



Parents, I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas! May you be filled with the peace, love, and joy that only our Savior can give. I hope you will have a wonderful holiday creating special memories with your children as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I have enjoyed celebrating the Christmas season with the children. We have had a wonderful 2013 and I am looking forward to a terrific New Year! Class will resume on January 8, 2014. Thanks again to Angelica and all who helped with our Christmas party. See you next year!

## Merry Christmas!!

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

### Bible/Character Study:

- December – Joyfulness- Having a gladness of heart regardless of circumstances, because of my close walk with the Lord. *“I’ve got that joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart to stay.”*
- Verse to Memorize by **January 8<sup>th</sup>**: **Luke 2:10- But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”**
- Find this verse in the Bible and read it aloud to your parents or have your parents read it aloud to you.
- Copy your verse on the attached sheet.
- Family Discussion: Joy in the Lord is the place where our joy begins. You cannot have real joy until you have accepted the gift that Jesus offers at Christmas and all year long. We can read Nehemiah 8:10b- “For the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Read Acts 16: 16-34 to see how Paul and Silas had joy even in prison. Through Jesus, we can have true joy. The following is an excerpt from “The Secret of Joy” by Billy Graham found in the book The Family book of Christian Values by the Briscoe’s: *If the heart has been attuned to God through faith in Christ, then its overflow will be joyous optimism and good cheer.... We have to be tuned to God.... Christ Himself is the Christian’s secret of joy: “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with a inexpressible and glorious joy.” 1 Peter 1:8.* Having studied about faith last month, we can see how our faith leads us to true JOY in Christ.
- Read and discuss the following poem:

God gives us joy that we may give;  
He gives us joy that we may share;  
Sometimes He gives us loads to lift  
That we may learn to bear.  
For life is gladder when we give,  
And love is sweeter when we share,  
And heavy loads rest lightly too  
When we have learned to bear.

*Anonymous*
- Family activity: After reading Luke 2: 9-14, go outside on Christmas Eve night or Christmas night and look at the stars. Imagine the sky full of angels announcing the birth of Christ. What an awesome time that would have been!
- Family activity (optional): Last week you read the poem about “what can I give Him- I can give Him my heart.” We also read in Matthew 25:40 that whatever we do for others, we do for God. Make or purchase a stocking for Jesus. Every time someone in your family does something special for someone else, write that person’s name on a piece of paper and a short sentence about what the family member did. Put the paper slip in the stocking. On Christmas Day, read the slips of paper and see what your gifts to Jesus were. Be sure to read the Christmas story in Luke 2 and discuss how the Christ Child is the greatest gift ever bestowed on mankind.
- Bible catechism: Extension (optional): 35. What is righteousness? It is God’s goodness. (Exodus 33:19; 34:6; Psalm 33:5; Hosea 3:5; Romans 11:22); 36. Can anyone be saved by his own righteousness? No. No one is good enough for God. (Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10–23)

### History:

- Read aloud to your child chapters 25- 26.

- Complete the coloring page, “Plague Doctor” and/or “Joan of Arc.” Plague doctors wore a strange suit that they thought would prevent them from catching the plague. Doctors also put sweet smelling flowers and spices under their noses so that they wouldn’t smell the dying victims. The other picture is of Joan of Arc as she prepares to go to war.
- Narration: Narrate either chapter 25 or chapter 26. Narration is retelling. After you have read the History assignment to your child, have your child tell you about what you’ve just read or a portion of what you’ve just read. Write his/her version down in the marble composition notebook (by the end of second grade, your child should be starting to write down their own narrations). The narrations are usually two to five sentences.
- Extension (optional): Narrate both chapters.
- Sketch: (Draw your sketch in the marble composition notebook in the space at the top.) Choose to sketch something of your choice or choose one of the following. Chapter 25: What was the name of the animal that was causing the spread of the *Black Death*? What was the name of the insect that lived on this animal that carried the disease? Draw a picture of the animal that carried the disease. You may also draw a picture of the insect. Label the animal and insect. Chapter 26: The Dauphin’s soldiers fought under a battle flag (see page 261 in the text). Design your own flag for battle. Be sure and write a caption for your picture.

### Literature:

- The Making of a Knight. Read pages 1-8. You will have to number the pages.
- Complete two of the attached sheets: *Identify the Person*, Vocabulary Matching *In the Castle* and the crossword puzzle, *Castles*. These sheets are from the book The Knight at Dawn, but they help in understanding The Making of a Knight.
- Memorize the following poem by January 9<sup>th</sup>:

“In January”  
 Snow, snow, come and go,  
 January’s here, you know;  
 Nights grow short, days grow longer.  
 Now the winter’s cold grows stronger,  
 But for that we have no fear  
 Jolly winter sports are here.  
 -Author unknown

### Language Arts:

- Easy Grammar: Complete three or more of days 76-80.
- Shurley English: Please have your child REVIEW Jingles 1-5 on the jingle worksheet in the English folder.
- Complete Week 16 in your English workbook and bring it to class for the thank you note information.
- Wordly Wise 3000: Complete Lesson 8, pages 71-74.
- First Language Lessons: Do lessons 45, 46, and 47.
- Copywork: from “The Young Man and the Cat” from the book *The Crimson Fairy Book* by Andrew Lang. Circle the adjectives in the sentences. We have talked about the adjectives that come before the nouns in the subject. Three of the adjectives are predicate adjectives. They come after the verb “was” or “were”. Copy these sentences correctly and neatly on the attached paper.

### Phonics, Spelling & Dictation: Spelling Words to learn for January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Phonics: suffixes –er, –est, –y; digraph ai and ay

Parents, phonics practice should be done on a daily basis. The phonics worksheets should be completed over a period of several days, instead of all at once.

- Complete the phonics sheets for lessons 59, 61 and 62, front and back. Check the portal for the Help Sheets and teacher’s pages.
- Read aloud Decodable Book 11. Parents, please check for comprehension.
- Extension (optional): You may color your reader neatly.
- Practice reading the story on Fluency Passage 5 orally until you can read the words easily.

**Spelling Words:** words from lists 9, 10, 11- **were, from, where, of, was, mess, sir, first, birth, skirt, squirt, blond, which, kept, white**

### **Challenge Words: regent, coronation**

- Write each spelling word CORRECTLY and NEATLY in your spelling composition notebook.
- Extension (optional) - Code your words in your spelling notebook.
- Practice your words orally with your parents. You should practice your words daily.
- Take a practice test, then copy any missed words two or more times.
- Extension (optional): If you need more practice with your spelling words, use the website [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com).
- Extension (Optional): Put your spelling words in alphabetical order.

Dictation: Parents, please dictate a short sentence once. Please pay attention to mistakes in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, or failure to reproduce the exact words dictated.

- Dictate 2-3 sentences.

### **Art/Music Appreciation:**

Art- Michelangelo

Music- Haydn- we do not have a book for Haydn. I'll be giving you some things about him.

### **Geography:**

- Complete the history map work.
- Complete the attached map worksheets. We are taking a break from the map skills workbook.
- Extension (optional) - If you are traveling, this is a good opportunity to show your child where you are going on a state map. Show them how to locate different cities that you will be traveling through. See the Georgia map in your Christmas treat bag. Discuss north, south, east, and west. If you are traveling out of state, locate the surrounding states on the U.S. map. See the one in your English workbook.

### **Thinking Skills:**

- Dr. DooRiddles- Complete pages 19-20.

### **Read Aloud:**

- Read aloud from a book of your choice for 20 minutes a day.  
Suggested goal: minimum- 10 books or chapters per week. Parents, remember to listen to your child read aloud some each week and to model good flow and expression by reading aloud to them.
- Book-It: Extension (optional): Read 1½ hours per week. Parents, sign below if your child did the required reading for the Book-it coupon.
- Reading Connection: Complete pages 35-36.
- (optional) Website: [www.bookadventure.com](http://www.bookadventure.com)
- Extension (optional): Six Flags Reading- Check the portal for information for this reading. The 6 hours of reading includes the 20 minutes a day and the Book-It reading. Remember, you will be logging in yourself this year. The home school parent-teacher will receive a free ticket this year.

### **Writing:**

- Penmanship: Draw Write Now pages 20-21. Use the attached writing paper to copy the sentences correctly and neatly.
- Sketch the picture on the writing paper at the top of the page. Extension (Optional): Add a background to your picture and color it.
- Extension (optional): Complete the cursive handwriting sheets.
- Creative Writing: Use the December creative writing assignment sheet (keep in creative writing folder) to complete your writing assignments. Be prepared to share your paragraph in class on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Parents, remember to check your child's work in progress so that he/she can receive immediate feedback. Please initial or put a check on each page so I will know that it has been checked. I have reviewed my student's work, and all assignments are complete as outlined on this assignment sheet.

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Parent's Signature

My child completed the required reading for the **Book-it** program for December for the coupon from Pizza Hut.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_