animal," Dad said grinning. "Sorry we blamed you son. Do you forgive us enough to try to help us clean this mess up so we can enjoy Christmas Eve."

I wanted to get all the formalities of Christmas Eve over with so we rushed to clean the cabin ate Christmas Eve dinner and went to straight to bed. I wanted to get up early to open presents. It seemed like only minutes that I had drifted off that a heard a ruckus down below my loft. I heard paper crumpling and glass shattering. Then as I lay there longer, I heard tiny footprints on top of the cabin.

My heart begun to race as I laid there with

my head covered. Could it be Santa Claus I thought. If it was he, I sure did not want him to know I was awake.

Minutes turned into hours and the noise continued. I was beginning to worry that maybe Santa forgot how to get back up the chimney. What if he ate too many cookies and milk and he was too fat now? George tiptoed out of bed and over to the loft rails and knelt down. When he did, he could not see anyone there. Is Santa Claus invisible? he thought.



George was curious so he tiptoed halfway down the stairs. He looked at the side table and saw the cookies were half eaten. The milk glass spilled all over on the table. Maybe Santa was sick of milk after visiting too many houses.

Suddenly a Christmas present flew in the air and the paper wrapping scrunched then the tree started shaking. Out of fear,

George ran back to his bed. Did Santa Clause think I was spying on him?

Not long after that, the noise stopped so I figured Santa found a way out. I drifted back to sleep hoping that Santa was not too mad that I was spying on him.

The next morning seemed like an eternity in coming. I had overslept from being up most of the night. I could smell the hot fruity Christmas punch mom always made. We always had a light breakfast with cinnamon toast to go with the punch.

I dashed down stairs and rushed to the table. The faster I devoured my breakfast the sooner I could open presents.

When breakfast was over and I ran over to the beautiful sparkling wrapped gifts under the tree. Huge bows covered the packages. I started to open the biggest present when suddenly something fell out of the tree and landed on top of the present. I screamed, mom screamed, and dad yelled, "What is that creature?"

The big gray, furry, squirrel hunched down because it was so scared. Then it finally gained enough courage and jumped down and squeezed through a half opened door

that was for wood for the fireplace. The space went outside so you did not have to bring wood through the cabin and get the floors all dirty.

I looked under the tree and saw a whole bunch of nuts covering the tree skirt. The squirrel had been taking the nuts from the big bowl that we sat out two days before to munch on as a snack during the Christmas holiday.

I guess our surprise visitor liked a warm fire and chestnuts for Christmas. In addition, he felt at home in the tree. I wonder was he the one that scared Santa Claus last night.



Memorable Handprint Menorah

By Nancy Cavanaugh

This year for Hanakkah make this quick and easy menorah using your handprint. Make one every year to see how big you've grown.

What you need:

- 2 clean hands
- Newspaper
- Finger paint
- 2 heavy-duty paper plates or foil pie plates
- White construction paper

What to do:

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Cover your work area with newspaper. Pour a dark-colored paint onto two paper plates or foil pie plates. Place them side by side.

3. Put the sheet of white construction paper on the newspaper.

4. Put one hand in each plate of paint. Carefully lift hands out of paint, link thumbs together so they overlap (they will make the center candle), and place both hands down on construction paper with fingers spread out (see picture below).

5. Wash your hands and dry them completely. Dip your thumb into yellow paint and dab a "flame" at the top of each candle.



Blast Off Satellite Recycle Station

By Douglas Shone

Your mission is to build a Satellite Recycle Station with easily found recycle scrap. You can have lots of fun playing 'pick up and repair satellites' while making loud rocket sounds when you blast off into the solar system and outer space.

12 paperclips (6 different color pairs)
Blunt nose scissors
Colored marking pens
Tape
Nail clippers
Craft glue

What you need:

- 1 cardboard box (about 16" cubical with 4 closing top flaps)
- 1 clean take-out styrofoam food carton
- 1 clean TV dinner carton or muffin carton (remove top)
- 12 empty clean coffee creamer cups

What to do:

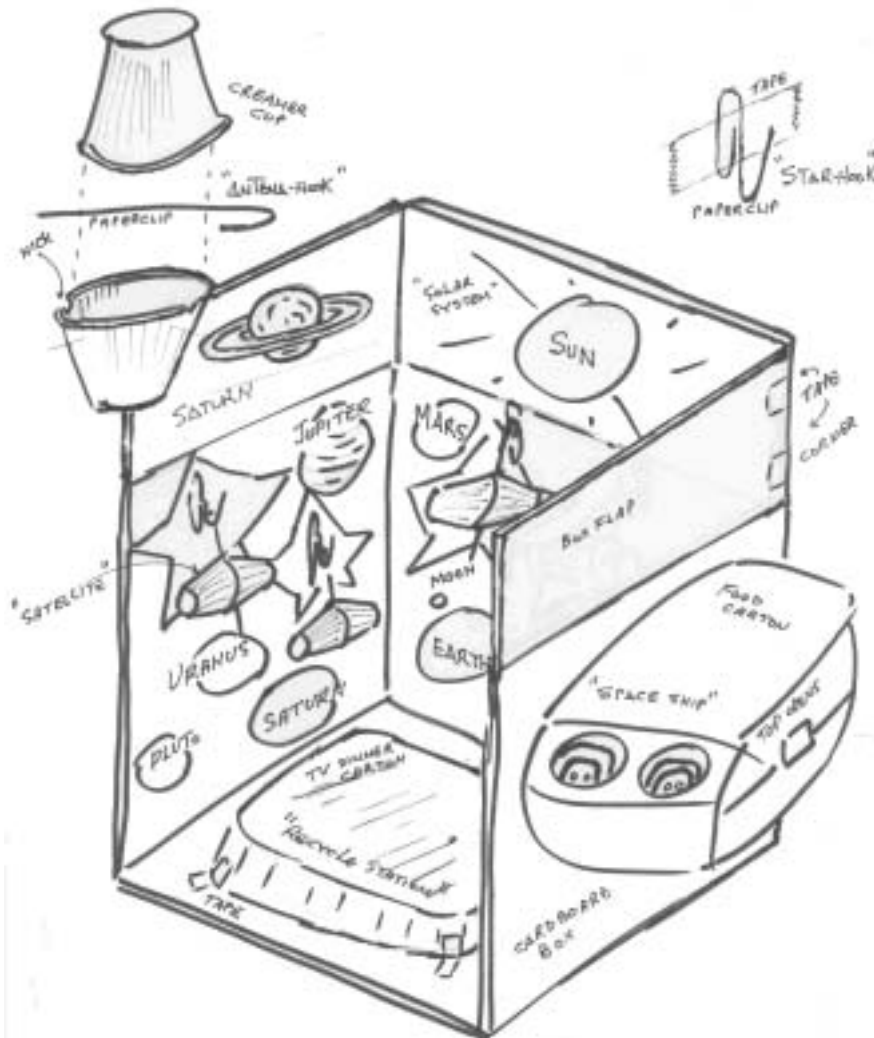
1. Make your pretend solar system from a cardboard box. Cut the entire front and attached top flap away from the box with scissors. Stand the remaining three top flaps up and tape two back corners. Draw a big round sun on the back flap inside.

2. The food carton is your pretend space ship. Draw two big round windows on the opening top. Draw Astronaut's half moon helmets in the windows. With a thin marker, carefully draw eyes in the helmets.

3. Make 6 different colored star-hooks with paperclips. With fingers and thumbs, outwardly twist to make a hook (not bend, see diagram). Put a piece of tape across the 'race track looking' loop. With the hook pointed up, space and stick two star-hooks to each three inside box walls. Draw a big star around six star-hooks.

Look up 'planets' in a dictionary: See names of nine planets that orbit around our sun. Draw nine circles in-between your stars and print each planets name. Draw a little moon beside Earth.

4. The TV diner or muffin carton



is your Satellite Recycle Station. Tape it up side down, under the stars, on the bottom of the box (inside).

5. Make satellite antenna-hooks from the other six paperclips. Leave a hook at one end and straighten out the clip (see diagram on page 6).

6. Make one satellite first. Line up twelve empty creamer cups. Put every second cup up side down. On the rim of one right-side-up cup, with nail clippers, clip tiny 'V' nicks, the same width as the antenna-hook, and right across from each other.

Lay a straightened-out antenna-hook into the cup rim nicks. Put one glue drop on each nick, and two more drops evenly spaced on the cup rim. Put an up-side-down cup right on top, locking the antenna. Assemble five more satellites and let glue dry.

7. Put six satellites inside your space ship, and fly right into the solar system.

8. Open the space ship while you hover, and hang satellites with their antenna-hooks

Imagination Time!

What would you do if these things happened? Write a story about it.

- Our satellite near Jupiter is not sending a signal back to Earth. Your mission is to collect the broken satellite with your space ship and fix it at your Recycle Station, then rocket the repaired satellite back into space.

- Mars requires a new satellite. Bring the old model back to Earth and return to space with the new satellite design.

- The Saturn satellite needs its antenna turned around. You will need to 'space walk' in your space suit to perform this dangerous task.

on matching color star-hooks.

Mission successful, now land your space ship right on the Satellite Recycle Station with loud retro-rocket sounds.

Riddling Fun for Everyone

By Lyn Sirota

1. Girls talk the least amount of time in what month?

2. Why is an argument like a bargain?

3. What doesn't speak but requires many answers?

4. What has a mouth but doesn't ever eat?

5. Why are authors strange creatures?

6. In what situation can a pig learn to write?

7. Why shouldn't you ever tell secrets in a cornfield?

8. Which letters of the alphabet start the

most arguments?

9. What do you frequently hold, but never touch?

10. What do the letter D, and a boy in time-out have in common?

Answers: 1. February because it's the shortest month. 2. Because it takes two to make one. 3. The doorbell. 4. A river. 5. Because tails (tales) grow in their heads. 6. When he is turned into his pen. 7. Because there are so many ears there. 8. The T's (tease) 9. Your tongue. 10. They both make Ma Mad.

Barkley's Christmas Rescue

By Virginia Smith

Barkley was a young Adelie Penguin. He lived in a large colony in Antarctica. Barkley loved to swim and slide down snowy hills on his belly. Sometimes he liked to go exploring alone. With thousands of penguins around all the time, he needed quiet time by himself.

One day, Barkley wandered too far. He was having so much fun sledding, he didn't realize how far he had gone. When he started getting hungry, he decided to head home. But which way was home?

Barkley looked around for a sign of where he had come from, but there were so many hills that he had slid down, he couldn't tell.

He was scared and lonely. He really missed his family. Not knowing what else to do, he sat down in a snow drift hoping someone would

come looking for him. It was getting dark. Soon Barkley was fast asleep.

He was awakened by a voice. "Hello, little one. What are you doing out here all alone?"

Barkley looked up to find a big human in a red suit. "Who are you?"

"I'm Santa Claus. I was flying over when I spotted you and thought you might need help."

"I was playing and got lost. I can't find my way home."

"I might be able to help with that. I saw your family not far from here. I'll take you home."

Santa gave Barkley a ride on his sleigh. His family was very glad to see him. After that day, Barkley never wandered away from his family again.



The Snowman

By Jeanette Marchand

Last night I made a snowman;
It stood over six feet tall!
This morning I went to play with him,
But the snowman was just a snowball.

My mom had over-dressed it -
A down parka, wool scarf and hat.
My poor snowman had overheated
And was no longer tall and fat.

My mom stared at the snowball
Her brown eyes wide with glee,
She grabbed the leftover snowman
And threw it right at me!



Snowman on a Peppermint Stick

From www.holidaycrafts4kids.com

What you need:

- 1 Peppermint candy stick (not a candy cane)
- 1 sheet black craft foam
- 1 sheet white craft foam
- 1 piece of Christmas ribbon
- 2 inch circle
- 2 1/2 inch circle
- 3 inch circle
- Hole puncher
- Glue
- Scissors



cut out. Punch holes in the middle of each circle. You can use a bottle cap, a glass or bowls for your pattern.

2. Draw a top hat (use pattern) onto the black craft foam and cut out. Glue hat to small circle.

3. Punch out black dots with hole punch and glue, like buttons, on the 2" circle, 1/2" from the edge. Glue black dots for eyes and mouth on small circle.

4. Thread large circle then medium circle then the small circle onto the peppermint stick.

5. Tie ribbon between small and medium circle. Leave space between circles.

What to do:

1. Trace circles onto craft foam and

A Timeless Christmas Story

By Nancy Cavanaugh

Christmas Oranges

Linda Bethers

Ben Sowards

Publisher: Covenant Communications

ISBN: 1591560985

A few weeks ago I glimpsed the cover of a new Christmas tale and knew that I needed to have the book if only for the gorgeous illustrations. Upon reading the book I also discovered a wonderful retelling of a story that is truly timeless.

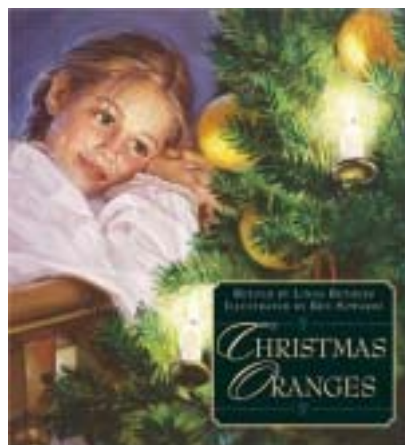
"Christmas Oranges" is the tale of an orphan girl named Rose who must endure much cruelty from the headmaster at

the orphanage she is forced to live in. The story tells how the other children that share her plight make a special effort to make sure that she also receives an orange on

Christmas morning and make sure Rose discovers the true spirit of the holiday.

The life that Rose must live is one that no one would want to see a child have to endure, but the generosity of the other children in the book overcomes that and delivers a message that everyone from little ones to adults can learn

from. I definitely recommend adding this book to your list when you go out shopping.



"Chizzy's Topsy Tale" Makes a Splash

By Shannon Bennett

Chizzy's Topsy Tale

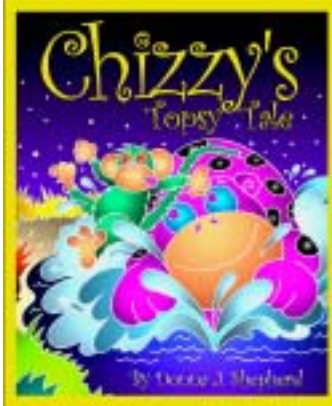
Donna J. Shepard, author

Kevin Scott Collier, illustrator

In *Chizzy's Topsy Tale* by Donna J. Shepard, we meet Chizzy, a monkey who learns a valuable lesson. Chizzy is put to bed by Chizzy's mom in the branch of a tree. Despite the warning from the mother, Chizzy is lured away for fun by a good friend. Being a good little monkey, Chizzy starts to feel guilty and tells the good friend that they should head back. On their way back the two friends discover just how scary and dark jungle can be. After a mishap in the jungle, Chizzy must go all dripping wet, back to the safe dry tree.

Donna J. Shepard does an excellent job at showing a valuable lesson in an enjoyable way. Despite how we might try to behave,

sometimes we make poor decisions. We can learn from these though, just like Chizzy did. From a parent's point of view, it's nice to see that Chizzy's parent wants the best for Chizzy, and shows this love through boundaries set for her little one.



The illustrations by Kevin Scott Collier are bright and beautiful. They can capture the eye of the reader as well as the one on the lap as the story is read to them. Also included is a wonderful bonus hidden picture page by Liz Ball. *Chizzy's Topsy Tale* is an enjoyable book that offers a timeless lesson in a flowing, colorful, and thoughtful way.

You can download this free e-book at www.topsyturvyland.com as well as Shepard's other book *Topsy Turvy Land*, which is also illustrated by Kevin Scott Collier.

The Dreidel Song

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play

CHORUS

*Oh dreidel dreidel dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play*

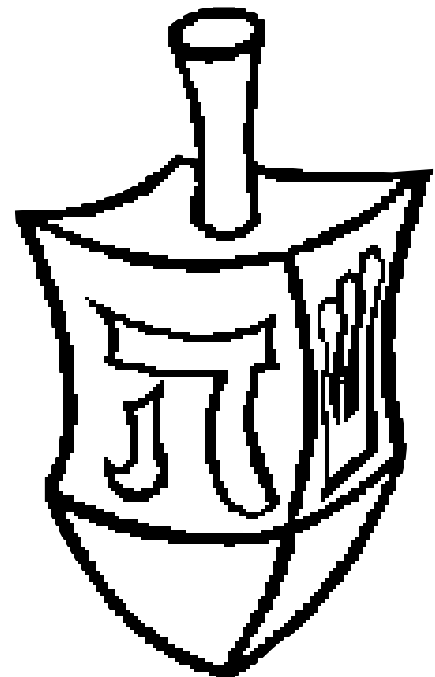
With legs so short and thin
And when it is so tired
It drops and then I win!

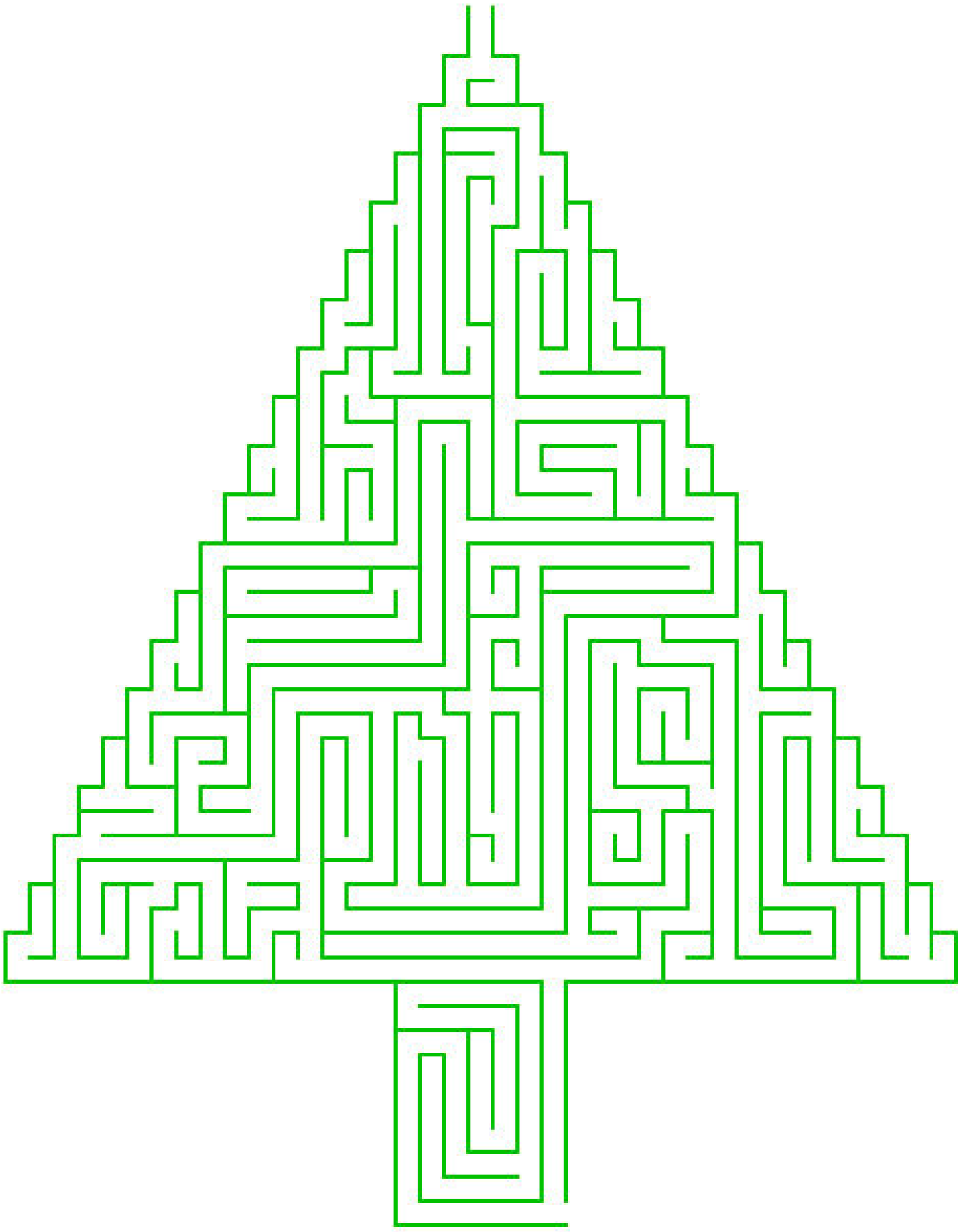
CHORUS

My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin!

It has a lovely body

CHORUS











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Zuhuv

Doug Shone has had a career in design, research and development, which has allowed imaginative creations to come easily. He has worked at Ottawa-Carleton Board of Education, retired from technology department head, teacher, curriculum development and writing.

Shannon Bennett lives in Washington with her husband and two children. She loves writing, drawing and reading. She also enjoys being able to teach in the Pioneer Club.

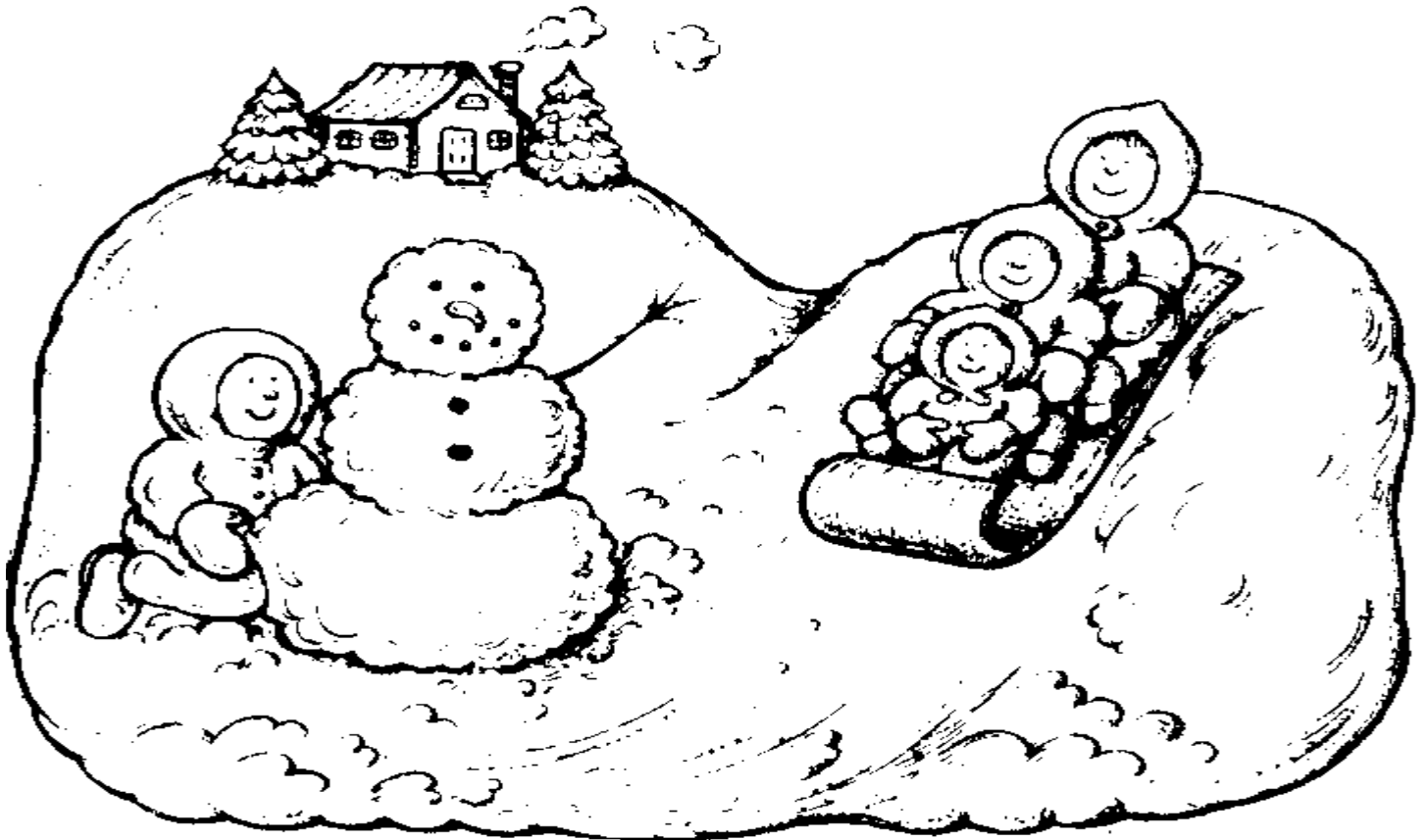
Nancy Castaneda has had a few poems published. She is currently taking a writing course at the Institute of Children's Literature. Nancy is trying a whole new realm. She loves kids and wants to continue writing for them. She is currently in the process of trying to have a children's book published. Nancy believe that kids need more quality books in their reach.

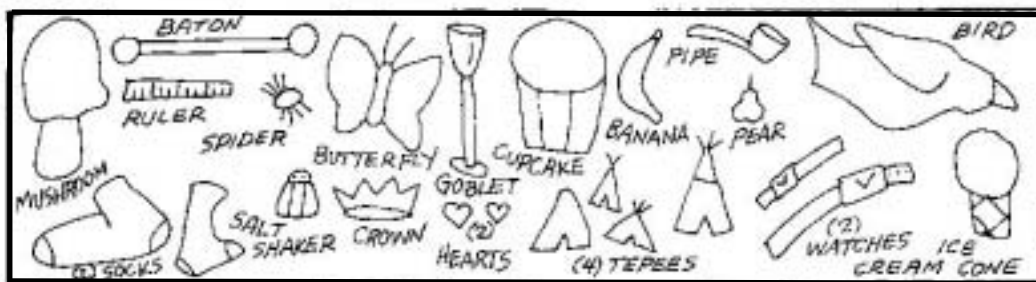
Jeanette Marchand is a mother of four.

She loves volunteering at her kids' school in the kindergarten class. She is also a volunteer in the school's Strong Start program which helps children ages 5 - 6 prepare for reading in grade one. Jeanette has been previously published in Wee Ones Magazine.

Lyn Sirota is an active member of her local and national Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She writes content for their website and coordinate the New Jersey critique groups. Her publishing credits include articles and poetry in Wee Ones, Saplings, Boy's Quest, Hopscotch, Ladybug, Spider, Dragonfly Spirit, Holiday Crafts 4 Kids and Nature Friend magazines. As a graduate of the Institute of Children's Literature, she has also been accepted into their advanced writing program.

Virginia Smith is a from Cairo, Kentucky. She started writing bedtime stories for family at 13. With their encouragement, she is making writing her career.





By Liz Ball

Find more hidden pictures at www.hidden-pictures.com