

Until the Christ Child Came

by
Dandi Daley Mackall

A Kids' Wings Unit for Award-Winning Literature
by Suzy Red



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Kids' Wings Educational Associates
1707 Twin Island Dr.
Lockhart, TX 78644
(512) 558-1121
<http://kidswings.com>

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Until the Christ



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Four Voices

Readers' Theater

Objective: ...present
dramatic interpretations of
experiences, stories

All: It's Christmas!

Voice 1: Christmas trees!

Voice 2: Mistletoe that makes me sneeze!

Voice 3: Presents, too, and sometimes ... snow!

Voice 4: Family and fun with friends we know!

All: I love Christmas!

Voice 1: Christmas carols with jingling bells!

Voice 2: Fancy cookies and cinnamon smells!

Voice 3: Buildings decorated with bright fancy lights!

Voice 4: Everyone hugging and never a fight!

All: Do you know how it started?

Voice 1: Didn't it start with Santa Claus?

Voice 2: Did someone put it in our laws?

Voice 3: I think my grandpa thought of it.

Voice 4: I really don't know, I have to admit.

All: Come read this new Christmas book!

Voice 1: It's in our library! Let's take a look!

Voice 2: It's the story of the first Christmas and a baby so new,

Voice 3: A gift that God sent to me -- and to you!

Voice 4: You see, Christmas didn't begin ...

All: Until the Christ Child Came ... by Dandi Daley Mackall.

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Objectives: ... connect experiences and ideas with those of others through speaking and listening
... use vocabulary to describe clearly ideas, feelings, and experiences
... use prior knowledge to anticipate meaning and make sense of texts

Before and After
Reading

Stepstone Discussion Cards

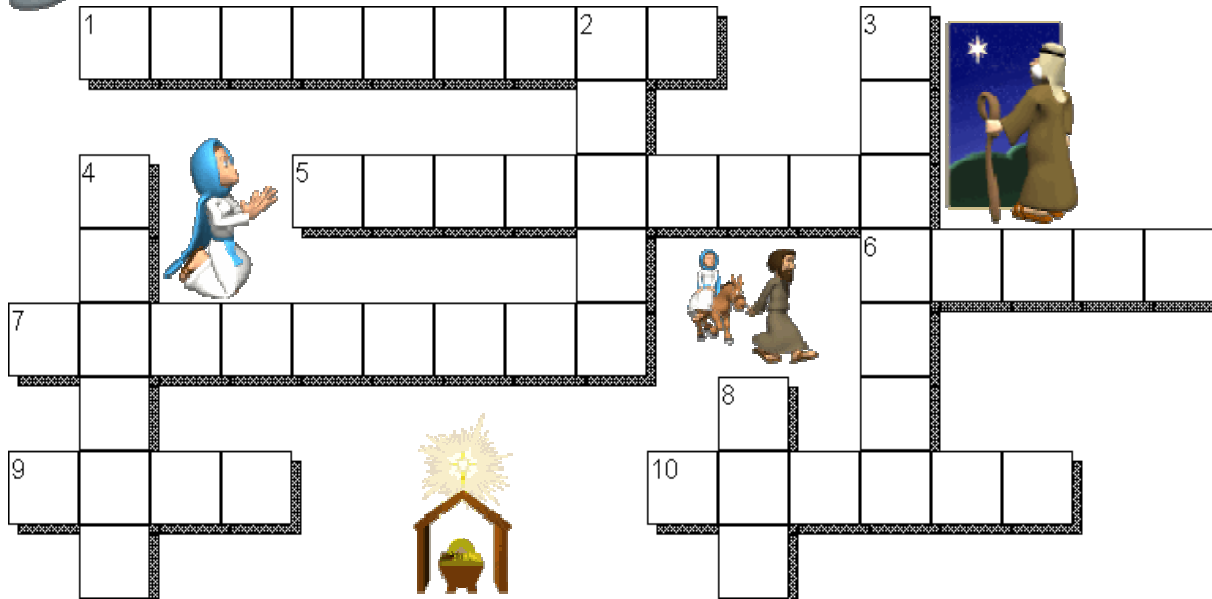
Cut out the cards below. Put them in a stack. Use them as discussion cards. Take turns with your friends. Draw one of the cards. Give your answers. Pass the card to your right around the circle. Listen as each person gives his/her answers. Be ready to comment on each person's answer. The cards are like stepping stones that lead to new ideas.

<p>Tell what you know about how Christmas started.</p> 	<p>Why do many people have an angel on top of their Christmas tree?</p> 
<p>How do you and your family celebrate Christmas?</p> 	<p>Why do you think Santa Claus is so popular at Christmas?</p> 
<p>What Christmas songs tell what it looked like and sounded like when the Christ Child came?</p> 	<p>How was Mary different from most girls?</p> 
<p>How was the Christ Child the same as most babies?</p> 	<p>How was the Christ Child different from most babies?</p> 
<p>Why did God send the Christ Child?</p> 	<p>Tell something that makes the coming of the Christ Child different from the coming of other babies.</p> 

Objectives: ... use vocabulary to describe clearly ideas, feelings, and experiences
 ... develop vocabulary through reading
 ... demonstrate knowledge of synonyms, antonyms



Christmas Words



ACROSS CLUES:

1. The first people who came to see the baby
5. A person who builds with wood
6. The one who told Mary about God's plan
7. The town where the Christ Child was born
9. The building where the Christ Child was born
10. The man who took care of Mary

DOWN CLUES:

2. The place where Joseph saw the angel
3. What Mary called God's message
4. The man who sent the message that made Joseph leave Galilee
8. The Christ Child's father

Word Bank

ANGEL	CARPENTER	MIRACLE	GOD
BARN	SHEPHERDS	JOSEPH	CAESAR
BETHLEHEM	DREAM		

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Objectives: ... participate in rhymes, songs, conversations, and discussions
... produce rhyming words and distinguish rhyming words from non-rhyming words
... use alphabetical order to locate information

Finding the Poem's Rhyming Pattern

As you read or listen to the first four pages of Until the Christ Child Came, choose the word in the right column that comes at the **end** of each line. Write it in the blanks. Then, find the pattern! Draw the illustrations in the boxes.

First Page

Words in Alphabetical Order

- behind
- bride
- brings
- carpenter
- designed
- face
- fright
- kings
- lace
- mind
- night
- place
- prayer
- right
- room
- things
- wings
- womankind

Second Page

Third Page

Fourth Page

What other pattern can you find in the book?

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Objectives: ... discuss meanings of words and develop vocabulary through meaningful/concrete experiences
... use prior knowledge to anticipate meaning and make sense of texts

Until...

The author of **Until the Christ Child Came**, used the word, "until" to introduce something that had to happen first. Cut out the phrases on the right. Then read the sentence starters in the column on the left. Put a cut-out under each sentence starter. Read the completed sentence. Can you make all of the sentences make sense before you glue them on? Don't glue them on UNTIL they all make sense.

We cannot wrap our presents until--

You can't put the star on top until--

Santa Claus won't come until--

I can't put icing on the cookies until--

We can't play with our toys until--

We don't get our vacation until--

Santa's sleigh doesn't fly until--



Cut these out:

we go to sleep.

we buy a tree.

I bake them.

we go shopping.

we wake up.

**he hitches up his
reindeer.**

school is out.

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Class-dictated
Writing

Objectives: ... write in different forms for different purposes such as letters to invite or thank
... use basic capitalization and punctuation correctly

First Draft: One Thing I Love About Christmas

Make a list of things your students love about Christmas. Let your class choose ONE of those things. Write a story together about the first time you ever remember seeing or hearing that thing. Ask questions and record their answers on the overhead projector: Where were you? Who was with you? Tell about what you saw or heard. How did you feel? Why is it special to you now?

Make intentional mistakes, encouraging students to point out better ways to write it and showing them editing techniques. After you finish writing your class story, have students recopy it perfectly.

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Objectives: ... write in different forms for different purposes such as letters to invite or thank
... use basic capitalization and punctuation correctly

Final Draft:: One Thing I Love About Christmas

Recopy your story after you have fixed all of the mistakes on your First Draft.

A writing area consisting of ten horizontal lines. The left and right sides are decorated with a vertical border of green holly leaves. At the bottom, there is a decorative horizontal border of holly leaves.

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Recopy your edited story about your favorite place in the world.

Objectives: ... write in different forms for different purposes such as letters to invite or thank ... use basic capitalization and punctuation correctly

Final Draft: My Favorite Place To Go At Christmas

A large writing area with a decorative border. The border is made of a thick black line with small dots along its path. At the top left and bottom right corners, there are illustrations of two candy canes tied together with a ribbon. The writing area consists of ten horizontal lines.

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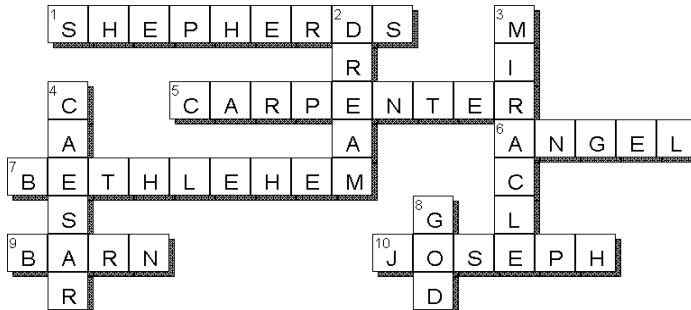


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Answer Page

Page 3: Christmas Words



Page 4: Finding the Poem's Rhyming Pattern

First Page

carpenter
face
lace
place

Second Page

room
wings
things
kings
brings

Third Page

bride
designed
womankind
behind
mind

Fourth Page

prayer
fright
night
right

Page 5: Until...

Answers may vary

We cannot wrap our presents until--we go shopping.

You can't put the star on top until--we buy a tree.

Santa Claus won't come until--we go to sleep.

I can't put icing on the cookies until--I bake them.

We can't play with our toys until--we wake up.

We don't get our vacation until--school is out.

Santa's sleigh doesn't fly until--he hitches up his reindeer.