

# **TEACHING RESOURCE**



# Created by







# Based on the book by

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Enjoy the festive season with a Christmas story firmly rooted in community. With the announcement of Santa's retirement, Mikey is determined that his Gramps will be in the running to fill the new position. The story offers many opportunities for deeper discussion on a variety of topics, including grief, whilst still retaining the essence of Christmas magic. Through the book and accompanying guide, many aspects of the KS2 National Curriculum are touched on, particularly English, Geography and Science.



**Word of the Chapter -** For each chapter there is a word of interest selected from the text. These can be used in a variety of ways -

- Discussion of the word meanings.
- Prompts for looking up in dictionaries independently.
- As writing prompts to embed with the correct context within sentences.

**Discussion Prompt** - Each chapter also features a question to discuss. They range from discussing the characters and predictions for the book, to reflecting more the situations presented. Many of these questions are specifically worded to tie in with the KS2 National Curriculum.

Activity Ideas - There are a selection of activity ideas that link in with the text, they're numbered by the page that they tie in with and can be found below the chapter breakdown. There's a mix of writing prompts, STEM ideas and more - all linking in with the National Curriculum.



## **CHAPTER BREAKDOWN**

#### Chapter 1

- Word spontaneous
- Discussion Prompt Why do you think that the angel that Gramps made is so valued by the family?

#### Chapter 2

- Word appoint
- **Discussion Prompt** How do your first impressions of the book compare to your expectations based on the blurb?

#### **Chapter 3**

- Word adherence
- **Discussion Prompt** In this chapter Gramps is feeling grief and sadness, how do you think Mikey is feeling?

#### Chapter 4

- Word hurtled
- Discussion Prompt Using inferences from the text, what do you predict will happen next?

#### Chapter 5

- Word embossed
- **Discussion Prompt** Gramps is very community centred, how can you support your community this Christmas season and beyond?

#### Chapter 6

- Word prestigious
- **Discussion Prompt** In this chapter we're introduced to a huge snowflake-shaped Big Wheel. Can you invent any other Christmas themed structures?

#### **Chapter 7**

- Word turbulence
- **Discussion Prompt** On page 71 the cabin roofs are described as "like they'd been topped with the fluffiest whipped cream.". How does the use of this simile add to the Christmassy feel of the book?

#### **Chapter 8**

- Word elusive
- **Discussion Prompt** Is there anything in this chapter that you think might be an inference for how the plot unfolds later on?

#### **Chapter 9**

- Word protocol
- Discussion Prompt Can you come up with any other Christmas themed place names?

#### Chapter 10

- Word ravine
- Discussion Prompt What do Gramps & Mikey's actions in this chapter reveal about what they value?



#### Chapter 11

- Word wistful
- **Discussion Prompt** Gramps seems to get joy from reminiscing about the memories of Gran. How else does Gramps keep Grans memory alive?

#### **Chapter 12**

- Word saboteurs
- **Discussion Prompt** How do the descriptions of the setting is this chapter build the image in your mind of a festive polar setting?

#### Chapter 13

- Word rumbunctious
- Discussion Prompt If you were Mikey what would you do, if anything, to resolve the lie told to Gramps?

#### Chapter 14

- Word initiative
- **Discussion Prompt** How would you describe Mikeys character? What parts of the book led you to this summary?

#### Chapter 15

- Word sophisticated
- Discussion Prompt How do you predict Mikey is going to help Gramps?

#### Chapter 16

- Word nemesis
- **Discussion Prompt** On page 167, the commentator says, "An absolutely unmatched display of TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!", in reference to their Wild Reindeer taming. What else do you think would be a celebration of the Christmas Spirit?

#### Chapter 17

- Word conceded
- **Discussion Prompt** How has this chapter taught us to be sensitive to people that are experiencing feelings other than joy at Christmas?

#### Chapter 18

- Word holographic
- **Discussion Prompt** Do you think that Naughty or Nice lists allow for nuances in people not being all good or all bad?

#### **Chapter 19**

- Word espionage
- **Discussion Prompt** How have your thoughts on naughty or nice lists changed since hearing Gramps' thoughts on them (Page 197).

#### Chapter 20

- Word transplant
- Discussion Prompt Which contestant do you think would make the best Santa and why?

#### **Chapter 21**

- Word contenders
- **Discussion Prompt** Santa mentions how they navigated the Millennium Bug & extreme weather events. How do you think he manages to visit children during conflict or if his sleigh breaks down?

#### **Chapter 22**

- Word shard
- Discussion Prompt How did this chapter highlight the value of working as a team?

#### **Chapter 23**

- Word ingenuity
- **Discussion Prompt** A lot has happened in this chapter, who do you think has shown the most bravery, and why?

#### **Chapter 24**

- Word regenerate
- **Discussion Prompt** On page 257, Gramps says, "You made a mistake but our mistakes don't define us". How can this way of thinking help us be kinder to ourselves?

#### **Chapter 25**

- Word forgive
- Discussion Prompt How have we seen Gramps' character develop as we have read the book?

#### **Chapter 26**

- Word modesty
- Discussion Prompt Has the book concluded in the way that you had expected?

#### **Chapter 27**

- Word caboodle
- **Discussion Prompt** What is the most important thing that you learnt whilst reading The Other Father Christmas?





## **WIDER CURRICULUM ACTIVITY IDEAS**

## Page 17 - Writing Prompt



Create a job advert poster for the position of Santa, listing the attributes that you think would be needed for the position.

## Page 36 - Writing Prompt



Rewrite a Christmas song that is familiar to the children you are reading with, to reflect a more modern experience of the season.

## Page 70 - Geography Activity



Map the journey from Liverpool to the North Pole, identifying the Arctic Circle as you pass through it.

## Page 145 - Animal Study



Learn about Wild Reindeer, there are some examples below to get you started.

- Measure out the size of a Reindeer (120cm at the shoulder) and create a to-scale image of them.
- Create a distribution map, identifying the range of Reindeers in the wild.
- Map the migratory route of a Reindeer population.
- Lichen is an important food source for Reindeer, get out into nature and identify the lichen around you (please don't pick it as it's very slow growing). You may wish to extend this with learning about how lichens are used as an indicator species for air quality.



## **WIDER CURRICULUM ACTIVITY IDEAS**

## Page 187 - Art Challenge



Gingerbread houses are a main feature of this section of this book. Depending on what options are available in your setting, pick one (or both!) of the options below.

- Make a Gingerbread House
- Create designs to turn an iconic building/structure into a Gingerbread version, complete with all the details.

## Page 234 - Science Experiment



Recording your findings, conduct an experiment on the quickest method for melting a cube of ice. Take into consideration standardising your ice-cube mass to ensure comparable results.

## Page 270 - Art Activity



Make a Christmas Card for someone in your community that you appreciate.



### **CURRICULUM LINKS - KS2**

Included in this list are both links that are found directly within the book and ideas that have been extended upon within this guide.

#### • English

- Spoken Language
- Reading Comprehension meaning of words in context, drawing inferences, predictions, figurative language, challenging views courteously through discussion.
- Writing identifying the audience, writing for a wide range of purposes.

#### Science

 Planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary. Taking measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate. Recording data.

#### Geography

- Name and locate cities of the United Kingdom, identify the position and significance of the Arctic Circle.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

#### Art

Improve art and design techniques

