

Talk a Lot

Books

Multi-Purpose Text

Christmas Presents (Original Text)

Line

1 It was nearly 8pm on a late night shopping night, two weeks before Christmas.
2 Maggie was in Harold's Bookshop in Derby with her little cousin Darren. "What about
3 this for Auntie Kathleen?" He produced a copy of 'Dolphins of the World'. "No, I've
4 got just the thing for mum," said Maggie, "She loves languages." And she popped a
5 copy of 'Go Italia!' into her basket. "What about for my dad?" asked Maggie. Darren
6 held up a copy of 'Flipper: The Authorised Biography'. "I'm not buying that!" squealed
7 Maggie. "Try and help me, Dazza! Ah, dad'll like this – 'Steam Engines of the 1840s'."
8 "Boring," said Darren, opening a pop-up book about killer whales. Maggie paid for the
9 books and they went outside into the cold.
10 "We've forgotten Dennis!" cried Darren. "He wants a car manual," replied
11 Maggie, "About BMWs. They didn't have it in the last shop." "What about here", said
12 Darren, pointing at World of Books, which was next to the market. They hurried in,
13 but they couldn't find it. Books For U didn't have it either. Just when they were about
14 to give up, they found Dennis's present in a tiny independent bookshop near the
15 station, called The Bookworm. They felt so pleased. On the bus home, as the snow
16 danced around outside, Darren was puzzled. "Why did you buy books for
17 everybody?" "Because you should always give the kind of present that you'd like to
18 receive yourself," replied Maggie. Darren thought for a moment. "So which book do
19 you want them to get you?" "I'll have a book token," declared Maggie decisively, "So
20 that I can choose my own present!"
(272 words)



Christmas Presents (Text with 20 Differences)

It was nearly **1. 9pm (8pm)** on a late night shopping night, two weeks before Christmas. Maggie was in Harold's Bookshop in **2. Manchester (Derby)** with her little cousin Darren. "What about this for Auntie Kathleen?" He produced a copy of 'Dolphins of the World'. "No, I've got just the thing for **3. her (mum)**," said Maggie, "She loves languages." And she popped a copy of 'Go Italia!' into her basket. "What about for my dad?" asked Maggie. Darren held up a copy of 'Flipper: The Authorised **4. Story (Biography)**'. "I'm not buying that!" squealed Maggie. "Try and **5. tell (help)** me, Dazza! Ah, dad'll like this – 'Steam Engines of the 1840s'." "Boring," said Darren, opening a pop-up book about **6. really big (killer)** whales. Maggie paid for the **7. shopping (books)** and they went outside into the cold.
"We've forgotten Dennis!" cried Darren. "He wants a car **8. book (manual)**," replied Maggie, "About BMWs. They didn't have it in the **9. past (last)** shop." "What about here", said Darren, **10. looking (pointing)** at World of Books, which was next to the **11. car park (market)**. They hurried in, but they couldn't find it. Books For U didn't have it **12. neither (either)**. Just when they were about to give up, they **13. discovered (found)** Dennis's present in a tiny **14. friendly (independent)** bookshop near the station, called The Bookworm. They felt so pleased. On the bus home, as the snow **15. passed (danced)** around outside, Darren was puzzled. "Why did you buy **16. them (books)** for everybody?" "Because you should always give the kind of present that you'd like to **17. get (receive)** yourself," replied Maggie. Darren thought for a **18. minute (moment)**. "So which book do you want them to get you?" "I'll have a **19. cheque (book token)**," declared Maggie decisively, "So that I can **20. use (choose)** my own present!"

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Multi-Purpose Text

Christmas Presents (Gap-Fill – Pronouns)

1. _____ was nearly 8pm on a late night shopping night, two weeks before Christmas. Maggie was in Harold's Bookshop in Derby with 2. _____ little cousin Darren. "What about this for Auntie Kathleen?" 3. _____ produced a copy of 'Dolphins of the World'. "No, I've got just the thing for mum," said Maggie, "4. _____ loves languages." And she popped a copy of 'Go Italia!' into her basket. "What about for 5. _____ dad?" asked Maggie. Darren held up a copy of 'Flipper: The Authorised Biography'. "6. _____'m not buying that!" squealed Maggie. "Try and help 7. _____, Dazza! Ah, dad'll like this – 'Steam Engines of the 1840s'." "Boring," said Darren, opening a pop-up book about killer whales. Maggie paid for the books and 8. _____ went outside into the cold.

"We've forgotten Dennis!" cried Darren. "9. _____ wants a car manual," replied Maggie, "About BMWs. They didn't have it in the last shop." "What about here", said Darren, pointing at World of Books, which was next to the market. They hurried in, but they couldn't find it. Books For U didn't have 10. _____ either. Just when they were about to give up, 11. _____ found Dennis's present in a tiny independent bookshop near the station, called The Bookworm. They felt so pleased. On the bus home, as the snow danced around outside, Darren was puzzled. "Why did you buy books for everybody?" "Because you should always give the kind of present that 12. _____'d like to receive yourself," replied Maggie. Darren thought for a moment. "So which book do 13. _____ want 14. _____ to get 15. _____?" "I'll have a book token," declared Maggie decisively, "So that I can choose my own present!"



Christmas Presents (Multiple Choice – Use of English)

It was nearly 8pm on a late night shopping night, 1. **a) one, b) a, c) two** weeks before Christmas. Maggie was in Harold's Bookshop in Derby with 2. **a) her, b) his, c) its** little cousin Darren. "What about this 3. **a) with, b) to, c) for** Auntie Kathleen?" He produced a copy of 'Dolphins of the World'. "No, I've 4. **a) have, b) find, c) got** just the thing for mum," said Maggie, "She loves languages." And she popped a copy of 'Go Italia!' into her basket. "5. **a) What, b) Which, c) what** about for my dad?" asked Maggie. Darren held up a copy of 'Flipper: The Authorised Biography'. "I'm not buying 6. **a) them, b) this, c) that!**" squealed Maggie. "Try and help me, Dazza! Ah, dad'll like this – 'Steam Engines of the 1840s'." "Boring," said Darren, 7. **a) opening, b) looking, c) read** a pop-up book about killer whales. Maggie paid for the books and they went outside into the 8. **a) car, b) shop, c) cold.**

"We've forgotten Dennis!" cried Darren. "9. **a) She, b) We, c) He** wants a car manual," replied Maggie, "About BMWs. They didn't have it in the last shop." "What about here", said Darren, pointing 10. **a) up, b) at, c) across** World of Books, which was next to the market. They hurried in, but they couldn't find it. Books For U didn't have it either. Just 11. **a) when, b) where, c) who** they were about to give up, they found Dennis's present in a tiny independent bookshop 12. **a) on, b) close, c) near** the station, called The Bookworm. They felt so pleased. On the bus home, as the snow danced around outside, Darren was puzzled. "Why did you buy 13. **a) boots, b) books, c) book** for everybody?" "Because you should always give the kind of present that you'd like to receive 14. **a) yourselves, b) myself, c) yourself,**" replied Maggie. Darren thought for a moment. "So which book do you want them to get you?" "I'll have a book token," 15. **a) whispered, b) declared, c) stammered** Maggie decisively, "So that I can choose my own present!"

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Multi-Purpose Text

Christmas Presents (Comprehension Questions)

1. How many books did Maggie buy in Harold's Bookshop?
2. What time of year was it?
3. Who went shopping with Maggie?
4. What does Maggie's mum love?
5. What kind of books did Darren like?
6. Who is Darren?
7. What kind of book did Dennis want?
8. What were the names of the four bookshops in the story?
9. How many weeks before Christmas was it?
10. Was World of Books far from the market?
11. Who like steam engines?
12. What time was it in the story?
13. In which month is the story set?
14. Where was World of Books?
15. Where was Harold's Bookshop?
16. Which book did Darren suggest first?
17. Which books did Maggie buy in Harold's Bookshop?
18. What present did Maggie want to receive?
19. Which book did Maggie buy for her dad?
20. Who was shopping?
21. What did Maggie buy for all her family?
22. Why did Maggie buy books for everybody?
23. What was the weather like on the way home?
24. Who is Kathleen?
25. What language is Maggie's mum learning?
26. In what kind of bookshop did they find Dennis's book?
27. What did they buy in The Bookworm?
28. Which book did Maggie buy for her mum?
29. What does Maggie want to choose?
30. How did they get home?

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Christmas Presents (True, False, or Unknown?)

1. Darren is Maggie's cousin.
2. World of Books is a bigger bookshop than Books For U.
3. Darren is interested in whales and dolphins.
4. Darren is interested in steam engines.
5. The Bookworm is a tiny independent bookshop near the market.
6. Maggie bought 'Go Italia!' for her dad.
7. Maggie and Darren got the bus home.
8. At the start of the story it was just after 6pm.
9. Darren bought a Christmas present for his brother.
10. Darren wanted a car manual.
11. It snowed all the way home.
12. Maggie bought 'Steam Engines of the 1480s' for her dad.
13. Darren has got dark hair.
14. Maggie would like to get a book token for Christmas.
15. Dennis wanted a car manual.
16. It was snowing on the way home.
17. Maggie got a book token from her brother last Christmas.
18. Maggie and Darren walked home.
19. Dennis will be pleased with his book.
20. Maggie bought 'Go Italia!' for her mum.
21. Darren is nine years old.
22. Maggie and Darren went Christmas shopping.
23. "Dazza" is short for "Darren".
24. They couldn't find Dennis's book about BMWs.
25. 'Go Italia!' is a very good language course.
26. Maggie bought a book about steam engines for her dad.
27. The weather was cold.
28. Maggie spent a lot of money on books.
29. Kathleen can speak five languages.
30. Dennis is learning Italian.

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Multi-Purpose Text

Glossary of New Words

Here are some words and phrases from the text that may be new to students. You could either pre-teach them, or encourage your students to find translations in a bilingual dictionary and write them in the gaps below. Stressed syllables are underlined.

1. **late night shopping night** (*phrase*: when most shops stay open late, e.g. for Christmas shopping) _____
2. **dolphin** (*noun*: mammal that lives in the sea) _____
3. **just the thing** (*phrase*: something that fits the situation perfectly) _____
4. **to pop (sth.) into...** (*phrasal verb*: to put something into something) _____
5. **authorised biography** (*noun*: book about somebody's life which has been approved by the subject) _____
6. **to squeal** (*verb*: to cry out in a high-pitched voice) _____
7. **steam engine** (*noun*: early kind of train) _____
8. **pop-up book** (*noun*: picture book, usually for children, that has 3D pages which open outwards) _____
9. **killer whale** (*noun*: large, deadly sea mammal) _____
10. **car manual** (*noun*: book about how to look after a car) _____
11. **to point** (*verb*: to indicate something with your finger) _____
12. **independent bookshop** (*noun*: bookshop that is not owned by a large chain) _____
13. **puzzled** (*adjective*: confused, unsure of the reason for something) _____
14. **book token** (*noun*: gift voucher which allows you to buy books) _____
15. **decisively** (*adverb*: in a way that is absolutely certain) _____

Answers

Christmas Presents (Gap-Fill – Pronouns)

- | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|
| 1. It | 6. I | 11. they |
| 2. her | 7. me | 12. you |
| 3. He | 8. they | 13. you |
| 4. She | 9. He | 14. them |
| 5. my | 10. it | 15. you |

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Christmas Presents (Multiple Choice – Use of English)

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. c) | 6. c) | 11. a) |
| 2. a) | 7. a) | 12. c) |
| 3. c) | 8. c) | 13. b) |
| 4. c) | 9. c) | 14. c) |
| 5. a) | 10. b) | 15. b) |

Christmas Presents (Comprehension Questions)

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Two. | 18. Books. |
| 2. December; winter; two weeks before Christmas. | 19. 'Steam Engines of the 1840s'. |
| 3. Her little cousin Darren. | 20. Maggie and Darren. |
| 4. Languages. | 21. Books. |
| 5. Books about whales and dolphins. | 22. Because she believes that you should always give the kind of present that you'd like to receive yourself, and <i>she</i> would like to receive books. |
| 6. Maggie's little cousin. | 23. It was snowing. |
| 7. A car manual about BMWs. | 24. Maggie's mum. |
| 8. Harold's Bookshop, World of Books, Books For U, and The Bookworm. | 25. Italian. |
| 9. Two. | 26. In a tiny independent bookshop. |
| 10. No, it was next to the market. | 27. Dennis's present – a car manual about BMWs. |
| 11. Maggie's dad (Rob). | 28. 'Go Italia!'. |
| 12. Nearly 8pm. | 29. Her own present – some books. |
| 13. December. | 30. By bus. |
| 14. Next to the market. | |
| 15. In Derby. | |
| 16. 'Dolphins of the World'. | |
| 17. 'Go Italia!' and 'Steam Engines of the 1840s'. | |

Christmas Presents (True, False, or Unknown?)

(T = True, F = False, U = Unknown)

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|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. T | 11. U | 21. U |
| 2. U | 12. F | 22. T |
| 3. U | 13. U | 23. T |
| 4. F | 14. T | 24. F |
| 5. F | 15. T | 25. U |
| 6. F | 16. T | 26. T |
| 7. T | 17. U | 27. T |
| 8. F | 18. F | 28. U |
| 9. U | 19. U | 29. U |
| 10. F | 20. T | 30. U |