

Christmas (Celebrations and Festivals)

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Family, Christmas, Traditions

Book Brief: Discover the joy of Christmas with Charlie, Emily, and Lou as they share festive traditions from around the world. Join their holiday fun, from lighting an advent wreath and making Christmas treats to attending a Christmas Eve service and opening presents on Christmas morning.

Author:
Annette Whipple

Illustrator:
Emma Randall



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about Charlie.

Prior Knowledge: Look up a video of the story of Christmas for kids on YouTube.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read today, pay attention to how Charlie and his family celebrate Christmas."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Explain the nativity set.
- Why do people give gifts on Christmas?
- What does the family do at the shelter?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Charlie and his family celebrate with their own Christmas traditions. Explain how they celebrate Christmas.

Extending Our Thinking: Have students complete a themed letter-writing activity ([Dear Santa](#)). This activity allows students to reflect on the story's themes, make personal connections to the holiday traditions presented, and practice early writing skills in an authentic context. By expressing their own wishes, traditions, or acts of kindness, students deepen comprehension, reinforce new vocabulary, and strengthen their ability to communicate ideas through writing.

- Let students explore more stories about Christmas.
 - [The Family Santa Almost Forgot](#) (2023)
 - [A World of Cookies for Santa](#) (2017)
 - [The Adventures of Bella & Harry: Christmas in New York City!](#) (2015)