

Christmas

More Literacy Ideas

Poetry

Acrostics: An acrostic poem uses the letters in a word to begin each line. All lines of the poem should relate to or describe the topic word.

For example:

Silver snowflakes falling

Neatly blanketing the Earth

Outside is so silent

Welcome to a winter's day

Children could brainstorm words to use; this could be on a general theme of Christmas, winter or the religious aspect of Christmas. Sometimes having a photo or illustration helps with ideas and language to use.



Making a Poem into a Christmas Carol

Each child could make up a poem about the Nativity, or the children could be put into groups of 2 or 3 for this. Once the poem has been written they could then be given instruments to make the poem into a Carol.

Obviously, it would depend on the age of the child as to how far this could be taken but children could put the song to music or write their own symbols.

Christmas Wordsearch

As a class or in groups brainstorm all of the Christmas words associated with Christmas, write them out for all children to see. For some children, produce a handout for them to refer to. The children are given cm square paper and have to use the words to within their wordsearch. The words can be written horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Once the words are used, fill in the blanks with other letters. The children could then swap their wordsearches for their friends to do.

Christmas Bookmarks

Talk about Christmas stories or poems that the children know and characters. They might think of Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas, a Christmas Winnie the Pooh story, and the Night before Christmas.

Give the children a piece of rectangular card to use as their bookmark. Ask them to decorate their bookmark with characters from Christmas stories or poems. Older children could write a list of suggested Christmas books and authors on the back. This could be from ideas contributed by the class or research in the library.

Christmas Phonics

For younger children give them a piece of card with one sound at the top. The children have to think of a Christmas word that begins with that sound, then draw, and decorate a picture to match the sound and word. Alternatively, they could make the sound cards on the computer using clipart. For example:



Christmas Quiz

To begin with, the children will work with a partner. Tell the class that you are going to have a Christmas quiz and that the class will be divided into 2 teams. The children have to think of questions to ask their friends about Christmas. Ask for ideas and write a couple on the board as examples i.e.

What gifts did the 3 kings bring to Jesus?

What date is Boxing Day?

Pair children, who might struggle with ideas or writing, with a more competent child for this activity. Once the children have written their ideas, put 2 pairs of children together to

exchange their ideas and see if that generates any more ideas.

Then divide them into 2 teams and tell them that they have a certain amount of time to write their list of questions. Tell them how many questions they should write.

Then start the quiz: make sure that the teams are even as far as numbers and ability are concerned and allow the children to put up their hands to answer, reminding each team to give each child a fair chance to answer.

Dot-to-Dot Alphabet Pictures

Draw (very lightly) simple Christmas pictures and at strategic points write the letters of the alphabet in order using pen. Rub out the drawing and photocopy for the children to join the dots in alphabetical order to find out what the Christmas picture is. They could then colour the picture.

