



NEWSPAPER

THE ART OF GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING: TIPS & TRICKS TO THE PERFECT EDIBLE MASTERPEICE

By: Gwenn Staveness Grade 8

Making a Gingerbread house is a favorite Christmas tradition for many families. Here I will give you some tips and tricks to making an awesome edible masterpiece!

There are many ways to begin. You can purchase a kit for the walls or use gingerbread mix, graham crackers or cookies. To hold the walls in place, use a sugary icing as a glue.

- Rocks or Schrubs: Gumdrops or Dots
- Log Cabin: Pretzel Rods
- Light Poles: candy Canes
- Benches or Wood: Kit Kat Bar
- Pebbles: Skittles
- Leafs: M&M's
- Stone Walkway: Milk Duds
- Tree Stumps: Reeses Cups
- Additional Logs: Twix
- Snowy Ground: Coconut Flakes

You can use just about any candies to decorate your gingerbread house scene. Get creative this Christmas and build a gingerbread house!



Christmas Memoir

By: Emma Hewitt . Grade 6



It's Christmas again, and we have to practice our Christmas concert songs. I don't even know half of the songs that we're supposed to perform and my class is no help. Also, I still have to pick out my Christmas concert outfit. I don't want to be too dressed up or too low-key. Of course, I forgot to get my parents a Christmas present. But, when I do, how will I wrap it? I will just put it in a bag. I don't know how to wrap a present anyway.

Oh no, today is the name drawing for Secret Santa today. I hope I get someone that likes anything. A girl would be easy because I know a lot of things that girls like. But I don't know what to get a boy. Of course, I drew a boy. I could just get them a Hot Wheel or something like that, nothing mushy. I don't want to risk them thinking I like them.

Time to decorate the tree. I love putting all of my ornaments on from when I was little. Mom says if I also want to bake Christmas cookies, I have to clean my room. My room is as messy as a dumpster! This will take me a while. I think I have an army of headbands that I found and 3 lip glosses under my bed. Done! I can finally bake cookies. I make an angel, snowman, santa, and a gingerbread man. They smell amazing!

Dinner today for Christmas Eve is at my grandma's. I hope there are mashed potatoes, they're my favorite and I am so hungry.

Christmas day is tomorrow! I cannot wait! But it's only 3:00am so it's going to be a looong night...

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!

I rush to the tree and the family rubs their eyes awake.

OH MY GOODNESS! I GOT A NEW PHONE FOR CHRISTMAS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

Should text my crush 'Merry Christmas'. What if he thinks I am weird or clingy or stops talking to me? What if he blocks me?! I don't know what to do? I am just going to do it.

No.. I can't. Okay, I'm doing it. Wait, no. Yes. I am just going to have to click send.

Take a deep breath. Okay, 3-2-1...sent.

This was the best Christmas ever!

~A Middle School Christmas Memoir



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By: Brant Petzke, Grade 6

This month we are spotlighting **Clare McReath**. Clare is in first grade. She enjoys playing hockey & football and hunting. She loves eating tacos, her favorite food. Clare's favorite color is red. Her favorite things to learn about in school are Social Studies, gym class and recess.

BOOK RECCOMMENDATIONS

By: Colton Belschner, Grade 7

Reading has so many great benefits for you and it's also a fun thing to do to pass time. Here are some amazing books to read in your spare time:

1st-2nd Grade: *The Snowy Day* by: Ezra Jack Keets

This is a cute book about a young boy who tries to save a snowball until the next day.

3rd-4th Grade: *The Polar Express* by: Chris Van Allsburg

This book follows a young boy on a train ride to the North Pole, while he learns about the true meaning of Christmas.

5th-6th Grade: *Elf* by: Art Ruiz

This hilarious book is about an adult Elf who travels to NYC to meet his dad and his funny adventures along the way.

7th-8th Grade: *Home Alone* by: Todd Strasser

This book is about a young boy who is forgotten at home during Christmas Break and has to fight off burglars through humorous ways.

I hope you enjoy reading this month's recommended Christmas books!



The Spirit of GIVING

By: Brayden Fisher, Grade 7

This Holiday season is the perfect time to help volunteer in the spirit of giving.

During this school year, Knight students have volunteered by creating games and supplies for Box of Balloons, a birthday party non-profit, helping with distribution at local Craft Fairs, and serving at the community Thanksgiving dinner. If you are moved to get involved this holiday season, here are some things you can do to volunteer:

If you are unable to donate much of your time, you can get into the spirit of giving by donating gifts for those in need, to make their holiday extra special. I highly encourage you to get involved over the holidays and give back to the community.

- ✱ Ring Bells for Charity
- ✱ Help Shoveling
- ✱ Offer to walk pets
- ✱ Volunteer to read stories to youth or elderly

THE SCIENCE OF SNOWFLAKES

By: Bodee McReath,
Grade 6

There is so much science behind how snowflakes are created. It all begins when a rain cloud forms and it starts to rain high in the sky. When the weather is cool enough, a snowflake begins to form! When an extremely cold water droplet freezes onto a pollen or dust particle in the sky, a snowflake will build. Then, as the snowflake falls, it becomes bigger and bigger. Depending on the temperature outside and how big the rain droplet is, you get different snow consistencies. For example, packing snow for building a snowman or powder snow that is best for sledding!

Did you know that every snowflake is unique from any other snowflake?
Just like how we are all so unique and special!

Favorite Christmas Songs

Santa Claus is Coming to Town
20%

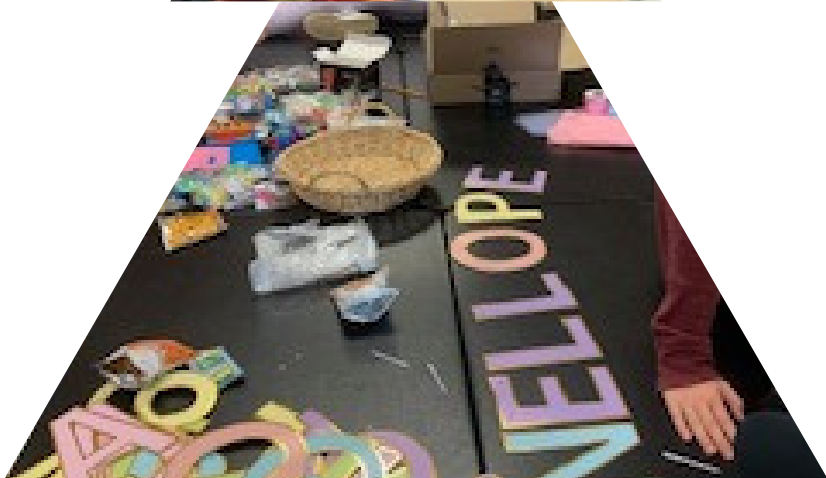
O Holy Night
20%

Jingle Bells
20%

Silent Night
20%

Joy to the World
20%

Polled: St. Mary Students



REMEMBER OUR MISSION



KNIGHTS STRIVE TO BE
SPIRITUAL
SCHOLASTIC
SOCIAL

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE THINGS TO DO IN THE CLASSROOM OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

“One of my favorite ways to celebrate in my classroom is for everyone to wear comfy pj’s, watch a Christmas movie, and exchange funny gifts.” Mrs. Mayne

“Enjoying the Christmas program!”

“Playing lots of Christmas tunes!”

WHAT IS THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT YOU COULD GIVE TO SOMEONE?

“A home.” Caroline, Grade 3

“Probably, something they wanted because if they were nice to people they deserved it.” Clare, Grade 4

“Ummm... Love!” Pieper, Grade 4

WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS?

“Jesus and the spirit of giving.” Jake, Grade 7

“Family.” Nathaniel, Grade 5

“Family, giving gifts, and Jesus birthday!” Ainsley, Grade 4

“An opportunity to pause and give thanks for the love, hope and joy found in Jesus.” Layla, Grade 6

IF YOU COULD CREATE A NEW HOLIDAY TRADITION, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

“If I could create a new holiday tradition, it would be that I would make it so that everybody has to give a high five.” Kaleb, Grade 6

“To have a Christmas Cookie baking contest!” Abbie, Grade 6

“I want to have an annual snowmobile race!” Vincent, Grade 8

IF YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF DECORATING THE NORTH POLE, WHAT WOULD YOU ADD TO MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL?

“Glitter.” Will, Grade 8

“Lots of lights!” Landon, Grade 2

“A chocolate fountain!” Anna, Grade 6

IF YOU COULD’VE GIVEN BABY JESUS A BIRTHDAY GIFT WHEN HE WAS BORN, WHAT WOULD IT HAVE BEEN AND WHY?

“I don’t know...that I get to play sports.” Teddy, Grade 4

“A blankie to keep him warm.” Vincent, Grade 8

“Cookies, because babies love cookies.” Noah, Grade 6

“Love & Happiness because he doesn’t care about objects.” Emma, Grade 6

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT GIVING- THOUGHTS, FUNNY STORYS, FUNNY GIFT IDEAS?

“I would like to give someone a taco as a white elephant gift.” -Abby, Grade 7

“It would be funny to get someone a dog...” -Bodee, Grade 7

“Best gift would be to get them Taylor Swift tickets!” -Colton, Grade 7



THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

THE BIRTH OF JESUS



MINI DEVOTION

Christmas isn't just about the cool decorations and awesome gifts; it's about something way more amazing—the birth of Jesus! Imagine, over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, a baby named Jesus came into the world. God sent Him to show us how much He loves us and to bring light into our lives.

Now, let's dive into some cool Christmas symbols that actually tie back to Jesus. Take candy canes, for example; their shape reminds us of the letter "J" for Jesus, and the red and white colors symbolize His purity and the sacrifice He made for us. Christmas trees, with their evergreen branches, can remind us of God's everlasting love, and the star on top is like the one that guided the wise men to Jesus. Even gifts have a special meaning; they represent the ultimate gift—Jesus Himself!

So, as you enjoy these festive symbols, let them be a reminder of the true reason we celebrate Christmas: the incredible love and gift of Jesus in our lives.

Merry Christmas, and keep shining your light just like the star on the Christmas tree!



Dear God,

Thank you for the joy of Christmas and the incredible gift of Jesus. As we celebrate with symbols like candy canes, trees, and gifts, may we remember the true meaning of this season—Your boundless love and the light Jesus brings into our lives.

Amen.



FINISH THE STORY

Christmas Stories

The Case of the Missing Candy Canes

It was a snowy day in the North Pole and Santa and his elves were working hard. Santa was checking his naughty and nice list twice. Mrs. Claus was working hard on the Christmas cookies and her daughter Holly was helping the reindeer. It was Holly's first year helping for Christmas and she was working very hard trying not to mess up. She was getting ready to give the reindeer their candy canes but she noticed that all the candy canes were missing and she started to panic. "This can't be right!" She thought. They were right there a minute ago. She went to the candy cane shop to ask if they had any more. But, the elves looked just as confused as her. Somebody must be stealing the candy canes! Holly ran to tell Santa what happened. Her dad was sitting down looking at some letters that will make it my mission to find the person who took them. Holly lay awake trying to figure out who took the candy canes, just then she noticed a strange light coming from the Reindeer barn. Holly decided to check out the situation. Holly swung open the bar doors and saw...

By: Brooklen Bindl

SNOW DAY SHENANIGANS

My alarm clock was about to go off... But I couldn't wait any longer. It was a snow day! I jumped out of bed with excitement, then went to the kitchen and made some waffles and strawberries. After that, I rushed outside to build a snowman family. Then I ran over to my friend, Jack's house to see if he was home.

I knocked on the door and wait...

"Come on, come , can you come build an igloo with me? "

Jack answered the door, "Yeah,I'll go get my snow pants on".

The two of us went outside and found an area with heaps of snow. Once we found the perfect spot, we started building.

We were using so much snow you could see the grass!

After, what felt like hours, we were finally finished! Every kid in the neighborhood came out to see the coolest igloo ever!

We were so proud of it that we had a great idea. What if we tried making an igloo in our bedroom? We immediately started to grab handfuls of snow and sneak them up to my bedroom...There was so much snow in my room!

But then, all of the snow started melting... We start to panic! We didn't know what to do. I grabbed some towels but all the snow wouldn't absorb. Water started to seep out the door...

By: Layla Drew

The Secret Santa Dilemma

The day had finally arrived. We would be finding out who's name we got for the Secret Santa gift exchange. I was so nervous. I knew I wanted to get someone I knew well. And I wanted someone who knew me best to draw my name. But it was the moment of truth and the assignments were about to be read aloud. I reached into the bowl and drew out the name: "Ronald". Oh, great...I definitely don't know a lot about Ronald except that he eats his boogers and likes to crab walk down the hallway.

I had no idea what to get Ronald. I know he LOVES chicken noodle soup, but I definitely wasn't going to make him soup. Just then, one of my close friends asked me if I wanted to trade who we buy for. "Whose name do you have?" I asked. "Patricia," he replied. OH GREAT, that's my crush! If I buy for Patricia and she doesn't like me gift, she might not like me back! I didn't know what to do....

Figure out more about Ronald or try to impress Patricia?....

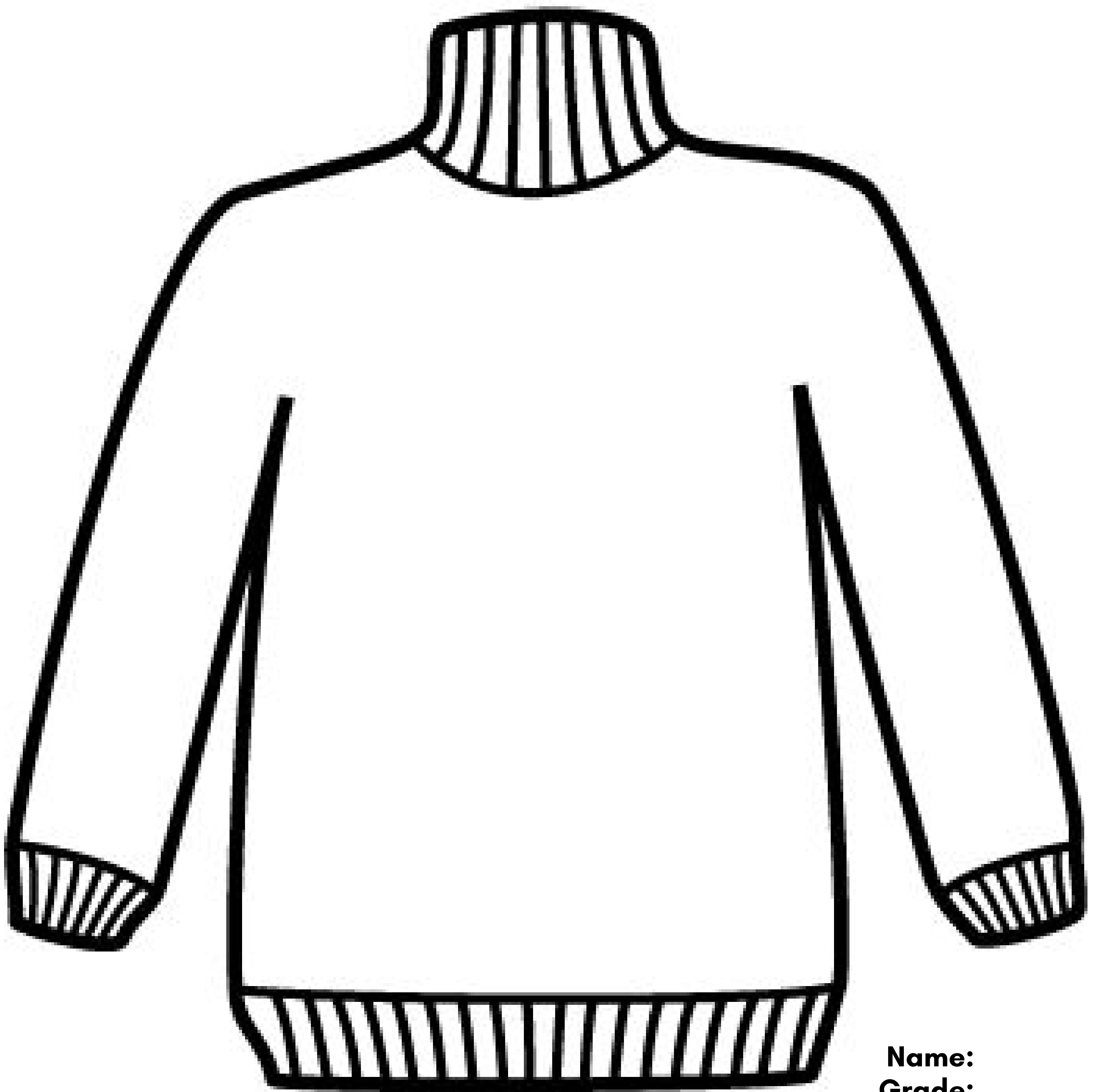
By: Parkar Mael

AFTER READING THESE SHORT EXCERPTS, CAN YOU FINISH THE CRISTMAS STORY?



Christmas Sweater Contest

Decorate the Christmas Sweater & Turn in to Mrs. Mayne by December 11.
There will be winners for the most creative design! You may start from scratch as well!



Name:
Grade: