

The latest from Denny & Claire,

Well, we're certainly in the spirit of Christmas around here. The Christmas tree, lights, and decorations are all up. The Christmas music is playing. Our Christmas parties and "high teas" have started. And our reading nowadays is mostly Christmas books, stories, and poems. What a wonderful season this is!

And speaking of poems, you may have noticed that we have posted our first poetry readings on You Tube and, in some cases, also sent them over on discs to the various senior living facilities. It's been wide-ranging: from read-aloud lullabies like "Wynken, Blinken, and Nod" to romantic ballads like "The Highwayman." But in the next couple of recordings, we will be highlighting Christmas poetry including Claire's reading of the one on the right side here.

But after reading that pensive poem, it will be time to have some fun with **Number 41** in our ongoing series of activity packets. As usual, we have trivia quizzes, quotations to think about, and song lyrics to finish. But in this edition we have something a bit different; namely, a few Christmas jokes. They're awfully corny, no doubt about that. But we hope they bring you a smile or two anyway! Of course, we continue to pray that we can bring "When Swing Was King" shows to you in person very, very soon. In the meantime, have a happy Advent season, dear friends.

The Shepherd's Dog (A Poem by Leslie Norris)

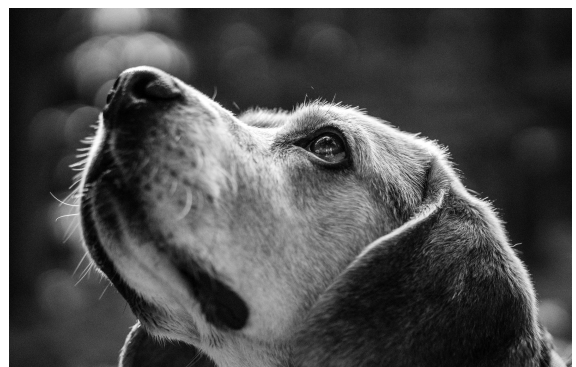
Out on the windy hill
Under that sudden star
A blaze of radiant light
Frightened my master.

He got up, left our sheep,
Tramped over the moor.
And I, following,
Came to this open door,

Sidled in, settled down,
Head on my paws,
Glad to be here, away
From the wind's sharpness.

Such warmth is in this shed,
Such comfort from this Child,
That I forget my hard life,
Ignore the harsh world,

And see on my master's face
The same joy I possess,
The knowledge of peace,
True happiness.



Multiple Choice Questions

- 1) "If I Were a Wealthy Man" is a song from what hit musical?
 - A) *West Side Story*
 - B) *Brigadoon*
 - C) *Fiddler on the Roof*
 - D) *South Pacific*

- 2) According to the old adage, what killed the cat?
 - A) Curiosity
 - B) Hunger
 - C) The jealous dog
 - D) Indifference

- 3) The Christmas movie which tells of a magazine writer who falsely writes about her cooking and housekeeping (she is actually a terrible cook) is....
 - A) *Holiday Inn*
 - B) *A Holiday Affair*
 - C) *It Happened One Night*
 - D) *Christmas in Connecticut*

- 4) Who were the main stars in the movie mentioned above?
 - A) Bing Crosby & Rosemary Clooney
 - B) Barbara Stanwyck & Dennis Morgan
 - C) Robert Mitchum & Janet Leigh
 - D) Bob Hope and Jane Russell

- 5) True or False – The theme song to the TV western *Have Gun Will Travel* was written by the show's rugged star, Richard Boone. _____

- 6) California has 9 officially designated National Parks. Alaska has 8. Colorado has 4. How many official National Parks are in the combined states of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri?
 - A) 0
 - B) 2
 - C) 7
 - D) 13

- 7) Mammals whose young are not completely developed after birth and therefore are carried and suckled in a pouch on the mother's belly are:
 - A) Primates
 - B) Herbivores
 - C) Marsupials
 - D) Carnivores

- 8) True or False – Desi Arnaz was born in Tijuana, Mexico. _____

- 9) What familiar Christmas object comes from a word meaning "to shine"? Hints: there were 7 of them in the Old Testament tabernacle and it is an important part of the Advent wreath.
 - A) Yule log
 - B) Crown
 - C) Holly wreath
 - D) Candle

- 10) In Tchaikovsky's beautiful ballet, *The Nutcracker*, the main enemy of the handsome hero is:
 - A) Drosselmeyer the magician
 - B) The King of the Mice
 - C) The puppet maker
 - D) The Blue Dragon

11) The soldier who fails to show up for duty would likely face this charge:

- A) Military Grade STP
- B) AWOL
- C) NIA
- D) Section 8

12) What instrument would be most associated with Jerry Lee Lewis?

- A) Guitar
- B) Saxophone
- C) Drums
- D) Piano

13) Clint Eastwood was the most famous American actor to appear in Italian-made westerns but many others followed suit. Which of these did **NOT** appear in a “spaghetti western”?

- A) James Coburn
- B) Charles Bronson
- C) James Garner
- D) Lee Van Cleef

14) When did “Good King Wenceslaus” look out?

- A) Feast of Stephen
- B) Christmas morning
- C) Epiphany
- D) Candlemas eve

15) True or False -- Not only did Listerine once promote it's mouthwash as an after-shave antiseptic, it also made a Listerine shaving cream. _____

16) The Most Popular Male Star award from Photoplay Magazine in 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, and 1948 all went to one guy:

- A) Bing Crosby
- B) John Wayne
- C) Frank Sinatra
- D) Red Skelton

17) True or False -- Walter Payton has scored the most touchdowns in NFL history: 125. _____

18) Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in:

- A) 1776
- B) 1882
- C) 1917
- D) 1933

19) James Hilton's 1933 novel *Lost Horizon* described a mythical valley hidden away in the Himalayan Mountains. That paradise was called...

- A) Brigadoon
- B) Middlemarch
- C) Shangri-La
- D) Castle Valhalla

20) This traditional Christmas dish has a name that means “to swell or raise.”

- A) Eggnog
- B) Divinity
- C) Marzipan
- D) Plum pudding

21) What plant is also known as “Flower of the Holy Night” in Mexico?

- A) Winter’s Rose
- B) Navidad de Valencia
- C) Poinsettia
- D) Peace Lilly

22) True or False -- When Santa is in Finland, he chooses a different form of transportation; namely, a straw goat named Ukko. _____

23) Which of these was **NOT** at one time or another a part of the Harry James band?

- A) Perry Como
- B) Frank Sinatra
- C) Helen Forrest
- D) Dick Haymes

24) The very first Ford sold in 1903 for a grand total of \$850. The “Model A” had a 2-cylinder engine, and could reach a maximum speed of...

- A) 9 miles per hour
- B) 30 miles per hour
- C) 60 miles per hour
- D) 85 miles per hour

25) Most countries commemorate the visit of the Magi to see Jesus on...

- A) December 8
- B) December 14
- C) December 25
- D) January 6

26) The face of this American hero is now on the \$50 bill.

- A) Ulysses S. Grant
- B) Benjamin Franklin
- C) Woodrow Wilson
- D) Harriet Tubman

27) The first film version of *Babes in Toyland* starred what comedy team?

- A) The Marx Brothers
- B) Laurel & Hardy
- C) Mickey Rooney & Judy Garland
- D) Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis

28) From what Christmas season song comes this lyric -- “Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? In the lane snow is glistening.”

- A) *I’ll Be Home for Christmas*
- B) *Frosty the Snowman*
- C) *Silver Bells*
- D) *Winter Wonderland*

29) True or False -- Tennessee Ernie Ford once studied classical music at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in Ohio. _____

30) The Johnny Marks song “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” was a smash hit record in 1958 for...

- A) Teresa Brewer
- B) Wanda Jackson
- C) Brenda Lee
- D) Sonny James

Christmas Chuckles

Instead of our regular feature of photo trivia, we're giving you a few Christmas jokes in these next two pages. We hope they bring a smile and perhaps you'll find one or two to share with grandchildren.

- 1) Who was the meanest of Santa's reindeer?
(Answer? Olive. Remember how the song told us about this reindeer's attitude towards Rudolph? -- "Olive, the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names.")
- 2) Said Blinky to Banjo, "Just what nationality is Santa Claus anyhow?"
Said Banjo to Blinky, "Don't you know? He's North Polish, of course."
- 3) Just before Christmas, there was a completely honest and humble politician, a completely honest and humble lawyer, and Santa Claus walking along 5th Avenue when they noticed a diamond bracelet lying in the curb. Which of them picked up the bracelet in order to return it to its rightful owner? Of course, the answer must be Santa Clause because the other two are mythical characters who do not exist in real life.
- 4) A word of warning from Denny & Claire. "Remember kids, when you stop believing in Santa Claus, you'll start getting clothes for Christmas!"
- 5) What kind of Christmas candle burns longer, the green ones or the red ones? (Answer? Neither. All candles burn shorter, silly.)
- 6) "Oh, Mom; can I please have a dog for Christmas?"
"No, honey; you'll have to eat turkey just like everybody else."
- 7) What do you call a reindeer with cotton wool in his ears?
(Answer? It doesn't matter. He's not gonna' hear you!)

8) Said Banjo, “Doctor, with all the excitement of Christmas I can’t sleep.” Banjo’s doctor replied, “Try lying on the very edge of your bed and I bet you’ll soon drop off.”

9) Said Blinky to the psychiatrist, “My problem, Doctor, is that I keep stealing things when I go Christmas shopping.

Can you give me something for my kleptomania?”

Said the psychiatrist to Blinky, “Well, try this medicine. But if it doesn’t work, come back soon...and bring me a new wristwatch.”

10) Said Banjo to the toy shop owner, “That Lionel train set looks fantastic. I’ll take one.”

Said the toy shop owner, “Excellent choice, sir.

I’m sure your son will absolutely love it.”

Said Banjo with a sigh, “Yes, I guess you’re right.

I guess I’d better buy two of them.”

11) Said Blinky’s wife to Blinky, “Darling, you know that shock proof, water proof, anti-magnetic, unbreakable watch you bought me for Christmas?

Said Blinky, “Yes. What about it?”

Blinky’s Wife: “Well, it caught on fire.”

12) Why was Santa’s little helper so depressed?
(Answer? It turns out he had very low elf esteem.)



13) Which of Santa’s reindeer can jump higher than a house?
(Answer? They all can, silly. Houses can’t jump at all.)

14) What do you call someone who is afraid of Santa?
(Answer? Claustrophobic.)

Christmas Points to Ponder

“Christmas Eve was a night of song that wrapped itself about you like a shawl. But it warmed more than your body. It warmed your heart...filled it, too, with melody that would last forever.”

(Bess Streeter Aldrich, *Song of Years*)

“Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveller, thousands of miles away, back to his own fireside and his quiet home.” (Charles Dickens)

“Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.” (Corrie ten Boom)

“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before.
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store.
What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.” (Dr. Seuss)

“Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

(Robert Louis Stevenson)

“When did wishing someone a Merry Christmas become politically incorrect?” (Suzanne Woods Fisher, *A Lancaster County Christmas*)

“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift.” (2 Corinthians 9:15)

What Comes Next in This Song Lyric?

- 1) “In the meadow we can build a snowman and pretend that he is Parson Brown. He’ll say, ‘Are you married?’ We’ll say, ‘No man’...
- 2) “The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay...
- 3) “Red sails in the sunset, way out on the sea. Oh, carry my loved one home safely to me...
- 4) “Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus, right down Santa Claus lane. Vixen and Blitzen and all his reindeer pulling on the reins...
- 5) “Love laughs at a king; kings don't mean a thing on the street of dreams. Dreams broken in two can be made like new on the street of dreams...
- 6) “Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe help to make the season bright...
- 7) “How much do I love you, I’ll tell you no lie. How deep is the ocean; how high is the sky...
- 8) “I’ll have a blue Christmas without you. I’ll be so blue just thinking about you...
- 9) “They say for every boy and girl there’s just one love in this whole world and I know that I’ve found mine...
- 10) “Hark, the herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled...

The Answers!

Multiple Choice

- 1) C
- 2) A
- 3) D
- 4) B
- 5) True

- 6) A
- 7) C
- 8) False -- Santiago de Cuba, Cuba
- 9) D
- 10) B

- 11) B
- 12) D
- 13) C
- 14) A
- 15) True

- 16) A
- 17) False -- Jerry Rice with 208 touchdowns
- 18) B
- 19) C
- 20) D

- 21) C
- 22) True
- 23) A
- 24) B
- 25) D

- 26) A
- 27) B
- 28) D
- 29) True
- 30) C

What Comes Next in This Song Lyric?

- 1) "...But you can do the job when you're in town."
- 2) "...In fields as they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep."
- 3) "...She sailed at the dawning, all day I've been blue. Red sails in the sunset, I'm trusting in you."
- 4) "...Bells are ringing, children singing. All is merry and bright. So hang your stockings and say your prayers 'cause Santa Claus comes tonight."
- 5) "...Gold, silver, and gold; all you can hold is in the moonbeams. Poor, no one is poor long as love is sure on the street of dreams."
- 6) "...Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow will find it hard to sleep tonight."

- 7) "...How many times a day do I think of you? How many roses are sprinkled with dew?"
- 8) "...Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree won't be the same dear, if you're not here with me."
- 9) "...The heavenly touch of your embrace tells me no one could take your place ever in my heart."
- 10) "...Joyful all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies. With angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.' Hark, the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King.'"