By the bestselling author of the How to Train Your Dragon series comes a brand new Emily Brown picture book. Emily Brown and her sidekick rabbit, Stanley, are back! And who’s that outside the window... it’s Father Christmas!

Themes:  -  Christmas Traditions  -  Making Your Own Happiness

- Where do you think this story is set? What clues are there?
- ‘Being kind and helpful to others is what Christmas is all about’. As a class, expand on this idea and discuss some of the things that you can do to be kind and helpful to others at Christmas, particularly those less fortunate than you.
- Father Christmas was trying to use all the latest equipment, but Emily said ‘Sometimes the old ways are the best ways’. Can you think of three examples of how technology might have made things worse, not better? Discuss this concept as a class.
- What were some of the more unusual, non-material things that some of the children asked for?
- Do you think that these would be good presents? Discuss.
- Why did Father Christmas get very upset?
- How would you describe what Emily Brown and Stanley did for Father Christmas?
- Draw a picture of your own house with a snow topped roof ‘and a lovely old-fashioned star’ hanging over it.
Share all the joy and fun of preparing for a family Christmas with your favourite characters from the best-selling picture book series, *There’s a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake*.

**Themes:**  
- Christmas  
- Imagination  
- Decorations

**Discussion Questions & Activities:**

- Do you think there really was a Hippopotamus on the roof eating Christmas cake?
- Use your imagination and think of another animal eating something different on your roof at Christmas time. Make a list of these on the board and have fun with students reading the combinations!
- ‘Christmas is my BEST time’. What is it about Christmas that you like?
- The children all made stars, balls and paper chains. Make your own to decorate your classroom.
- They also make Christmas cards. Have the children make their own card for their family.
- What is the boy making to give his hippopotamus as a Christmas present?
- What would you make to give the animal on your roof as a present?
- The family have Carols by Candlelight in their street. Have you ever been to one?
- Make a list of the children’s favourite Christmas Carols and then have a class concert for anoth-
The Aussie ABC Christmas Book
Illustrated by Nancy Bevington
Publisher: New Frontier Publishing
ISBN 9781925594256 SCIS: 1878330
$24.99

Going to the beach, eating ice cream and having a barbeque are just some of the things that make an Aussie Christmas great. Explore the Australian way of celebrating Christmas whilst navigating each letter of the alphabet. With kangaroos, koalas, the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge, learning the alphabet has never been so much fun!

Themes: - Christmas - Alphabet - Australian traditions

Discussion Questions & Activities:

• As a class, create your own Aussie ABC Christmas mural. Try to be creative and come up with different, uniquely Australian things for each letter that relate to Christmas time and the summer holidays. Draw a picture to go along with each one.
• What is it that makes Christmas different in Australia compared to countries like England or America?
• How does where we live dictate the activities that we do?
• Have you ever experienced a ‘White Christmas’? If so, describe to the class what it was like and how different it was to celebrating it in Australia.
• What is your favourite thing to do over the holidays?
• Have you ever been on a ‘road trip’ holiday? If so, where did you go and what did you do?
• When do we usually see fireworks at the Sydney Opera House? Paint your own picture of how you think they look.
• Make and decorate your own Christmas tree, like the one in the book.
Macca’s Christmas Crackers
By Matt Cosgrove
Publisher: Scholastic
ISBN 9781742998824 SCIS: 1878128
$17.99

Christmas is here! Macca loves Christmas time and he especially loves finding the perfect gifts for his friends! But with no money in the piggy bank, how will Macca surprise his friends on Christmas Day?

Themes:   -  Christmas   -   Friends  -  The Best Presents of all   - Alpacas

Discussion Questions and Activities:

• Macca is an Alpaca. Do you know anything about them?
• Macca said that he was obsessed with Christmas and he did lots of decorating. Make a list of all the things that you associate with ‘Christmas decorating’. Why do we do this at Christmas? In small groups, study how this came to be a part of what we do at Christmas.
• ‘But what Macca loved best of the whole Christmas-fest, was his reason for living - the spirit of giving!’ As a class, discuss the whole concept of giving to others in all sorts of ways, and not just material ones!
• What were some of the things that Macca thought about buying for his friends? What stopped him from doing so?
• Do you think that Christmas has become too much about expensive gifts and not enough about spending time together? Discuss this as a class.
• What was the perfect present that didn’t ‘cost a single cent’?
• Macca liked to dress up like Santa. Make and decorate your own Santa hats that you can all wear.
Santa has discovered high-tech gear. With his techno-pad, a soft reclining seat in his sleigh and a rocket pack, he is well prepared to deliver presents for Christmas Day. But as things start to go wrong, Santa needs the help of a young girl so that all the presents get delivered on time.

Themes:  - Christmas  - Technology  - Helping others  - Thinking of others

• Santa loved ‘high-tech’ gear. What would you describe as ‘high-tech’?
• What was the ‘modern way’ that Santa checked off his list?
• Do you think that Santa really knew how to work his ‘high-tech’ equipment?
• Who helped him when his technology didn’t work?
• ‘With skill and speed she tapped and scrolled, making Santa feel quite old’. Do you ever have to help someone older than you with technology? If so, who have you helped and what did you do?
• Why do you think that younger people seem to understand modern technology better?
• Why was Jasmin ‘puzzled by the list that she had read’?
• What did she pick up on his list?
• How would you describe what Jasmin did to help Santa and the other girl on his list?
• Do you think that she was showing the real spirit of Christmas? Discuss.