



# Rich Read Recommendations



## Winter Stories Special, 2022



With Christmas fast approaching and the winter nights setting in, we have created a special winter stories newsletter for you all. Keep an **eye out** for other ways you can engage with the texts at home—from cooking and writing to art and outdoor adventures!

### Brave and the Fox by Nicola Davies



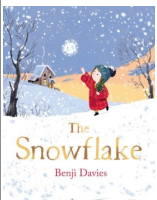
Age: 4+

Akiak embarks on a hunting trip and as day turns to night she finds herself on an unexpected journey of danger, discovery and, most of all, magic! Akiak learns to find bravery from within.

### A Book to Inspire Art Work The Snowflake by Benji Davis

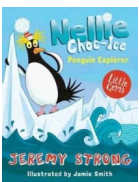
Ages: 4+

An enchanting and timeless winter tale. Perfectly small, fluffy, crystal and white, it tumbles and bounces inside



the cloud. But then she begins to fall... 'The Snowflake' tells the tale of one snowflake and one little girl - both longing for something and looking for their own special place in the world. **Can you create a piece of snowflake themed art? You could go classic and cut out paper snowflakes or maybe try something different with sparkly pens or even tin foil!**

### Nellie Choc-Ice: Penguin Explorer by Jeremy Strong



Age: 6+

One rude seagull. One hungry polar bear. One crafty Arctic fox... This should be all you need to read to know how much fun is contained within this book. Join Nellie Choc-Ice on an incredible adventure when her iceberg floats off to the North-Pole. Hilarious from the start, this book is great for anyone who loves an adventure filled with laughs.

### A Book to Inspire Letter Writing

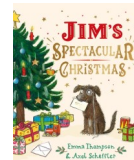
#### Paddington's Christmas Post by Michael Bond



Ages: Everyone- we all love Paddington!

This is just tremendous fun! Follow Paddington through this interactive book as he tries (and mostly fails!) to help the Brown family prepare for Christmas. **Can you be like Paddington and write some letters or Christmas cards to your friends and family?**

### Jim's Spectacular Christmas by Emma Thompson



Age: 5+

The amazing true story of Jim, the beloved dog of Henry Cole, creator of the first Christmas card. With gorgeous illustrations by Axel Scheffler, this is a must have for Christmas 2022,

### Happy Narwhalidays by Ben Clanton



Age: 6+

Winter is a Narwhal's favourite time of year so Narwhal is extra excited for cosying up with a book, partying and singing but most of all, the arrival of Merry Mermicorn!

A brilliant graphic novel full of gorgeous illustrations, humour and happiness.

### A Book to Inspire Baking

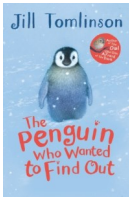
#### The Christmas Pine by Julia Donaldson



Age: 5+

Julia Donaldson, former children's laureate and legendary author has done it again. An incredible rhyming adventure that tells us the story of just how the giant Trafalgar Square Christmas tree came to be in pride of place in Central London. **Can you make Christmas tree biscuits to share with family this winter?** <https://lianaskitchen.co.uk/christmas-tree-biscuits/>

### The Penguin who wanted to find out by Jill Tomlinson

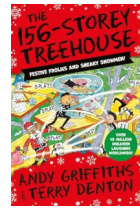


Age: 6+

From Jill Tomlinson, the author of the Owl who was afraid of the dark, comes this beautiful winter tale of Otto the Penguin who knows he is a penguin and that is about it! Otto and his friends have so much to learn about life in Antarctica but will work together to conquer whatever is thrown at them.

### The 156-storey treehouse by Andy Griffiths

Age: 7+



If you have read a 'Treehouse' book before, you will know just how laugh out hilarious this book will be. There are 13 new storeys on the treehouse and Andy and Terry are getting ready for an exciting Christmas but things start to go wrong when Father Christmas crashes his sleigh! Will they be able to save Christmas in time?

### A Book to Inspire Baking

#### How Winston Delivered Christmas by Alex T Smith



Age: 7+

Oliver writes his letter to Father Christmas as always but when he posts it, the letter falls out of the slot! As luck would have it, Winston the mouse is scavenging for crumbs and comes across the letter.

Winston is determined to get this letter to Father Christmas in time for the big day- but will he make it? Can you bake some mince pies to stop Winston having to scavenge for crumbs? <https://www.cookingwithmykids.co.uk/mince-pies/>

### A Book to Inspire Story Writing

#### The White Fox by Jackie Morris

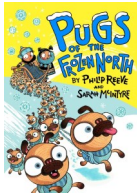


Age: 7+

Jackie Morris is an incredible writer and illustrator whose books just blow the reader away. Sol lives a sad and solitary life with his dad in Seattle until the day his dad tells him he spotted an Arctic fox at the docks. Sol is determined to find the fox and befriend it. What adventures could Sol and the white fox get up to next?

You could make a miniature book or even create a cartoon strip telling your story.

### Pugs of the frozen North by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre

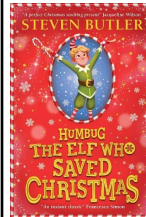


Age: 7+

This tale of friendship and aspiration will have you in stitches! Desperate to win the race to the top of the world and scoop the coveted prize, Shen and Sika put their names forward. The competition is fierce but they have an ace up their sleeve- 66 pugs ready to pull their sled!

### Humbug- The Elf who saved Christmas by Steven Butler

Age: 8+

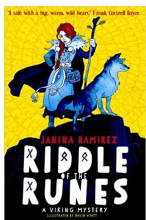


When you see 'who saved Christmas' in the title of a book, you know you are in for a treat and this book is no exception! Humbugs are not the elves you are used to seeing- they have the least glamorous job of all, cleaning up reindeer poo! After being sent away due to an unfortunate mince pie related incident, Humbug and his family happen to be in the right place at the right time to see that Christmas needs rescuing. And only the Humbugs can save the day- but will they be able to?

### A Book to Inspire Information Writing

#### Riddle of the Runes by Janina Ramirez

Ages: 8+



Looking for a strong female hero? Look no further than Alva who epitomises strength and independence! In the icy Viking wilderness, Alva is determined to be an investigator like her Uncle Magnus, but is being out alone in the forest when there is a kidnapper around more reckless than investigatory? Using this book as your inspiration, what information can you find out about the Vikings and their way of life? Could you even find out all about Viking Runes?

### A Book to Inspire Art Work

#### The Grumpus by Alex T Smith



Ages: 8+

The Grumpus has a wicked plan and I bet you can guess what it is- to ruin Christmas! But things do not quite go as planned in this funny and sweet adventure story. Can you design and draw your very own 'Grumpus'? He needs to be as miserable and scary as possible!

### The Christmasaurus and the Naughty List by Tom Fletcher

Ages: 8+



The Christmasaurus is back! Are you ready for another incredible adventure? This time the Christmasaurus is tracking down those children who have ended up on the naughty list and doing everything he can to help them brush up their act!



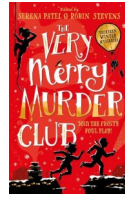
**A Book to inspire research and discovery**  
**Race to the Frozen North by Catherine Johnson**  
(Dyslexia Friendly)



Age: 9+

This true story recounts how a man whose life starts off in challenging circumstances achieves more than he ever believed he could when he has the opportunity to travel to the North Pole. Did you know that Matthew Henson is a real historical figure who is often overlooked because of the colour of his skin? Can you find out more about Matthew and maybe even some other forgotten historical figures?

**A Book to Inspire Short Story Writing**  
**The Very Merry Murder Club**



Age: 10+

Christmas is all about presents, turkey and in this book, murder! This collection of short stories gives you a number of murders and crimes to solve all taking place around Christmas. Will you discover each culprit before Christmas is ruined? Could you write your own Christmas themed mystery story with a murder to solve? We would absolutely love to read them!

**A Book to inspire your own adventure**  
**The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell**

Age: 10+



Another incredible adventure from Mr Cote's favourite author Katherine Rundell. Feo and her mother live a solitary life where they are tasked with re-wilding wolves: preparing former pet wolves for a life back in the wild. But not everyone thinks this should be allowed...If you have the time and resources this winter, head over to Port Lympne where they have 3 European grey wolves. Alternatively, head to Battle Great Woods and explore our endemic (and less threatening!) wildlife.

**Operation Nativity by Jenny Pearson**

Age: 9+



From the author of the incredible 'The Super miraculous journey of Freddie Yates' comes a hilarious but touching Christmas adventure. When Oscar and Molly find Angel Gabriel dazed and confused in their garden, they have no idea that they will be responsible for saving Christmas! A book that is for anyone who loves Christmas and comedy!

**The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street by Karina Yan Glaser**



Age: 9+

If you think no landlord would be cruel enough to throw a family out on the street 5 days before Christmas, then you have not met Mr Biederman! The Vanderbeekers are desperate to change his mind, but will they be able to persuade him before it is too late?

**A Book to Inspire a New Reading Series**  
**The Polar Bear Explorers Club by Alex Bell**

Age: 9+



Get ready for the adventure of a life time! The Polar Bear explorers club will pluck you straight out of your front room and drop you right in the middle of the snowy Iceland as you journey across the frozen wilderness with Stella Snowflake Pearl and her three fellow junior explorers. Did you know there are another four super books in this series? They are: Explorers on witch mountain, Explorers on black ice bridge, The ocean squid explorers club and Explorers on pirate island.

**A Book to Inspire Cooking**  
**The Miraculous Sweetmakers by Natasha Hastings**

Ages: 9+



It is 1683 and life could not be any better for Thomasina and Anne, working for their parents and selling goods on the frozen River Thames. All of this changes when the Frost Fair comes to town- will their friendship be strong enough to tackle the mysterious and enchanted challenges coming their way? Can you make your own sweets at home? There are loads of ideas on the internet and here is a super simple recipe for peppermint creams: <https://www.netmums.com/recipes/peppermint-creams-for-kids/>

**The Christmas Carrolls by Mel Taylor-Bessent**



Ages: 10+

Do you love Christmas: Well the Carroll family certainly do- in their house it really is Christmas every day! However, not everyone shares their passion and they find themselves having to defend their right to share the joy of Christmas whenever they want.

**Murder in Midwinter by Fleur Hitchcock**

Ages: 10+



What would you do if you witnessed a murder and no one believed you? Maya knows what she saw but the police just laugh her away... until a body turns up! Now under witness protection in rural Wales, Maya is still determined to solve the crime... until the snow comes. At least no one can get in... or out!

**Enjoy your Winter Reading Everyone!**