

Christmas favorites



"It is Christmas in the heart
that puts Christmas in the air"

* W.T. ELLIS.

Christmas Favorites

Hi Emma!

This year we asked the fans to tell us what makes Christmas special for them. We asked them to illustrate this in pictures or drawings, a favorite recipe, a story about a memorable Christmas they had, or whatever they could think of.

We know that Christmas means different things to different people, and everyone has something that makes it a special time of year for them. For some people it's the time spent with friends and family. For others, it's the festive atmosphere, or all the Christmas sweets. For some, it's simply the idea of giving and receiving gifts. Everyone has their favorite things they like about Christmas and we thought we'd give the fans a chance to share theirs with you. We hope you enjoy reading about their "Christmas in the heart".

Navidad

Christmas Eve was always a busy day in my home town of Zacatecas, Mexico. I remember my mom getting up early in the morning to go to the market and buy everything for the night's celebration, with my sister and me holding on to each of her hands. That particular year my mom was responsible for providing the hot fruit punch, so by the end of our shopping we could be seen struggling home with heavy plastic bags full of fruits.

My mom usually started the punch until mid-afternoon, so after putting the fruit away, she went over to grandma's house where the real commotion was. Grandma would be busy with the preparations of the night's dinner: tamales. All my aunts, including mom, gathered around and help cook the different fillings for the tamales. I could hear their laughter echoing inside the kitchen, sometimes so loud that birds perched on nearby trees would scatter in fright.

My sister, cousins, and me spent the day outside in the patio, playing hopscotch and trying to keep out of the adult's way. As the sun started to cast long shadows, my mom returned home to start the fruit punch, my sister scampering after her; always eager to help. I remained in the patio, watching my uncles carry in various decorations, including a fat star-shaped piñ ata that was sure to be full of candy.

Once the tamales were sealed shut and boiling in water, everyone relaxed before getting ready for the festivities. Since I had nothing else to do, I went home and started wrapping presents for the gift exchange later that night. An hour before the party, I practically jumped up and down with excitement; my sister right beside me. First came the gift exchange, where the whole family gathered around grandma's large dining room with their presents beautifully wrapped on the dining table.

I was always embarrassed when my turn came to receive or give a present because there was always a lot of hugging going around. Thankfully it didn't last long. Next came dinner, the tamales and hot fruit punch had my mouth watering and stomach groaning. I didn't know what kind to get, there was pork, chicken, cheese, and candy. I loved them all, specially the cheese tamales; soft and chewy.

The party really began when holiday music was turned on and the piñ ata came out, everyone gathered in a circle outside and waited for their turn to hit it. I preferred to watch in the sidelines, waiting for the first candies to fall out, than do the physical stuff. But just like everyone else, a blindfold was placed over my eyes and a hard cold, wooden pole trusted into my hands. I then felt myself being rotated around until I became unsteady on my feet and I tried to hit the piñ ata, but there only seemed to be air.

"Behind you, it's behind you!" voices shouted with glee.

I didn't really cared about the hitting, I just wanted the candy and when the piñ ata finally broke (thanks to older cousins) , I was there in the middle of a war. The rest of the night was spent dancing and eating some more. But I was sure to go to bed early, I didn't want to oversleep on Christmas Day.

Yized, 17, USA

My name is Mandy, from Sydney, Australia, and for christmas every year my family and i sit down to watch the movie *Miracle on 34th Street* then we go to my church at midnight to participate in midnight mass.

Miracle on 34th Street is a movie about a smart young girl who slowly starts to believe in santa, she never really believed in santa because her mum, who was the advertisement manager in coles always told her that these childhood imagination characters were never real so she would not suffer later, however she meets a man called Mr Kris Kringle who shows the mother and daughter that santa is real. Mr Kringle also helps the young girl to fulfil her dream of having one happy family.

Going to mass is a like a tradition for my mother and I, we have gone every year since I can remember however when i was younger we would used to go for dinner, then participate in all the games and activities that they had, the children would always have a water fight, however as we have all gotten older, this no longer happens anymore.

These two activities are a part of my christmas, every year, it would not feel like christmas to me if they did not occur. They help to set the joyous mood of christmas without the necessity of gifts and decorations and big parties.

Mandy xoxo

Recipe for a great Christmas dish : the "Toma-rella Cabbage"

You'll need:

- a nice big round cabbage
- cherry tomatoes
- mozzarella balls
- basil leaves
- small sharp wooden sticks



1. Take the cabbage and cut the base so it doesn't roll. Place it on a nice plate

2. Take the sticks and on each one, stick one mozzarella ball, one basil leaf and one cherry tomato.

3. Then, pierce each stick in the cabbage, beginning from the top and going all around it.

To make it look even more beautiful, you can set basil leaves and cherry tomatoes on the plate all around the cabbage, as if it was in a nest! It'll make a great red, green and white delicious dish.



BON APPETIT!

From Jeanne, a Swiss fan

I live in Sweden and we don't celebrate Christmas exactly the same as you. There's a special thing we always do, which I love 'cause it's so cosy. three o'clock, 24th of December the whole family, including me, mum, dad and my two older brothers, gather in front of the telly with gingerbread, mulled wine, Christmas must and more to watch a program which shows different clips from disney-films. And at the end there's a special disney-guest. Thats a traditional thing to watch in Sweden since decades.

Love / Matilda :)



I wish you Emma all the best for this Christmas! The 24th december on the Christmas morning, I always watch *Three Wishes for Cinderella*. It is a beautiful story, and I absolutely love this movie.

From Ann-Kristin, Norway

This is the lyric of a song call *My Only Wish* sung by Britney Spears, and this song i really love because it means so much to me, i really enjoy listening this song, i hope you too. You have to know that here in México we really love Emma...!

Greetings Gaby

"My Only Wish This Year"

Britney Spears

*Last night I took a walk in the snow.
Couples holding hands, places to go
Seems like everyone but me is in love.*

*Santa can you hear me
I signed my letter that I sealed with a kiss
I sent it off*

It just said this

I know exactly what I want this year.

Santa can you hear me.

I want my baby (baby, yeah)

I want someone to love me someone to hold me.

*Maybe (maybe, maybe maybe.) he'll be all my own in a big red
bow*

Santa can you hear me?

I have been so good this year and all I want is one thing

Tell me my true love is near

He's all I want, just for me underneath my christmas tree

I'll be waiting here.

Santa thats my only wish this year.

oohhh ohh yeah

Christmas Eve I just can't sleep

Would I be wrong for taking a peek?

Cause I heard that your coming to town

*Santa can you hear me? (yea yeah)
Really hope that your on your way
With something special for me in your sleigh
Ohh please make my wish come true*

Santa can you hear me

I want my baby (baby)

I want someone to love me someone to hold me

Maybe (maybe maybe) we'll be all the love under the mistletoe

Santa can you hear me

I have been so good this year

And all I want is one thing

Tell me my true love is near

He's all I want just for me

Underneath my christmas tree

I'll be waiting here santa thats my only wish this year

I hope my letter reaches you in time

Bring me love can call all mine

(yeah yeah) cause I have been so good this year.

Can't be alone under the mistletoe

He's all want and a big red bow

Santa can you hear me (hear me?)

I have been so good this year

And all i want is one thing

Tell me my true love is near

He's all I want. just for me

Underneath my christmas tree

*I'll be waiting here (ohh yeah) santa thats my only wish this
year*

Oh santa can u hear me? oh santa

Well hes all I want just for me underneath my Christmas tree

Oh I'll be waiting here

Santa thats my only wish this year.



This is a picture from the centre of Thessaloniki in Greece, where I live. It is wonderful with this enormous boat and all these lights and I love going there for walks at Christmas. It is amazing and makes you feel really nice and peaceful!

My Only Wish This Year is my favourite Christmas song. I love it because it has nice rhythm, it makes me feel very happy and it reminds me of some past Christmas, that were very important for me!

Merry Christmas Emma and a Happy New Year! or, as we say in Greek "Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος"

Mariliza from Greece

Vanilla Cookies

17,5 oz flour
1 egg
13 oz butter
9 oz sugar
½ vanilla 'stick' smoothly chopped
9 oz sweet almonds roughly chopped
0,5 oz bitter, bruised almonds

Knead Flour, eggs, butter, sugar, vanilla and almonds thoroughly until the dough lets go of your hands. Roll the dough into an oblong lump and cut it into little pieces (the size you want your cookies to be). Roll these pieces thin and put their ends together to make a ring. Make sure to make a relatively large hole in the middle or it will disappear in the oven.

*Tip: Put some flour on your hands while doing this – the dough may be sticky.

If you want grooves in your cookies (the picture) press the dough out through one of those bags you use to manage for example whipped cream.

Bake the cookies slowly until they are light brown.
This recipe gives you approximately 80 cookies.

This is a recipe for my favourite, Danish Christmas cookies: Vanilla cookies. I love vanilla cookies because they remind me of my childhood and of the love and warmth of the Christmas spirit.

Hope you like them also!
Tine, Denmark



I simply LOVE when it's snowing and you're in your warm house and I do love Christmas lights and trees: they make me contemplate them and dream 4ever! Everything is sooo magic... That's why I thought to draw this, I know it not the best picture(yeah could be better! :o)) but I just tried to explain what I feel! (And I tried to do my best!) Thanks!
Silvia (from Italy)

My favorite Christmas Recipe

It's pretty big but I love it and I hope Emma will too.

Apricot Coffeecake

1/4 Sweet Dough

1 8- ounce packaging dried apricots

3/4 cup water

1/4 cup sugar

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Glaze:

1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 teaspoons water

1. Prepare Sweet Dough in 2- quart saucepan over medium heat, heat apricots and water to boiling. Reduce heat to low; cover; simmer 30 minutes

2. In covered blender container at high speed, blend apricots, sugar and cinnamon until smooth (if mixture is too tart add more sugar to taste).

3. Grease large cookie sheet on lightly floured surface with floured rolling pin, roll dough into 15" by 12" rectangle. Place on Sheet.

4. Spread apricot mixture in 4-inch wide strip lengthwise down center of dough rectangle.

5. With knife cut dough on sides of mixture crosswise in to 1-inch-wide strips; fold strips alternately across mixture.

6. Cover, let rise in warm place, away from draft, until doubled, about 1 hour. Preheat oven to 375 F. Bake 20 minutes or until golden.

7. Cool on sheet on rack 15 minutes. Meanwhile, in a small bowl combine glaze ingredients and stir until smooth. Drizzle over cake.

Done!

I always watch "A Wonderful Life" and "Home Alone" during Christmas time.

Love,
Katherine

One of my favorite Christmas moments was a long time ago. It was the year the Nintendo 64 came out in the US. Being a huge video game fan, I really wanted the system. It was the gift I wanted the most that year. Well, on Christmas Day, I came down and opened up all the gifts. None of them were the Nintendo 64. I was somewhat saddened by this. My parents told me to get something from under the TV, so I looked under there, and I saw it. The N64. It was a great surprise and I was very happy about it. It was a gift my entire family enjoyed, my parents were even playing it on Christmas Eve. Of course they videotaped the event, and I am always embarrassed by it somewhat (it is just embarrassing to see yourself as a kid sometimes getting so excited) But at the time it was probably my favorite Christmas. I currently own several video game systems, ranging from Nintendo to Playstation, and have a scary amount of video games.

But I like the gift you have given us this year, Emma. With your new role in Ballet Shoes. I hope that this is a good return gift for you, as us fans truly admire you.

Love,
Kevin from Massachusetts.

Here are my christmas favourites! :)

At Xmas I always read a book called 'A Christmas Tresaurey', which contains many xmas tales and poems.

I always watch a xmas film like, "Elf", or "The Santa Claus".

My favourite xmas meal is turkey with brussel sprouts and christmas pudding!

My fav song is "xmas time" by bubbles.

*Its xmas time
the stars are bright
its xmas time
oh silent night...*

Maria x x x

Dear *Emma Watson*,

I wish you a Merry Christmas and good holidays. But for me it's not Christmas, it's Hanouka.

My name is Maud (from EW.net), I'm a sixteen years old Jewess French girl and I really wish to share with one of the most talented young actress ever some of my favorites things about Hanouka.

החנוכה "Hanouka"

The "Menorah"

It's something I really love about Hanouka. Our Menora is exactly like this one. It's such a beautiful thing isn't it?

We have to light first the candle on the middle. And then everyday we light still this candle and another one more. Everytime we're lighting a candle we tell the prayer. I've done it so much that i know the first prayer by heart.

Why we do this? According to the Torah, it's to celebrate a miracle. A long time ago, all the candles of the Menora had been lighted and those candles of Jerusalem Temple stayed lighted during eight days. Incredible! Mine can stay lighted more than a night...



Dreidel (sevivon in Hebrew)

I have a confession to make about this little object: I don't play it. But this little thing is so cute that's why i wanted to show you it.

I've asked my little brother (who is learning the religion for his BarMitzva) and he explained me a little bit. There is four surfaces and a Hebrew letter is written is each surfaces:

נ (Nun) - ג (Gimel) - ה (Hey) - ש (Shin)

Each player has some coins and put one coin in a box.

You turn it and you the result is:

Nun ("nothing"), you get nothing and the next player plays

Gimel ("all"), you take all the coins put in the box

Hey ("half"), you take half of the number of the coins

Shin ("put in"), you put a coin in the box.

The winner is the one who get all the coins.

Sounds funny? No kidding, it's a play for children. But I have a child mind so I think this year, I'll ask my little cousins to play it with me.



The Presents:

Some of us get all their present the same day. In my family it's not the same. I get a little present everyday after lighting

the candles. Last year, I get lot of little present from my parents but the only one I remember is Paolo Nutini's first album. Why? Because when I received it I thought the album "sucks" and now he is one of my favourite singer!

This year, I really don't know what I will have for Hanouka, may be some Mika stuff lol. Do you like him? He is well known in UK. I'm so crazy of him! Oh sorry I'm out of the topic :P... So I only told you about the present we get from our parents. I also get some present from my uncles and aunts and grandparents. I often get a card from Printemps (a big french shop) with money in it.



My name is Tonia! Well, my favourite thing about Christmas is music and songs which bring fun and make Christmas more cheerful! I always like listening to these songs even during summertime! Sometimes, though, when it's not the holiday season, I listen to these songs and I am so sick of Christmas! Some of my favourite songs are: "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town", "Last Christmas" by Wham, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas", "Jingle Bell Rock" and "All I Want for Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey! In Greece, we have another popular Christmas song, performed by Despoina Vandí, a famous greek singer! The song is called Christmas and here are the lyrics (translated):

*My heart, Monday to Monday,
it's enduring months, day and night,
I think about you and I'm going mad*

*My heart, time is running like water,
and it's not coming back,
and everything we are going through, is unique*

*So, don't be late, come right now to me.
Don't leave me alone anymore, my heart*

*Christmas is coming in a while,
and it brings me to tears
that I can't be with you.*

*I see Santa Claus smiling at me,
and your absence hurts me twice.*

*It was Christmas again, but you're far from me again.
Ah, if I only had you here baby, next to me, in my hug.
Yes, it was Christmas again, but you're far from me again.
I only have you baby, on my mind and in my heart.*

*Christmas, Christmas, merry one
it can't be, it can't be without you.
Christmas, Christmas, merry one
it can't be, my heart without you.*

*I walk around the street alone and gaze around.
I see people, and I get jealous,
'cause they seem full of joy.*

*Couples held hand in hand,
sit on park seats.
Loneliness hurts me so much tonight.*

*I see Santa Claus smiling at me,
and your absence hurts me twice.*

*It was Christmas again, but you're far from me again.
Ah, if I only had you here baby, next to me, in my hug.
Yes, it was Christmas again, but you're far from me again.
I only have you baby, on my mind and in my heart.*

*Christmas, Christmas, merry one
it can't be, it can't be without you.
Christmas, Christmas, merry one
it can't be, my heart without you.*

Have a wonderful Christmas Emma!!!

To Plenty With Spirit

A short story by: Lola

Every Christmas my friends and I always go shopping for ridiculous gifts as a tradition. Of course, they're practical jokes, so there's no "cheap-scape" attitude going on!

Just getting into the Christmas spirit is the best part, not anything else. About two weeks before Christmas Eve, and our party, we all go our separate ways in the mall, shopping for the dumbest and cheapest things as a joke for our party. So what I found was an FBI action kit, a bow and arrow toy set, fake eye glasses, nail polish and a creepy doll! Who knows what the others have gotten me.

Two weeks later, the Christmas Eve party has come, all of our guests are drinking hot cocoa, playing in the snow outside, angering neighbors for entertainment, and just enjoying themselves. I could see that one of the parents was drunk. Embarrassing for their teen. After all of the festivities, everyone left around 11:15 PM to get home and wrap gifts. Looking to my left, Liz and my sister were waiting for me to open their pathetic gifts, so was I.

Later on, after all of the gift opening, we laughed so hard that I knew I couldn't get any rest tonight for our gift-opening in the morning. Honestly, I didn't really care what I'd get, as long as we had more useless gifts for joy. So, that was our Christmas Eve fun. Shopping for cheap gifts that mean something to us. They meant that we care about each other no matter what gifts we get. Getting into the spirit is all that counts. That's the moral of the story. Maybe you'll do something like that, too.

So, what do i like about Christmas, the only thing what gets me exited it reading HP books... Some very intense moments are like real world events for me and they are so realistic in my head (= Christmas gives me enough peace and room to read books and enjoy them. It is the only time when i can enjoy reading..')

Silver



My name is Candace. My favorite thing about Christmas is a Christmas tree. Especially, the one my Mom and I put up. What I like about it is that when all of the ornaments are up, it is absolutely beautiful. My Mom and I always have a good time putting it up, we have nice Christmas music playing. Every time we put it up, I always laugh because we have so many ornaments that I'm surprised we can fit them on and we're able to add on more. I love our Christmas tree because it's such a warm thing to have when Christmas comes.

A little story about Christmas

Very far from here on the North lives an old man. Everybody says he is unhappy. All year long he goes to different cities and towns and takes pieces of laughs and smiles that someone forgot or left behind him. When winter comes he returns back home and makes funny presents with all the things he has taken. And then he sends them to all children on the Earth.

Everybody thinks he is unhappy because he gives all that he has to children that he doesn't even know. But in fact, he is the most happiest man in the world as he has the possibility to share all that he is doing with little angels that we call "children".

By the way, his name is Santa Claus.

Tatiana

There's a lot of things I love in Christmas. Actually, it is my favourite moment of the year. Everything gets magical... And I just love that ! Here in Paris, we're lucky to have some wonderful decorations, like on the Champs Elysées or in the Grands Magasins like le Bon Marché or les Galeries Lafayette.

But what I wanted to tell you is more personal... On the Christmas morning, I have my little habit : I wake up very early, and I quietly go to the living room... To be the first to see the presents under the Christmas Tree ! It's just magical. Then I go back to my bed, and it's hard to wait until everyone gets up.

I just love the smell of the Christmas Tree... It's really something I like in Christmas, and when it smells in the living room it means Christmas will be soon there ! Christmas is really a day I love... Even if I'm always sad because it passes too fast ! For me, it's the moment in the year when everything is like out of the reality. And that's just so cool..

Merry Christmas Emma, or as we say here, Joyeux Noël !

Caroline, 17, Paris (France)

The best thing about Christmas *is pastries*

Hannah
17 years
Sweden



Crazy about books,
Emma, Harry Potter,
LotR, Donald Duck &
Shakespeare.

Don't you agree? Naturally the food is great too, but my favourite part is sweets, and the baking of course. So I've decided to show you a very typical bun all families in Sweden eats around and on Christmas. Below is a recipe so you can try and bake it yourself, or with either your friends or your family. (I've heard you're not the best cook, so ask someone for help :-D)

How to make 35 **LUSSEBULLAR**

Crumble the yeast into smaller pieces into a bowl. Melt the butter in a caserol and add the milk, the milk should not be warmer than around 35° C, put your finger in the milk to feel if it's lukewarm.

Now pour the butter and milk mix into the bowl with the yeast. Stir until the yeast has dissolved. Add the sugar, the flour and the saffron and salt. Knead the dough until it's no longer stuck in the bowl. The dough needs to rise for 30min, so let it be in the bowl and put a towel on top. After 30 min you can begin doing the fun part, shape the buns! And there is no limit, you can do them whichever shape you like to. You can see the traditional shape in the picture above. Just roll a piece of dough into a long roll, then swirl both ends opposite ways until they meet (just look at the picture). If you like raisins, you can just poke it down into the bun. I always have raisins in them but I remove them when I eat. :-) After you've shaped the buns, they need to rise for another 20-30min but then just pop them in a 225° C oven, depending on size they should be inside for 5-10min. Then just let them cool and ENJOY! :-D They taste absolutely fantastic and nothing can make you in a more Christmas mood than this. :-)



LUSSEBULLAR saffron buns

Happy Christmas Emma

with lots of love from

Hannah ^{Mrs Duck}





I really enjoy looking out of the window when it's snowing. Especially when it's dark outside..

Hilde, a huge norwegian fan of Emma

“My Favorite Part of Christmas”

My favorite part of Christmas comes . . . afterwards . . .

After the giddy sleeplessness of Christmas Eve and the intoxicating anticipation of the frosty Christmas dawn. After the splendor of the discovery of presents and the joyous paroxysm's of their unwrapping. Yes! Even after the presents! No doubt, they are a VERY nice part of Christmas, next to the best . . . but not the best for me. The best comes after the outpouring of love we all feel towards those who have given (of themselves) to us.

After the joy of family and the bonds of togetherness have been re-ignited, After the happiness of presents and so many things I have come to know as Christmas . . .

I leave my home and my family and go to a movie theatre, from the warmth of the hearth to a crucible of dreams and the multifarious wonders (both good and evil) of life. The media that always proves to create magic . . . even if they don't all have actual magic in them :)

Over the years I have had the great pleasure of sharing with a family of strangers in the isolated dark many magical masterpieces of film: “Shakespeare in Love,” “Gangs of New York,” “Cold Mountain,” “Ali,” “Dream Girls” . . . “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” (for the 2nd time). I have had some of my most thrilling and touching cinematic moments during these Christmas movies. Yet, still . . . I have not come to the best part of my Christmas. And only now does the excitement begin to build.

I come home to a house full of my loved ones. Many asleep on the couch, together, lazily holding hands, cuddling . . . buried underneath a pile of crumpled wrapping, or awake and alone in their own worlds, watching “A Christmas Story,” ogling or playing with their newest presents. Quiescence. The warmth of happiness and contentment effuses the air and fills it with a relaxing balm. I take in the quiet and the warmth . . . the aftermath and the togetherness . . . the family, and I smile . . . This is my favorite part of Christmas.

Sometimes the fire that follows the spark of life, the warmth that it creates, can warm us better than any fireplace (or roasted chestnuts or hot chocolate!) The warmth of the heart will outlast any one day and can melt through the coldest of blizzards.

That's my favorite part of Christmas.

Eric, USA



What I like about christmas is the decoration. Everything gets so bright and beautiful, it makes us happy and give us kind of hope, I don't know, it makes us feel so much better inside, the music makes us relax. I think christmas time makes us forget our problems for a while and think about the people we love.

Have a wonderfull christmas, Emma.
Isabella. (Brazil)

My name is Dominique, I'm 21 yrs old and I'm from Belgium

My favorite things about Christmas are being together with the whole family and have a big christmas dinner, decorating the Christmas tree and of course getting and giving presents!

What I always do around Christmas is listen to christmas CD's (Cool yule from Mary-Kate & Ashley Olsen, Accoustic Hearts of Winter from Aly & AJ) and I also watch Three Little Women (the original version) on TV around Christmas, just to get into the spirit because we never get snow in Belgium so by listening and watching Christmas movies and CD's I feel like we do have a white Christmas

Emma: I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2008!

xoxoxo
Domi

A MERRY XMAS
TO YOU & YOUR

FAMILY

STAY WELL
MUCH LOVE

DANNY

X



Christmas Greetings from London...OMG I dont think it could get any more ffeezing cold! lol. This stencil graffiti piece took me just under 4 weeks to do, so I hope ya like it. And dont worry I was given permission to use this wall from my college lol :p I wish you all the best for the new year , kind regards, Danny Lawrence.

My name is Kyla. My favourite memories of Christmas are going down my road to the tree farm and walking around looking for the best tree. Me and my brother would run around and chase each other around. Another thing about Christmas is that I am Dutch and before Christmas sometimes my dad's sisters will come over to our house and we will make Oliebollen, which is deep fried oil balls and Kroketten which is minced meat with bread crumbs deep fried as well. We eat them on New Year's day when we usually go to my aunts house. They sound really bad but taste really good!

Kroketten

600 grams (1lb 5 oz) veal, beef, chicken, or turkey
salt and pepper
1 dl (1/2 cup) white wine
1 small onion, finely chopped
1 clove
2 bay leaves
piece of mace
2 sprigs parsley, finely chopped
lemon juice
3/4 tsp thyme
lemon peel
50 grams (2 oz) butter or margarine
40 grams (1.5 oz) flour
corn starch or gelatin
3 eggs
4 cups fine breadcrumbs or Dutch rusks (beschuit)
oil to deep-fry

When opting for chicken or turkey meat, use 'leftovers', in other words cook the turkey or chicken a day ahead. When using veal or beef, start with fresh meat.

Season the veal or beef with salt and pepper. Melt 3 tablespoons of butter in a large frying pan. Put in the meat, add the wine, the onion, parsley, clove, thyme, mace, bay leaves, and lemon peel and 5 decilitre (2 cups) of water. Bring to a boil, then turn down the heat and let it simmer for 45 minutes to an hour. The meat should be tender. Remove the meat and finely chop or cut into small pieces. Strain and keep the stock.

Melt 50 grams of butter in the frying pan, stir in the flour and keep stirring for a few minutes on low heat. Slowly and gradually add the stock and cook over moderate heat, stirring until the sauce is smooth and thick. Add more flour, or corn starch (maizena) or dissolved gelatin if necessary. Add 3 egg yolks (set the whites aside to use later).

Add the veal, beef, chicken or turkey, season more, if needed. Stir well. The mix should be thick and stiff by this time. Set the mix aside to cool thoroughly. When ready, cut or separate the stiff, thick mix into rolls of about 5cm (2") thick and about 8cm (3") long.

On a chopping board spread out the crumbs or crumbed rusks. In a deep plate slightly beat the egg whites. Roll the croquettes through the breadcrumbs, then through the egg whites and again through the crumbs. Make sure that the second crumbs coating is even and thick and no meat mix sticks out (this could make the croquettes burst when deep fried).

Deep fry the croquettes four or so at a time for about 4 minutes, until they are golden brown. Drain them on absorbent paper.

Serve hot, with French fries or multigrain bread or rice. Put them halved on bread. A good way to season is to slather on mustard.

Oliebollen

(makes about 35)
1 kg/2.2 lbs wheat flour
1 liter water
25 grams/1 oz salt
50 grams/2 oz sugar
80 grams/3 oz packaged yeast
1 tsp cinnamon
lemon juice
200 grams/7 oz raisins
100 grams/4 oz chopped apple
oil for deep frying
icing sugar to sprinkle on top

Dissolve the yeast in the water and mix for 10 seconds. Add the flour and using an electric mixer (lowest setting) mix for well for about 20 seconds. Add the salt and sugar, cinnamon, a few drops lemon juice, the raisins and the freshly-cut diced apple. Mix well. Set aside to rise for 45 minutes.

Heat the oil to about 180°C/350°F. Form balls using two spoons or an ice scoop and deep fry the oliebollen - usually a few at a time, for about 6 minutes each. You might have to dunk (and turn) them halfway through.

Drain on absorbant paper and liberally sprinkle the hot oliebollen with icing sugar.

This is just one of the many possible recipes for oliebollen. If so desired, cinnamon and apple could be left out, but they make for an interesting flavor.

You might want to also add a 100 grams/4 oz. mix of currants, and chopped candied fruits (sukade). Another alternative is to use a bottle of (brown) beer instead of the same amount of water.

Mix for oliebollen - brandname Koopman's - also comes in a package, available from most Dutch deli stores. Follow the recipe on the label, to which you might add your own flavors.

Have you noticed? When we are a kid, we always get gifts from our relatives and friends. Lots of toys, clothes, chocolates, candies, pets, travels abroad and many other things or surprises. But, unfortunately, as we get older and older, our relatives don't give us any gift for Christmas or other holidays and celebrations. Ok, I'm not complaining, since it's a religious celebration, in which you must be kind with people, but why the kids get presents and we, teenagers, don't? Unfair!

But seriously, despite of the absence of presents, Christmas has always been a very happy celebration for me. This is when my family get together, which is really rare, we eat, drink, talk, play and sing. But here in Brazil, Christmas is not snowy, not even cold. It's summer, and we don't have snow in Brazil, which is sad, because I've never done a snow man in my entire life!

Isabelle Louise
Brasil

There's a song, which has a music video and it's called
"Do they know it's Christmas?"

(Paul Young)

It's Christmas time

There's no need to be afraid

At Christmas time

We let in light and we banish shade

(Boy George)

And in our world of plenty

We can spread a smile of joy

Throw your arms around the world

At Christmas time

(George Michael)

But say a prayer

Pray for the other ones

At Christmas time it's hard

(Simon LeBon)

But when you're having fun

There's a world outside your window

(Sting) And it's a world of dread and fear

Where the only water flowing is

(Bono joins in)

The bitter sting of tears

And the Christmas bells that are ringing

Are clanging chimes of doom

(Bono only) Well, tonight thank God it's them instead
of you.

(Everyone)

And there won't be snow in Africa this Christmas time.

The greatest gift they'll get this year is life

Where nothing ever grows

No rain or rivers flow

Do they know it's Christmas time at all?

Feed the world

Let them know it's Christmas time

Feed the world

Do they know it's Christmas time at all?

(Paul Young)

Here's to you

raise a glass for everyone

Here's to them

underneath that burning sun

Do they know it's Christmas time at all?

Chorus (Everyone)

Feed the world

Feed the world

Feed the world

Let them know it's Christmas time again

Feed the world

Let them know it's Christmas time again

Feed the world

Let them know it's Christmas time again

My name is Alice. I like Glasgow Love theme from the film Love Actually. It's a beautiful song, but it's really sad. And I know that Emma doesn't like classical music ^^ ! The Holiday, is a beautiful and a really good film, I love it! My favorite place for Christmas is London, Paris my favorites city !

Sorry for my english !

Loves from France! A Big Thank you for everything you do !

Alice

The Little Christmas Tree

Many years ago, deep in a forest, a little fir tree grew in a small clearing. All around it were huge trees, their tops reaching up toward the sky.

One day a truck with lots of men in it came along. It was time for the big trees to be felled and taken to the sawmill to be made into timber.

"All these are to go – except this little one, of course," said the foreman.



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That night the little tree felt sad. "I am sorry that you are going to be cut down," he said to the big trees.

The trees rustled their branches.

"Don't worry about us," they said.

"Our tall, smooth trunks will be used to make all kinds of interesting things. But you will just be thrown away."

Then the little tree was even more sad. He gazed up at the night sky. "This is the last time that I shall see the stars," he thought.

The next morning, the big trees were felled. But the foreman did not pull the little fir tree up. He dug very carefully around him and lifted him, with a ball of earth around his roots.



229

Then he put the little tree in his truck and drove to his home. Three little children ran out and laughed.

"You've brought the Christmas tree!" they cried. "It's a lovely one!"

Today the little tree stands, tall and strong, near the house, and at night his branches almost seem to touch the stars.



230

This is a story that my parents used to read to me, or I'd read myself when I was little around Christmas time. Ever since I was 3 years old.

Christmas to me is a time of celebration and a time of giving. A time to be with your family, have loads of food and just have fun. It's a day that warms my heart to see everyone happy and I don't know what I'd do if just one of them wasn't there.

Merry Christmas!

Emma
Kent, England

I am happy to let you know that I like to write my favorite Christmastime songs. One is “Deck the Halls”, and the other one is a Christian song. The reason that I chose deck the halls is because it is a joyful song and it doesn't have any sad lyrics in it. Christmas is the era of a new beginning.

Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
'Tis the season to be jolly
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
Don we now our gay apparel
Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la.
Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

See the blazing Yule
before us.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
Strike the harp and join the chorus.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
Follow me in merry measure.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
While I tell of Yule-tide treasure.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Fast away the old year passes.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
Hail the new year, lads and lasses
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
Sing we joyous, all together.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
heedless of the wind and weather.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Emma you are the best, I wish you luck in everything you do. Merry Christmas girl. Andrew

I love this Christmas song : All I Want for Christmas Is You - Maria Carey. She's so lovely. She is in the movie 'Love Actually' but sung by Olivia Olson. You know? And I think, Emma enjoy this song.

Love, xxx
Sophie, France

Hey! I decided to send my favourite Christmas lyrics! It's *Santa Claus is comin' to Town*. I hope you will like it!

Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town

*You better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town
Santa Claus is coming to town
Santa Claus is coming to town
He's making a list,
Checking it twice;
Gonna find out who's naughty or nice.
Santa Claus is coming to town
Santa Claus is coming to town
Santa Claus is coming to town
He sees you when you're sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake
With little tin horns and little toy drums
Rooty toot toots and rummy tum tums
Santa Claus is coming to town
Santa Claus is coming to town
Santa Claus is coming to town
He sees you when you're sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake
Goodness sake
You better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town
Santa Claus is coming to town
Santa Claus is coming
Santa Claus is coming
Santa Claus is coming to town
(Coming to town)
Santa's a busy man he has no time to play
He's got millions of stockings to fill on Christmas day
(Santa Claus is coming to town)
(Coming to town)
(Santa Claus is coming to town)
(Coming to town)*

And yeah,
Happy Christmas!

Izzy =)

Dear Emma.

Merry Christmas / Joyeux Noël! I wish you all kinds of happiness on this very special holiday

I thought I'd take this opportunity to share a few of my Christmas favourites with you...
Lots of love,

Camille (aka Neve on EW.net)

Santa Claus!

You just got to love him, he embodies Christmas! Sometimes I wish I still believed he's real.

We could all use a little bit of magic...



Book: A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens

Not very original, I know, but I've always loved this story... Ebenezer Scrooge's journey to redemption really touched me when I was a little girl. This story somehow gives you faith in the human kind and makes you want to spend time with your loved ones, which is what Christmas is all about, don't you think?



Recipe: currants biscuits

My flatmate recently introduced me to the art of making currants biscuits... and I have to say that they're so delicious that I'm planning to bake a lot of these on Christmas day, they're just perfect for the occasion!

Ingredients

110g/4oz caster sugar
110g/4oz butter
1 egg, separated
225g/8oz plain flour
55g/2oz currants
3 tbsp milk
the juice of 1 lemon
a little extra caster sugar, to finish



1. Preheat the oven 160C/325F/Gas 3 and grease a baking sheet.
2. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy and beat in the egg yolk.
3. Sieve the flour and fold into the mixture together with the currants and lemon juice. Add just enough milk to make a stiff dough.
4. Roll out the dough and cut out the biscuits with a fluted cutter. Place them on the prepared baking sheet and bake for about 10 minutes.
5. Remove, brush with the egg white, sprinkle with sugar and return to the oven for 5-10 minutes until they are a pale golden brown.
6. Remove from the tray and cool on a wire rack.

Song: All I Want For Christmas Is You (by Olivia Olson,
from the movie "Love Actually")



Ever since I watched "Love Actually" (a great Christmas movie) for the first time, I've been in love with the scene where Joanna (played by Olivia Olson) sings "All I Want For Christmas Is You" at the school Christmas party. It's so positive and full of energy, it always makes me feel very eager for the holidays to start...

1

I don't want a lot for Christmas
There's just one thing I need
I don't care about the presents
Underneath the Christmas tree
I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true...
All I want for Christmas
Is you...

2 I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need
I don't care about presents
Underneath the Christmas tree
I don't need to hang my stocking
There upon the fireplace
Santa Claus won't make me happy
With a toy on Christmas day
I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you...

4 All the lights are shining
So brightly everywhere
And the sound of children's
Laughter fills the air
And everyone is singing
I hear those sleigh bells ringing
Santa won't you bring me the one I really need
Won't you please bring my baby to me

3

I won't ask for much this Christmas
I won't even wish for snow
I'm just gonna keep on waiting
Underneath the mistletoe
I won't make a list and send it
To the North Pole for Saint Nick
I won't even stay awake to
Hear those magic reindeer click
I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you...
You baby

5

I don't want a lot for Christmas
This is all I'm asking for
I just want to see MY baby
Standing right outside my door
I just want him for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
Baby all I want for Christmas is
You
And you and you and you and you
All I want for Christmas

My name is Lana, I'm 14, and I'm from Ukraine! My fav christmas song is "Let it snow"

*Oh the weather outside is frightful,
But the fire is so delightful,
And since we've no place to go,
Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!*

*It doesn't show signs of Pausing,
And I've bought some corn for popping,
The lights are turned way down low,
Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!*

*When we finally kiss goodnight,
How I'll hate going out in the storm!
But if you'll really hold me tight,
All the way home I'll be warm.*

*The fire is slowly dying,
And, my dear, we're still good-byeing,
But as long as you love me so,
Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!*

And my fav recipe is Christmas Duck!

Ingredients

- * 1 (4 pound) whole duck
- * salt and pepper to taste
- * 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- * 1/2 tablespoon butter
- * 3 tablespoons chopped onion
- * 5 stalks celery, chopped
- * 3 cups peeled, cored and chopped apple
- * 3 cups cornbread crumbs
- * 1 tablespoon olive oil

Directions

1. Rinse duck and pat dry; rub with salt, pepper, and poultry seasoning.
2. Melt butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Saute onion and celery in butter until tender. In a medium bowl, combine with apple and cornbread crumbs. Mix together to make dressing (if necessary, add a little water to moisten).
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
4. Fill the duck's cavity with dressing, and sew shut with kitchen twine. Rub outside of bird lightly with olive oil, and place in a shallow roasting pan or 9x13 inch baking dish.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 80 minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 180 degrees F (80 degrees C.)

I really like the Christmas tree and the Christmas Baubles and I really like watching the movie "Borrowed hearts" at Christmas.

Lana x

What I like most about Christmas is: The Festivity of course!!

When I and my brother were little we absolutely couldn't wait for Christmas holiday to start. The shopping malls with all their decorations, TVs are showing Christmas shows, the cold weather (not snowing but still cold), the warm indoors, Christmas jingle everywhere, and Santa Claus. Candles, candies, Christmas trees, shops with Christmas themes and Christmas themed sales, bell tolls, people going out to eat, people shopping. Just the most wonderfullest time of the year. For the most part of my life that's what I enjoyed and remembered about Christmas.

When I was in College I lived away from my parents and spent two Christmases without them. One day they decided to visit me for the holiday and flew 16 hours from Indonesia to the icy chillness of American southwest winter. On the week of Christmas I remember the snow hadn't fallen yet as it's a rare sight to see snow in North Texas; the weather was very cold due to the wind chill. My nose tip and ear tips were seared by the icy wind gusts. Then come Christmas morning; when I opened the window all around I saw the ground was blanketed with snow. later we planned to go to the local pizzeria both my parents, my brother and I for lunch. While we're on the way, small soft snowflakes started to fall down. My mother made a comment which I can't remember what, but after that, for a moment each of us solemnly enjoyed that moment. I looked around to my parents and brother and thought "Moments like these are precious and far too few, I should treasure them forever". Your family will not be with you forever; your parents will get old and will leave this world before you do. What is forever and true is their love to you and nothing they would love more than to know that you love them the same way. A revelation under the falling snow; on moments like that I just want to do a family hug and assure them that nothing in this world nor the afterlife would change how I feel about them. That was in 2004 I think and that was my most memorable Christmas.

Reno

The best part of Christmas is just after you woke up on Christmas day. Remember the magical night before? You're so excited, tense, bouncy, with that fluttery feeling in your chest, eager to know what's under the tree? But those mere seconds immediately after you've woken from the restless night before are precious. You momentarily forget what day it is - Christmas. Then the magic begins again...

Laura, Australia, 14.





I like Christmas, because everyone is happy during the Christmas time. Everyone has a Christmas tree in their home and when there's enough snow, we can make a snowman. I always make one with my little sister and in the end of every year, we make a photo of it. On Christmas eve we have a lot of food. We all have an oven in which we can make the food. I don't know how people call it in England, but in the Netherlands we call it guemetten. The whole family comes together and of course there's the fireworks which is really beautiful. When it's Christmas, there're a lot of Christmas movies on television. At my home we always watch the Harry Potter movies and movies such as Home Alone, the Grinch and the German movies Kaiserin Sissi.

I hope you will have a great Christmas this year
Emma!

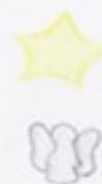
Love, Robin Beumers (girl, 16 years old, the Netherlands)



christmas tree and a snowman



Sissi





My favourite Christmas thing :



Almost everything!

What really makes it feel like Christmas doesn't necessary have to be the food, the candy or the soda or even the gifts that is only during this time of year. It's the decoration and the movies that really makes it feel like Christmas. And of course, the snow!

My all time favourite Christmas movie, have to be "The Santa Claus 2" with Tim Allen. When I watch it, it feels like Christmas is the next morning. The movie is about Scott Calvin, or "Santa". He has been the Santa for eight years, but this year it goes wrong. His son, is at the "naughty-list" and he have to marry a "Mrs. Clause" before it's too late. It's a great movie, and I recommend it!

And the songs! I know that you don't have the same songs over in the U.K. as we have here in Norway, but Christmas songs are a really good way to make it feel like Christmas. I've been singing in a choir for almost ten years, and every year we sing on Christmas Eve. It's maybe a bit embarrassing when the church is completely full, and the church is quite big, but when everything starts, and you hear the Christmas theme, you forget everything.

I love everything about Christmas, it's just wonderful!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

From Mødelene from Norway

There are two things I love about Christmas. First is decorating a Christmas tree. This is my first year in a college dorm and my roommate and I decorated a tree in our room. It may be small but we love it. This is our tree we decorated.



Then I love to make my Candy Cane Cookies. I have to make them every year. Here is the recipe for you if you would like to make them for the holidays.

Candy Cane Cookies

1 cup of Oleo	1 cup of powder sugar
1 egg 1	1/2 tsp. almond extract
1 tsp. vanilla	2 1/2 cup of flour
1 tsp. salt	red food coloring
peppermints	

Mix thoroughly oleo, sugar, egg, almond extract, and vanilla. Sift together flour and salt. Add to first mixture. Divide dough into two portions. Color one portion with red food coloring. Chill. Roll both doughs into pencil shapes. Twist one colored and one plain dough together. Shape like a candy cane. Bake at 350* for 9 minutes. Sprinkle cookies with crushed peppermint candy while hot.

Merry Christmas!
- Liz Fajman, Nebraska USA

Inspiration

It is winter and the days are bitter and cold, grey and cloudy. The skies are left barren. The feathered oviparous vertebrates have migrated down south due to harsher, seasonal temperatures caused by global differences. The sun sets much earlier and rises much later during the winter months and although these dreary days may seem endless, perhaps they signify something...more?

It is summer and the days seem to last an eternity. The sun sets later and the stars below a darkened sky glimmer with expectation. The children engage in frivolous recreation and the skies are filled with birds and bees. Summer is a period of finest beauty, a lasting season of excitement and happiness.

When the sun starts to set, it means another day is almost ending, present is about to become past and the future is but a mere hours away – no matter the season.

But why must such an insignificant part of our lives play such a pessimistic role? Sunsets are meant to be beautiful, alluring, fascinating, radiant, divine, and... *inspirational*... Yet we imagine it to be the last instead of the lasting - the end instead of the beginning.

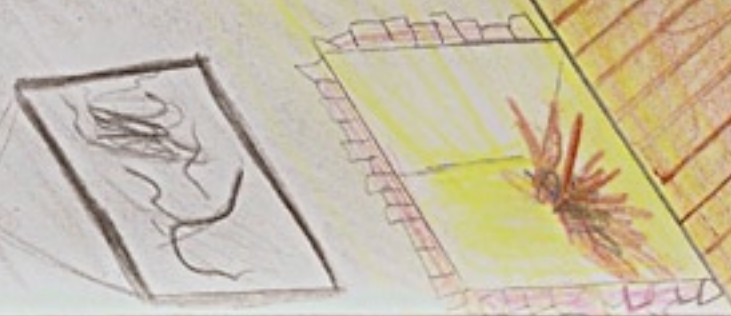
To influence is to motivate, to motivate is to inspire. When inspired, you have become radiant in the light of your glory. Reassured by inspiration, a spark of capability will be triggered and ideas only you can come up with will ripen into something beautiful. Wasted efforts will be wasted no longer. Driven by faith and incentive, you may lose yourself within a twilight zone, within a rhapsody. Time may pass you by and before you know it, the morning star seeks you out once more. The sunlight streams into view and a new beginning arises.

You're five and wishing upon a shooting star; you're sixteen and a certain someone has caught your eye; you're thirty-two and expecting; you're forty-eight and experiencing a mid-life crisis...and in a blink of an eye – with a snap of your fingers, sixty-seven is gone and you're moving on. Pretty soon you'll be ninety-nine and wishing you were five once more. Time won't stop for anyone. Make life worthwhile 'cause you only have a few golden years to live.
Inspire and be inspired...

- Miru Arul -
[Canada]



Henry Christmas is
my (Grevman?)
Clavin



MERRY

CHRISTMAS



Georgia 16

String C

3

1. Sü

ßer die

Glock

Christmas is about so many things but certainly about children singing for or with the family, their restless but happy anticipation, and the light in their eyes.

Michael from Germany



Merry Christmas Emma! I hope you have an amazing holiday filled with eggnog, yummy sweets, family, friends and mistletoe! I am from the United States but have been living in Denmark for about 2 years. I hope to see you in Scandinavia sometime! I am looking forward to seeing Ballet Shoes. I love ballet and if I was an actress, I would say yes in a heart beat! It's my passion. Here are the lyrics to one of my favorite Christmas songs, a magical Christmas quote (reminded me of Harry Potter of course!) and how to say Merry Christmas in different languages.

Love you!

Laura

Girl of My Dreams by the *Jonas Brothers*

It's Christmas time,
There's just one thing I want
It tops them all,

It's better than eggnog
It's cold outside
My boots are full of snow
I'm just hoping for some mistletoe
Ohhh

You can take these presents,
Underneath my tree
You can take this awesome scarf my grandma
made for me
You can take these boxes,
Tied up with string
Cause all I want for Christmas,
Is the girl of my dreams
Yeah!
Whoo!
HaHoHoHoHo!
YEAH!

Lights are going up,
It's Christmas time
I just want that girl to be mine
Stockings full,
But I'm not satisfied
No, no, no, no!
I'm just waiting till she's by my side
Yeah

You can take these presents,
Underneath my tree
You can take this awesome scarf my grandma
made for me
You can take these boxes,
Tied up with string
Cause all I want for Christmas,
Is the girl of my dreams

FaLaLaLaLa LaLaLaLa

FaLaLaLa

You can take these presents,
Underneath my tree
You can take this awesome scarf my grandma
made for me
I would give it all,
Just to let you see
That all I want for Christmas
Is the girl of my dreams

You can take these presents,
Underneath my tree
You can take this awesome scarf my grandma
made for me
I would give it all,
Just to let you see
That all I want for Christmas,
Is the girl of my dreams

“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world,
and behold, everything is softer and more
beautiful.” ~Norman Vincent Peale

Merry Christmas!

Joyeux Noël (French)
God Jul (Danish)
Mele Kalikimaka (Hawaiian)
Feliz Navidad (Spanish)

I'm Missael, I live in Mexico City, and the purpose of this letter it's for said you "Happy Christmas", in my country this word it's "Feliz Navidad".

In my country, we celebrate the Christmas more or less as United States, but with some differences, primarily in the food, in Mexico, we eat "Romeritos", Turkey, Hamburgers, "Bacalao" for celebrate this Christmas.



In Mexico we are very creative, in all aspects; it's interesting that without a lot of money, we can celebrate a Christmas that recognizes around the world, with food, ornaments, dances, etc.



The objective it's that all the family are united.

Also I admire the English customs, it's very interesting, you are very creative for do something, I admire the Castles in England, the food, the **language**, the clothes, It's very very interesting.

I felt very happy when you know the Mexican customs, through of the Mexican director Alfonso Cuaron. It's very interesting see that a Mexican person archives directing this saga important for the world.

I'm Harry Potter Fan, but also I'm Emma Watson Fan, I think that you're a person that has much success in all the things.

Its interesting thinking in this girl that had 11 years, and succeeded a thing very difficult by any person in this age, you could do a movie, and you could show you're successful, and also in the interviews, for example, you can express all your ideas.

Happy Christmas



Feliz Navidad



My name is Daria; I'm 18 I'm from Byelorussia, its small country near Russia. In our country (thanks to Russia :) Potter is so popular! It is like an epidemic, in good sense, course. First of all I'd like to say that you do a great job!

I think it is very cool to communicate with such interesting people, (like you) in my opinion; you can call it real life, when you're really living, "by haul life".

Some years ago I've been in England, and we were in London one day, with my friends – a couple which took me to there home in Folkston, and they told me that I can meet Emma or Dan or Rupert and ask them to sign. I was so excited; my heart was jumping from my throat, but I thought a little bit and said - I won't take an autograph if I meet them, screaming in the street and do all that crazy stuff not for me if you know what I meant to say. I'm not too much proud to myself, or haughty. It's just won't pleased me. I am a huge fan, but in different sense.

I understand that my letter is too long for this, but it first time to get chance to make a 'line' with you, and so to make a 'line' with Emma, to make a small touch with that terrific world of cinema and performance.

Send you a beautiful John Hewitt's poem and a remanding about "A Christmas Carol" 1999 with wonderful Patrick Stewart who played Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge. It is my favorite variant of brilliant Dickens's story.

Generally I can say that Christmas is to deep and complicated thing so we just have no right to make some kind of framework For example for me Christmas is real sacrament. And many movies "Grinch who stole Christmas", Home Alone (odd adventures and miracles... why not took place in Christmas?), cartoons (Blue Arrow) and songs ("It came upon the Midnight" by Franc Sinatra make my soul have a rest anytime) all that are strong connection with Xmas

Well, what for I've send you my e-mail? I've already explained... If my destiny will present me a peace of life with them, it won't be kind awe or something like that, no. I'll just will be very happy and will perceive that like a normal thing. I actually make my friends laugh when I start to dream in hearing, that some day I will live abroad, and even be famous a liittle bit... And do my favorite work – write and be in TV and movie industry. And... will be close to this British Trio, that makes whole world gobsmaked!..

Sorry again that my e-mail was so long, and I expect boring for you, and sorry me for my grammar mistakes, I love English with all my heart, but still can't write properly.

Sincerely yours, Dari

Christmas Presence

*"On your own at Christmas?"
That very well may be,
Most of my friends and relatives,
Live far away from me.*

*"Do you mind being on your own?"
It's really not too bad,
I have memories of happy days,
Though some may make me sad.*

*"But – all alone at Christmas?"
No, I have my little cat,
And she will keep me company,
She's very good at that.*

*And in any event, if away I went,
Away into the blue,
My cat would be on her own,
And that would never do.*

*What's that? You are inviting me
And my little cat?
It happens I've a bag all packed,
Wait!.. while I get my hat!..*



Here's a list of my favourite things about Christmas and why:-

- Presents because I just love the excitement of waking up on Christmas morning to find a big pile of presents. But I also like giving people them as I feel it's a way to thank my friends and family for everything they've done for me over the year.



- My favorite Christmas movie is a tie between two. Jack Frost, I just love that film! Its such an unrealistic film but its just such a feel good film! I just love watching it with my family on Christmas eve! Another one of my fav Christmas films is The Grinch because I love Jim Carey and I find him absolutley hilarious! I think he's a fantastic actor and the voice he does for him is amazing!

- My favorite Christmas song has to be Jingle Bells, it was one of the first songs I could actually sing would you believe it! As soon as someone sings the song I straight away think of Christmas!

- The thing I love the most about Christmas has to be the dinner. The food is not only fantastic but I just love the atmosphere at the table like pulling the crackers and wearing the little paper hat that you get inside it - not forgetting the jokes and little prizes!

Danielle

The best Holiday Fruit Salad ever:

Start with a yummy dressing. Place 1/2 cup of orange juice, 6 teaspoons of lemon juice and 1/2 cup of sugar in a pan, stir and heat to a boil. Then add 4 beaten eggs and cook for 1 minute more using a whip as it starts to "thicken" then remove from heat.

In another bowl take a pint of Whipping cream and add 1/4 cup of sugar and whip until nice and fluffy. Add your Orange juice thickening and stir until combined.

Fruit: slice up 8 -10 bananas, cube 3 of your favorite apples, 1 1/2 cups sliced strawberries, 1 can of Mandarin orange slices, 1 can of sliced pineapple. (use any of your favorite fruits)

Tip : slice your bananas last after you have added your thickening and other fruit so the bananas dont turn brown. Stir in as you go along to protect color. You can make your thickening the night before and store in the fridge covered .

From: Dan , USA



Johnny Mathis "Merry Christmas" CD

1. Winter Wonderland
2. Christmas Song, The (Chesnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)
3. Sleigh Ride
4. Blue Christmas
5. I'll Be Home For Christmas
6. White Christmas
7. O Holy Night
8. What Child Is This?
9. First Noel, The
10. Silver Bells
11. It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
12. Silent Night, Holy Night
13. Christmas Eve - (bonus track)
14. My Kind Of Christmas - (bonus track)

This is my favorite Christmas cd because my family has listened to it for as long as I can remember while we put up our Christmas tree and while we open Christmas presents. I love Christmas music and this cd really makes me in the Christmas spirit.

Amanda

Christmas With My Older Sister



My Favorite Christmas book is *My Getting-Ready-For Christmas Book*

This is a Christmas book that I have had since I was small. It is a silly book really, for children to read in order to prepare for Christmas! It's very funny and I still read it every year before Christmas!

Rachel

Christmas has always been fun for me and my older sister. We used to walk down to this snow hill that was near our old house and go sledding. We would make ramps and literally fly over them. Make a train with our friends and try go down the hill together. Afterward we would go home, warm up a bit. Then we would go back outside and build snowmen together. Slide on the ice that's on the sidewalk.

When we were younger my mom would tell us the story of the Christmas mouse before we would go to sleep on Christmas Eve. How the father mouse saved his family from the farmers cat, and was able to get food for his family.

When I finally got my own room when I was 13, my sister and I agreed to share the old room together on Christmas night so her and I can put our presents from us to our parents together. After we placed our gifts we would be naughty and take a peek at our presents. Try and guess what we're going to get. Then we would have a contest as to who can get up in the morning first. I always would win. One time she did beat me. I couldn't believe it. She loves to sleep in and you can never get her up in the morning no matter how hard you tried. Then when Mom and Dad got up we open the presents and play around with the gifts we received. Afterwards we go to the grandparents house to celebrate Christmas with them.

I'll always remember the Christmases that I had with my sister.

Four years ago my sister was killed in a car accident, and ever since Christmas hasn't been the same.

Kristi



Alexandre, France



*With this card, I wish you a
bag full of good surprises, luck, and all
the success that you could hope for.*

Merry Christmas.



Merry Christmas, Emma!

Well, since *I* don't celebrate Xmas, I will tell you about my favorite thing about **Hanukkah!**

We celebrate Hanukkah around the same time you celebrate Christmas, and one of my favorite things about this holiday is, of course, the **FOOD!**

We have our Hanukkah donuts, filled with jam/caramel/chocolate/whatever you like, and I thought it would be nice if I give you a recipe so you can make some yourself if you ever feel like it. ENJOY!



Pic taken by me

Ingredients:

- 4 cups flour
- 100 g margarine (1 stick)
- 30 g yeast (2 tablespoons)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons cognac
- 3 drops vanilla
- 1 lemon, zest of
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups lukewarm water

Dissolve yeast+ 1 teaspoon sugar in a little water.

Put all the other ingredients into a bowl.

Add the yeast mixture.



Pic taken by me

Mix and knead till smooth. Refrigerate for 10 minutes. Knead again, return to fridge for 1/2 hour.

Roll out to 3 cent. thick (a little more than an inch), shape your doughnuts (you can use the right size glass or doughnut cutter). Let rise 1/2 hour.

Deep fry at 375°F, till golden, flip over when doughnut rises to top of oil and let the other side become golden as well. Remove.

Rill with desired jelly (or a square of chocolate which will melt in the warm dough).

Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

[Recipe thanks to www.recipezaar.com](http://www.recipezaar.com)

Hanukkah:

Festival of Lights, Jewish festival which lasts for eight days and commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus Epiphanes and the rededication of the Temple.

XOXO

Roni Kvoras, Israel



Christmas is my favorite holiday! The things that I like the most at Christmas are the Christmas tree with all the lights and the finery and the snow! Even though here in Greece it doesn't snow a lot, when it happens it is great!

I also like melomakarona! They are cookies that we bake here in Greece at Christmas time. The recipe calls for olive oil and creates a delightful holiday treat. The spice cookies are made with cinnamon and cloves, are soaked in honey syrup and sprinkled with sesame seeds, walnuts and cinnamon. And they disappear as quickly as you can make them.

INGREDIENTS:

For the cookie dough:

- 12 cups of all-purpose flour
- 3 cups of olive oil
- 2 cups of sugar
- ¼ cup of brandy
- 1 cup of lukewarm water
- Juice and grated peel of 1 orange
- 2 teaspoons of baking powder
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- ½ tablespoon of ground cinnamon
- ½ tablespoon of ground cloves
- 1 cup of coarsely ground walnuts (optional)

For the syrup:

- 1 cup of honey
- 2 cups of sugar
- 2 cups of water
- 1 cinnamon stick
- Juice of ½ orange
- 10 whole cloves

For the topping:

- 2 ½ cups of toasted sesame seeds
- 1 2/3 cup of walnut pieces
- 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon

PREPARATION:

Preheat oven to 355F (180C)

Dissolve baking soda in the orange juice. In a bowl, combine the flour, sugar and baking powder, and whisk until well blended.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the oil, water, orange juice (with baking soda), cinnamon, cloves, brandy and grated orange peel. Beat for 2 minutes until thoroughly combined. Continue beating and add two-thirds of the flour mixture, ½ cup at a time, beating on low speed until well blended. Change to dough hooks, or use hands when needed.

Add remaining flour ½ cups at a time kneading with hands at the end. Dough is ready when it no longer sticks to the hands about 5 minutes of kneading.

To shape the cookies, take a fistful of dough and make it into a log. Press the dough gently with your fingers on one side to flatten slightly. The traditional shapes of the cookies are slightly rounded circles or ovals.

Place the cookies, finger-marked side down, well spaced in a greased cookie sheet, place in the middle rack in the oven and bake until browned (30-35 min). Remove from the oven and allow to cool completely on baking racks or paper towels.

Combine all topic ingredients and grind coarsely.

The cool cookies will be dipped in the hot syrup, so don't start the syrup until the cookies have cooled.

Place all syrup ingredients in a wide pot (like a deep frying pan) and bring to a boil over medium-high heat for 10 minutes. Turn the heat down to low. Remove the cinnamon stick and cloves.

Put in cookies (as many as will fit on the bottom in one layer) into the hot syrup and use a spatula to hold them down for about 10-20 seconds. Once the cookies have been soaked, remove them with a slotted spoon, letting some of the syrup drip, place on a large serving plate in layers, sprinkling each layer liberally with the mixture of ground sesame seeds, walnuts and cinnamon before adding another layer on top.

Melomakarona are not refrigerated. Cover them with plastic wrap or store in tins so they don't dry out, and they'll last for several days – if they aren't eaten by then.

Try to make them! They are really tasty!

With love, Antonia

Oh Holy Night

*Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth,
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth,
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

*Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
Oh night divine, Oh night when Christ was born,
Oh night divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand,
We led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient Land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lovely manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend.*

*Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
Oh night divine, Oh night when Christ was born,
Oh night divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.*

Merry Christmas

Dear Emma,

Oh Holy Night is my favourite Christmas carol and one which epitomises the true meaning of Christmas.

I Hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Best Wishes,
Darren



Last Christmas, in my house we bought a christmas tree and we would decorate it and we would put lights in the christmas tree and we would switch off the lights to see the christmas tree with the lights which I put in the tree and I would put some nice songs and just dance. In christmas I would make some recipes and I would enjoy it a lot. I found a christmas foods in a recipe book in my school library so I took it and I think these recipes are good.

Stollen

Stollen is an Austrian christmas bread. It is meant to look like a baby wrapped in old fashioned swaddling clothes, to remind people of Jesus as a baby.

Ingredients-

Grated Peel and Juice of a Lemon
50g mixed candied peel
150g diced,mixed dried fruit
1 tsp nutmeg
200ml orange juice
500g white bread flour
100g granulated sugar
50ml warm milk
125g soft butter
7g quick-acting dried yeast
40g melted butter
100g marzipan
50g caster sugar
25g glace cherries
25g flaked almonds

How to make-

1. Put about 3/4 of the grated peel, candied peel,fruit and nutmeg in a saucepan.Add enough orange juice to cover them. Add a little lemon juice.
2. Simmer these ingredients together for about 10 minutes,until the liquid is absorbed. Let the mixture cool.
3. To make the dough, mix the flour, sugar, milk, soft butter and yeast together with 120ml warm water. Knead for 10 minutes on a floured board.
4. Put the dough in a bowl and cover it with cling-film. Put it in a warm place to rise,until it has doubled in size. This will take about 30 minutes.
5. Put the dough back on the board and punch it down before kneading the cooled fruit into it.
6. Divide the dough in half, and roll it into 2 rectangles. Brush each one with melted butter.
7. Cut the marzipan in half and roll each piece into a sausage shape, the same width as the dough. Place a piece of marzipan on top of each piece of dough,then fold one side of each loaf over the other to enclose it. Press down on the tops of the loaves with a rolling pin to make sure that the dough is firmly stuck together.

8. Let the loaves rise again for about 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 190 degree celsius/375 F/gas mark 5. Then bake for about 35 minutes, until it is golden brown.
9. While the stollen are baking, disslove the caster sugar in 2 tbsp of boiling water to make a glaze. While they are still hot, Paint the loaves with the glaze and sprinkle the glaze cherries and flaked almonds over them for decoration.

Christmas Pudding Ice-Cream

This is an Australian recipe for a refreshing Christmas Pudding Ice-Cream

Ingredients:

500ml vanilla or clotted cream ice-cream
50g ready mixed dried fruit
1/2 grated eating apple
1/2 tsp each of cinnamon,nutmeg and ginger
1 tsp black treacle
4 glace cherries, chopped squeeze of lemon juice
100ml orange juice to decorate,toasted hazelnuts

How to make:

1. Keep the ice-cream in the freezer
2. Put everything except the nuts and the ice-cream into a small, non-stick saucepan. The orange juice should just cover the fruit.
3. Bring the mixture gently to the boil, stirring all the time, and cook until the liquid is absorbed and the fruit is plump. This should take about 10 minutes
4. Put the mixture into a small bowl, cover it with cling film and put it in the fridge overnight.
5. Put a 1-litre pudding bowl in the freezer, also overnight.The next morning, take the ice cream and the bowl out of the freezer; scoop the ice-cream out of its container and into the bowl.
6. Using a fork, quickly stir the fruit mixture into the ice cream. You may have to wait a few minutes until the ice cream is soft enough to mix, but do not let it become runny. You should still have lumps of ice cream mixed with the fruit.
7. Serve the ice cream at once,scooping it out into bowls and decorating with a topping of chopped nuts.

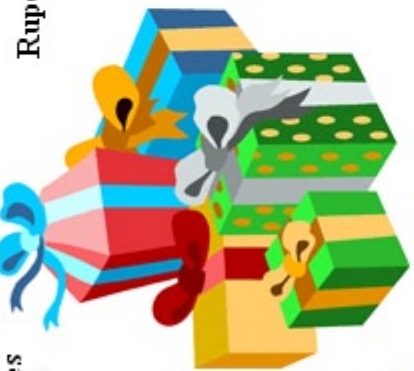
Minette



Katie



James



Rupert



Shefali



Mathew



Tom



Evanna



Daniel



Afshan



BRASILLI

Emma



Oliver



Bonnie



Lots of Christmas Presents for all Harry Potter cast!

Mairna Guedes from



My favorite Christmas Song

Greatest Time Of Year

Aly & Aj

It's the greatest time of year, and it's here
Help me celebrate it
With everybody here, friends so dear
Let me simply state it
It's our favourite way to spend the holiday
Yeah

There's a special kind of feeling in the air
It only happens at this time of year
When everyone is filled with love and cheer
'Cause that's what matters

Pretty paper boxes tied with bows
Walking in the sun or in the snow
We can feel the excitement growing, knowing

It's the greatest time of year, and it's here
Help me celebrate it
With everybody here, friends so dear
Let me simply state it
Joy to the world and everyone
Lift up your hearts and feel the love
It's our favourite way, to spend the holiday
Yeah

We can get all cozy by the fire
Turn the music up a little higher
I don't think that I could ever tire
Of being together

Decorate the tree, hang mistletoe
And stand by me

It's a picture perfect moment captured
Memories that we'll have after

It's the greatest time of year, and it's here
Help me celebrate it
With everybody here, friends so dear
Let me simply state it
Joy to the world and everyone
Lift up your hearts and feel the love
It's our favourite way, to spend the holiday
Yeah

Spend the holidays...

It's the greatest time

It's the greatest time of year, and it's here
Help me celebrate it
With everybody here, friends so dear
Let me simply state it
Joy to the world
Joy to the world
Joy to the world
It's the greatest time of year
It's the greatest time

It's the greatest time of year, and it's here
Help me celebrate it
With everybody here, friends so dear
Let me simply state it
Joy to the world and everyone
Lift up your hearts and feel the love
It's our favourite way, to spend the holiday



My favorite image of a family enjoying Christmas.

Carolina, Mexico

“On this day, I am alive
and all the world is mine.”

That’s exactly how i feel whenever i wake up on Christmas Morning. Even though everything about Christmas is amazing, it’s really this feeling of complete freedom and happiness that makes Christmas one of the best times of the year. I guess, it’s the only time of the year wherein we can all forget everything and just surrender to total merriment and cheer.

I wake up every Christmas morning with absolutely nothing on my mind. I rarely have opportunities like this, you know, to wake up with a blank slate. Who does? I always have something to do, something planned, something i have or must do. My mind’s usually plagued with problems or worries or tasks and my days are usually pretty much the same. Except on Christmas Day. Today, I am alive. Today is my day and so is the rest of the world. Well, that’s how i feel. I feel like i can do anything, especially because i have nothing to do! Haha! NO worries await me. Absolutely none whatsoever. I have nothing to think of, nothing to do, nothing planned, i can just lie down the entire day if i wanted to! I don’t have to wrack my brains or bother myself at all. No chores, no work, no homework, no obligations, nothing. Freedom from worldly worries. It’s total peace, finally, and it comes at the end of the year!



As i said, i just wake up on Christmas Morning, without a thought in my head, and everything just seems so nice and bright, even shiny! Haha! Everything’s just so clear. It’s an unbelievable feeling of lightness. The pillows seem so soft, the sheets so warm, the bed so snug. My entire room just seems to be bathed in soft incandescnet light. Everything’s just brilliant and pleasant. Of course, it’s all in my head. I’m just in a good mood, terrific actually. I guess, Christmas heightens all the positive feelings inside us. Everyone’s just so happy, so hopeful. I understand how hard it is to have or even to keep this perfect mood especially through everyday life but nevertheless, it comes eventually at the end of the year and it’s the perfect way to end it. End each year with a happy heart.

I usually take about 30 minutes to an hour to get up because, why get up early when it’s so comfy in bed?

Anyway, when i do get up, i know that all that awaits me downstairs, is a happy family and more gifts (and food)! Just more good times!

Nothing compares to Christmas Morning. We may have summer breaks, semestral breaks and such but these don’t even come close. Everything’s just complete, so whole, during Christmas. It’s the best time of the year for me and my family.

I always remember to share this unbelievable feeling, my feeling of joy, with my family.

So Merry Christmas to you and your family!
Leandro

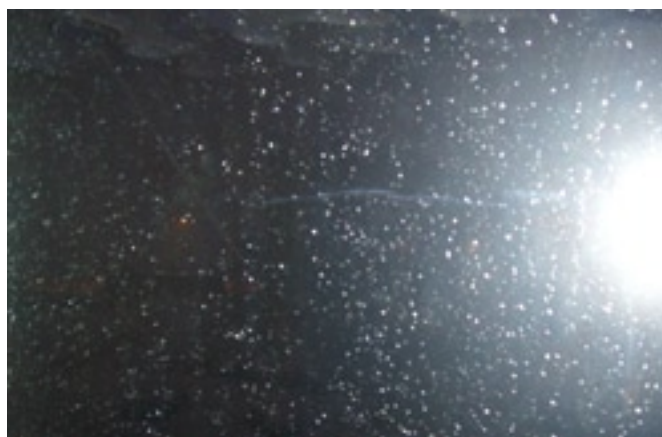
My name's Katie. I'm big fan of Emma from Poland. I'm 15. These are my favourite things at Christmas:



Title page of my favourite Christmas book - in English its title is "The Story of Santa Claus". I hope you have this book in English bookshops! It's beautiful with sweet pictures.



No learn! - of course in Christmas we shouldn't learn! It's wonderful time in which my school book are deep inside my desk. I think that everyone think the same!



Exciting view of snow on my window - when I saw it, I think that I MUST take a photo of it and sent to Emma. It's fantastic, isn't it?



Playing carols on guitar near the Christmas Tree - I love it! When me and my family end eating special supper, I take my guitar and we sing carols together. It's a magic moment!

(continued next column)



Advent Calendar - it's a box of sweets, which every child open since 1st to 24th December (for every day there is special chocolate). It's for young children, but every year I buy it. It's my little tradition!

Now, I'd like to sent to Emma text of my favourite Christmas song - "Rockin' around the Christmas Tree". I'm sure that everyone in England like it!

*Rocking around the Christmas tree
at the Christmas party hop
Mistletoe hung where you can see
every couple tries to stop
Rocking around the Christmas tree,
let the Christmas spirit ring
Later we'll have some pumpkin pie
and we'll do some caroling.
You will get a sentimental
feeling when you hear
Voices singing let's be jolly,
deck the halls with boughs of holly
Rocking around the Christmas tree,
have a happy holiday
Everyone dancing merrily
in the new old-fashioned way.
You will get a sentimental
feeling when you hear
Voices singing let's be jolly,
deck the halls with boughs of holly
Rocking around the Christmas tree,
have a happy holiday
Everyone dancing merrily
in the new old-fashioned way.
Merry Christmas!*

My favorite Christmas song:

Christmas Time - Bryan Adams

We waited all through the year
for the day to appear
when we could be together in harmony
You know the time will come
peace on earth for everyone
and we can live forever in a world where we are free
let it shine for you and me

There's something about Christmas time
something about Christmas time
that makes you wish it was Christmas everyday

To see the joy in the children's eyes
the way that the old folks smile
says that Christmas will never go away

We're all as one tonight
makes no difference if you're black or white
'cause we can sing together in harmony

I know it's not too late
the world would be a better place
if we can keep the spirit more
than one day in the year
send a message loud and clear

[Lyrics provided by www.mp3lyrics.org]

[Chorus:]

It's the time of year when everyone's together
we'll celebrate here on Christmas day
when the ones you love are there
you can feel the magic in the air -
you know it's everywhere
There's something about Christmas time
something about Christmas time
that makes you wish it was Christmas every day

To see the joy in the children's eyes
the way that the old folks smile
says that Christmas will never go away

[Repeat chorus]

Please tell me Christmas will never go away

Andrea

*following page by
Jule*



CHRISTMAS

Jingle Bell Rock

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring
Snowing and blowing up bushels of fun
Now the jingle hop has begun

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bells chime in jingle bell time
Dancing and prancing in Jingle Bell Square
In the frosty air.

What a bright time, it's the right time
To rock the night away
Jingle bell time is a swell time
To go gliding in a one-horse sleigh
Giddy-up jingle horse, pick up your feet
Jingle around the clock
Mix and a-mingle in the jingling feet

That's the jingle bell,
That's the jingle bell,
That's the jingle bell rock.



Angela Dong

MERRY Christmas, Emma!
♡ The staff and fans of
Emma-watson.net