

I AM CHRISTMAS



Montana Merry

I am Christmas
I am carrot pudding with lemon sauce
Chocolate drops and hard tack
A precious stockingtoe orange,
And untouched Brazils

I am Christmas
I am youngest to oldest
Bright bubble lights and silver icicles
A tinfoil coathanger star
And, "When I was a kid, we were lucky
if we got a new comb!"

I am fingerholes in wrapping paper
Elf hats and homemade pipe chimes
The top bunk Santawatch
And the Christmas tree bonfire on the Rims
I am Christmas



Word Gathering

Before you write your poem, take a few minutes to remember all the things you love about Christmas. Write several small images—small memories—that are part of your Christmas.

Decorations—Start with the tree. Tinsel and lights are too general to describe your special tree. What ornaments do you have—a plaster handprint you made in kindergarten? What is on the top of the tree? What other decorations are unique to your family? Everyone has a nativity and candles. Think small and unique: sly troll nutcracker guarding gifts, wool stocking Rudolph, candy cane icicles, felt and ribbon wise men.

Foods—It's boring to write the obvious. Christmas is everywhere from the mall to the doctor's office, but we want to see, hear, smell, and taste Christmas at your house. When it comes to food, don't just write turkey dinner, let your reader see and smell something special to your family—like Danish almond cake, frozen fruit cocktail, or strawberry waffles.

Traditions—What do you love most about Christmas? What are the traditions that are unique to your family? Write a few of the small things that make Christmas special, such as Grandpa's "tough shed" piñata, the nutcracker advent calendar, tossing wrapping paper over the banister, and the M&M elf of Christmas Eve. Think of people you love. What do they do or wear every Christmas? Is there something special about your yard or neighborhood?

Things to Hear—What do you hear every year? What do your family members say? For example, "Don't wake me up until five." What music do you hear—singer and title? Giggling through *Grandma Got Run over by a Reindeer* at the family party. What other sounds are important to the season?

Before You Build a Poem—Think pithy (short, powerful phrases—no extra adjectives or explanations). Take the fat out. Don't explain, just paint the picture and let the reader decide.

For Poetic Effect—juxtapose a small and unimportant thing next to a large thing. For example, "The top bunk Santawatch and the Christmas tree bonfire on the Rims.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Word Gathering
I AM CHRISTMAS POEM

Write very small images—small memories—that are part of your Christmas.

Decorations	Foods
Traditions	Things You Hear