

A Shed Full of Christmassy Questions



A set of questions to use with the
films and animations in The
Christmas Shed

www.literacyshed.com

A shed full of Christmassy questions

Introduction

This ebook includes questions to be used with specific films that can be found on the Literacy Shed. www.literacyshed.com

The questions are not an exhaustive list and can be used as part of a guided reading session or as a shared reading session with the whole class. The point of these questions is to immerse the children in the narrative, allowing them to think about and discuss the thoughts and feelings of both the characters and the director or animator.

This process can take place over the course of a single session or over a number of sessions depending on the needs of the pupils and also how much of the film you would like to reveal to your pupils prior to specific writing tasks.

The most important question is one which I have not included in the prompts and it is this:

‘How do you know?’

This question should follow almost every question you ask. We are trying to develop our pupil’s skills in comprehension during these exercises, the most important skills in this skill development are inference and deduction. We need to encourage our children to give evidence as much as possible when discussing texts and films that they are analysing as we hope that they will transfer this skill to their writing.

Why no answers?

Many of the questions are down to personal interpretation. There are no right or wrong answers but there are probably those which fit better than others. It will depend on the pupils and the evidence that they gather.

This set of questions is intended to be used with the teacher during a discussion and not as an exercise in written responses, there is a need to discuss the interpretations as they happen in order for the pupils to gain insight and empathy into a character’s mood and motive.

Thank you for reading and I hope this proves useful.

Rob Smith

Creator - The Literacy Shed

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Contents

The Greatest Gift

23 Degrees 5 Minutes

Sainsbury's The Christmas Truce

The Long Wait

Monty The Penguin

Loteria De Navidad

Lily and The Snowman

Unwrap the Joy

The Bear and The Hare

Christmas with love from Mrs Claus

The Greatest Gift

<http://www.literacyshed.com/greatestgift.html>

Before watching the film ask:

- What is the greatest gift we could ask for at Christmas?
- What is the greatest gift we could give to someone?
- Is it the same for everyone?

Pause the film at 26 seconds.

- Do they think this film is going to have a funny or serious message?
- Could a train really be delayed by a single snow flake?
- Why has the director included these scenes in the film? What do they tell us about the main character?

Pause the film at 45 seconds.

- Why is the man so busy? Is his work always this busy?

Pause the film at 59 seconds.

- What does the line, 'there was a queue for the queue!' mean?

Pause the film at 1m 11 secs

- Why does the sign say 'Get Stuffed'?
- A train is delayed. Is it really a catastrophe?

Pause the film at 1m 17 secs

- How is the man feeling at this point? How do you know?
- What would cheer him up?

Pause the film at 1m 35 secs.

- How has the director used the setting to depict the mood at this point?
- Is he home on time?
- What does he want to do more than anything?
- Do you think he will be able to do it? Why?

Pause at 1m 56 secs

- Listen carefully again to the lyrics.
- What do you think his idea will be?

Cont...

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Pause the film at 2m 10secs

- Were you correct?
- What is his plan?

Watch the film until the end.

- What is the greatest gift that he can give?
- As children what do you think the greatest gift you can give your family is?

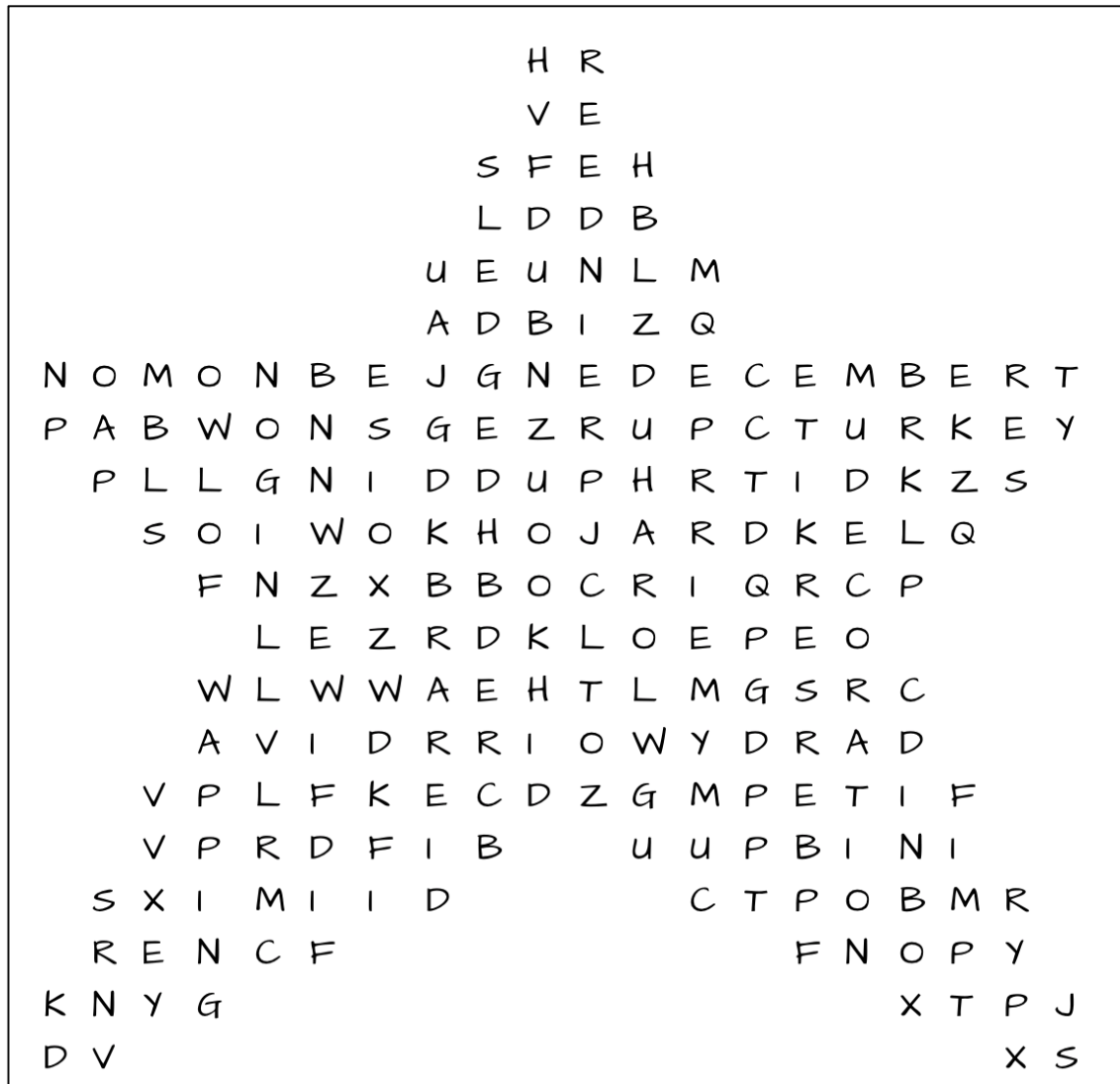


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A Rhyming Christmas

In 'The Greatest Gift' film there are many rhyming words. Can you find the words in the star which rhyme with the clues given below? Some of them are words from the film and others have a Christmassy theme.



Clues:

remember

work

chaotic

time

day

clone

spend

boss

tracker

murky

tapping

glow

wizard

frontier

thudding

hedge

adoration

23 Degrees 5 Minutes

<http://www.literacyshed.com/23-degrees-5-minutes.html>

Before watching the film ask:

- What does the title mean?
- Share with the children how it relates to travelling.

Pause the film at 1m 17 secs

- What is the purpose of this scene?
- Where is the film set?
- Who do we think this character is?
- What is he searching for?
- Why do you think he would risk his life to search for this person?
- How long ago did he disappear?
- How do we know that the professor doesn't like words?

Pause the film at 1 min 58 secs

- He uses metaphors to describe solids, liquids and gas.
- Do you think they are effective metaphors? Why?

Pause the film at 3m 33 seconds

- What is a coincidence?
- What three things in the film are linked by 23 Degrees 5 minutes?

Pause the film at 5min 29 secs

- Has the professor succeeded in finding the answer?
- How do you know?

Pause at 6min 16 secs

- What does 23 degrees 5 minutes North mean with regards to the Earth?
- What does the professor say that this is responsible for?

Pause the film at 7mins 08secs

- Explain what the professor is going to do.
- Why is he going to do it?
- What will the effect be?

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Pause the film at the blackout at 8min 12secs.

- Why is the man going to go in search of the professor?
- Do you think he will find him? Why?

Pause the film at 8min 57 secs.

- Who has the professor become?
- What clues does the director give that this has happened?

Watch the film until the end.

- Discuss what they think happened.
- Can they explain what the purpose of the film is?
- According to the film writer, how does Father Christmas stay alive forever?



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23 Degrees 5 Minutes Maths Challenge

The numbers 2, 3 and 5 are really important in the film.

How many different number sentences can you make using these three numbers?

You must use all three numbers in each sentence but you can use any mathematical symbols as many times as needed.

e.g. $2 + 3 + 5 = 10$

$23 - 5 = 18$

For an extra challenge

Can you beat 23
calculations in 5
minutes?



Sainsbury's Christmas Truce

<http://www.literacyshed.com/the-christmas-truce.html>

Pause the film after 12 seconds

- Where is this story set?
- What was happening in 1914?
- How do you think the men are feeling at this point? Is it any worse today than on other days?
- What do you think the man is handing around?

Pause the film after 30 seconds.

- Who sent him the letter?
- Who is singing?
- What song are they singing?

Pause the film at 1min 08seconds.

- How are the men reacting?
- What does this tell you about the actions of the men?
- How do they feel while they are singing?

Pause the film at 1 min 30 seconds.

- What do you think Jim is doing?
- How do the German soldiers feel at this point?
- What does the German soldier say to his colleagues?

Pause the film at 2min 55 seconds.

- What do you think Jim and Otto were thinking as they walked towards each other?
- Why do you think football would have been a good game to play?
- Who do you think started the firing?
- Do the soldiers on opposite sides hate each other?

Watch the film until the end.

- Why do you think Jim gave Otto the chocolate?
- What do you think happened the next day?
- Do you think there is a lesson to be learned from the film?



Complete Jim's diary entries for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 1914. Ensure you include the key events and how he felt.

24th December 2014

25th December 2014

Loteria de Navidad

<http://www.literacysshed.com/loteriadenavidad.html>

Before watching the film

- What is the film called?
- What language is this in?
- What do you think it means?

Pause the film at 6 seconds.

- What can we tell about the main character from these opening scenes?
- Is he a rich man?
- I think he likes travelling are there any clue in the film to show this?

Pause the film at 16 seconds.

- What can we tell about Justino when he is on the bus?
- Who will he be working with tonight?

Pause the film at 1 minute.

- How does Justino feel when he sees the photograph of his coworkers?
- Why does he feel like this?
- What do you think Justino wants?
- What do you think will happen next?

Pause the film at 1min 25secs.

- Why do you think the director adds this repeated scene into the film?

Pause the film at 1min 48 Secs.

- How does Justino try to cheer up one female worker?
- How do the two ladies' responses to the mannequins differ?
- Why do you think this is?
- What job do you think David Gonzalez does?
- What is the list on the board for?

Pause the film at 2min 34 secs.

- How do the workers feel about Justino's antics?
- Do you think Justino signed up for the Christmas lottery?
- One lady doesn't seem to like the mannequins being moved by Justino, do you think this will change?

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Pause the film at 2m 44 seconds.

- What has happened at the factory?
- How will this affect Justino?
- What do you think will happen next?

Pause the film at 2min 54secs

- What did Justino see in the newspaper?
- Did he already know?
- What do you think he is thinking at this point?
- Why do you think no one has told him?
- What do you think will happen next? Why?

Watch the film until the end.

- How do you think Justino felt When he saw the mannequin holding the ticket?
 - Who do you think put Justino's name on the list?
 - What do you think will happen to Justino from now on?
-
- Is there a moral to the story beyond don't forget to put your name on the lottery list?



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In this film we find out that the word Christmas in Spanish is Navidad.

Use the internet to find out to say Merry Christmas in the following languages and join the matching pairs.

Joyeux Noël
Vrolijk Kerstfeest
hyvää joulua
Gleðileg jól
Buon Natale
Nadolig Llawen
Wesołych Świąt
Manuia Le Kirisimasi
Feliz Natal
Fröhliche Weihnachten
Mutlu Noeller

Finland
German
Iceland
Samoa
France
Italy
Poland
Holland
Turkey
Portugal
Welsh

Challege: How many more different ways of saying 'Merry Christmas' can you find? Does anyone in your school speak a different language? How do they say it?

The Bear and The Hare

<http://www.literacyshed.com/bearandhare.html>

Before watching the film:

- Does everyone know what Christmas is?
- How would you explain it to someone who had never seen Christmas?

Pause the film after one second

- Which animals may have never seen Christmas?
- What type of story is this?

Pause the film after 30 seconds

- What does the bear think about the snow?
- How does hare feel? How do we know?
- Why is the bear yawning?
- What is going to happen next?

Pause the film at 53 seconds?

- How does the Hare feel about all of the Christmas decorating by the other animals?
- What is the Bear more interested in?
- What do you think the Hare will do now?

Pause the film at 59 seconds.

- How does the director show that winter is coming?
- How could we show that the Hare is sad without saying 'The Hare is sad?'

Pause the film at 1 min 17 seconds.

- How does the director show the passing of time?
- How could we do this in our narrative writing?

Pause the film at 1 min 40 secs.

- How is the bear feeling? How do we know?
- What do you think the Hare got him as a present?
- Why did the Hare really want the Bear to be there?

Watch the film until the end.

- What did you like about this film?
- Was there anything you would change?
- What do you think this advert was trying to sell?
- Do you think it is an effective advert?

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With love from Mrs Claus

<http://www.literacyshed.com/motherclause.html>

Pause the film on the landscape shot at 0 seconds and ask:

- What can you see?
- Where is it?
- What time of day/year is it?
- Who do you think it is in the middle of the image?

Pause the film at 12 seconds.

- What does Mrs Claus give to Santa to keep him comfortable?
- How does the director try to make them look like two normal people?
- Who are these letters from?
- Who are they for?

Pause the film at 31 secs.

- What instructions does she give to Father Christmas?
- What does the phrase 'easily done' tell us about Father Christmas?

Pause the film at 1min 4 seconds

- What is the little boy's name?
- How old is he?
- What is his sister's name?
- What is his dog's name?
- What type of things make his sister angry?
- Is she angry when Tiger chews her trainers?

Pause the film at 1 min 20 secs

- What do you think Jake is going to ask Mrs Claus for?
- Why has he written to Mrs Claus and not to Father Christmas?
- How do their delivery methods differ?
- Who is cooler Father Christmas or Mrs Claus?

Watch the film until the end.

- Why does Mrs Claus like to keep secrets from Father Christmas?
- Why do you think the film maker shows Mrs Claus eating two mince pies?
- Do you think this is an effective advert for Marks and Spencers (A clothes and food shop)?

Activity:

Ask children to write a letter to Mrs Claus asking for something for somebody else. Children may ask for a present for someone they have upset. For their parents, who always have to tidy up their bedroom or for a friend they fell out with.

The Long Wait

<http://www.literacyshed.com/longwait.html>

Pause the film after 6 seconds (as he is opening the advent calendar)

- What time of year is it? How do we know this?
- Where do we think the clip is set?
- What do we know about the little boy so far?

Pause at 29 seconds.

- How is the boy feeling? How do we know this?
- What do you think is making the boy feel like this?
- What have we seen so far which shows us that time is moving slowly for the boy?
- What does his body language tell us?

Pause at 36 seconds after watching the little boy in the window.

- What does he do to show his boredom?
- What different weathers do we see?
- How does the weather affect the way we feel about the boy?
- What is happening in the boy's life- use the objects in the background of the window scene to help you.

Pause at 1m 05s

- How are the parents of the boy feeling about his behavior? What makes you think this?
- For what reason do you think the creaking swing is featured?
- What day do we think this is? Where is our evidence for this?
- Why does the boy pull the duvet up around his face?
- What do you think the little boy will do in the morning? How will he feel?
- Have you ever had to wait for something for a long time?

Play to the end.

- Did the clip end as you expected?
- Why was the little boy so eager for Christmas Day to arrive?
- How has the little boy's body language changed?

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The Long Wait- How many ways?

Watch the clip again. How many different ways of showing that the little boy is waiting impatiently are there? Can you find at least 15?



Monty the Penguin

<http://www.literacyshed.com/montythepenguin.html>

Pause after 16 seconds.

- How can you tell that the boy and Monty are friends?
- What do they do together?
- What does Monty do that penguins don't normally do?
- How can we tell that Monty is happy?

Pause after 46 seconds.

- Is Monty a pet?
- In what ways is Monty treated like a pet? How does he behave like a pet?
- What other activities have they been seen doing together?
- How do others respond to Monty?

Pause after 57 seconds?

- In what ways does the boy care for the penguin?
- If he were to write a text about caring for a penguin, what important things do you think he would mention?
- In what ways is Monty treated like a human rather than an animal?

Pause after 1m 23s.

- What has Monty started to notice? How do we know this?
- How do you think he feels about it?
- Watch the clip again from 58s to 1m 23s- Does the little boy realise how Monty feels?
- How does the little boy react to Monty's feelings?
- What do you think he might do?

Pause after 1m 40s- just after Monty's present is revealed.

- How does Monty feel? What does he do to show this?
- Why do you think the little boy has done this?

Play to the end of the clip.

- Did the ending surprise you?
- What do you think the boy's mum felt about his gift?
- How do you think the little boy felt at the end?
- What gift do you think Monty would get for the boy? Why?

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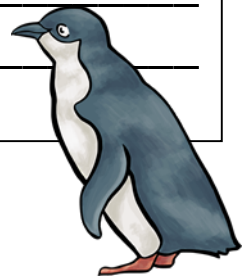
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Monty the Penguin- How to care for a penguin in your home

Introduction

Diet

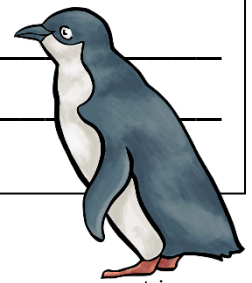
Making it comfortable in your home



Exercising your penguin

Activities to do with your penguin

Penguin Facts



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Lily and the Snowman

<http://www.literacyshed.com/lilyandthesnowman.html>

Pause after 9 seconds.

- Why does Lily clap her hands? What is she pleased about?
- How did she build the snowman- what order did she follow?
- What do you think might happen? Why?

Pause after 45 seconds.

- Why do you think the snowman selected to create a bird and an umbrella to show Lily?
- How do think he knows what these things are?
- What is happening to the snowman?
- What do you think Lily will do?

Pause after 57 seconds.

- What clues are there that time has moved on?
- Why did Lily decide to put him in the freezer?
- What would you put in with the snowman to keep him company?

Pause after 1m 05 seconds.

- How else could Lily have kept the snowman 'alive'?
- Do you think anyone else knows about him?
- What clues are there that Lily really loves her snowman?

Pause after 1m 19 seconds.

- How has Lily changed? How does she feel about the snowman now?
- How do you think the snowman feels? What does his body language tell us?
- What do you think the snowman will do?
- How does the music/lyrics make the viewer feel about the situation?

Pause after 1m 34 seconds.

- What has reminded Lily about the snowman?
- What do you think she will do?

Play to the end.

- What has changed in Lily's life? Why was she so busy?
- How do you think the snowman feels now?

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Lily and the Snowman Challenge

Snowman is a compound word made up of snow and man. How many compound words can you think of which have snow or man in them? Can you fill the grid?



Unwrap the Joy

<http://www.literacyshed.com/unwrapthejoy.html>

Pause after 7 seconds.

- Why is everything wrapped?
- Who did it?
- What date do you think it is?

Pause after 14 seconds.

- How would you feel if you woke up and this had happened?
- How do you think everything was wrapped?
- What do you think were the children's first thoughts?

Pause after 37 seconds.

- What games could you play with the paper?
- How could the paper be recycled? What could be done with it?
- What would be the best method to remove the paper as quickly as possible?

Pause after 45 seconds.

- What do you think is in the snowman shaped gift?
- Where do you think this is? Why?

Play to the end.

- How else could you burst the snowman?
- Why was everything purple?
- Would anyone be unhappy about what has happened? What might be their reasons?

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Unwrap the Joy

How many different combinations of hot chocolate can you create? You must pick one from each.

Flavour of chocolate: White chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate.

Toppings: Whipped cream, mini marshmallows, chocolate flake.

Dustings and sprinkles: Cinnamon, chocolate sprinkles, cocoa powder.



Record your choices systematically.

If you finish...can you add in an extra flavour shot?



Caramel or Vanilla

Merry Christmas from The Literacy Shed Team

