

How Many Days 'Til Christmas?



Written by Pat Neuman

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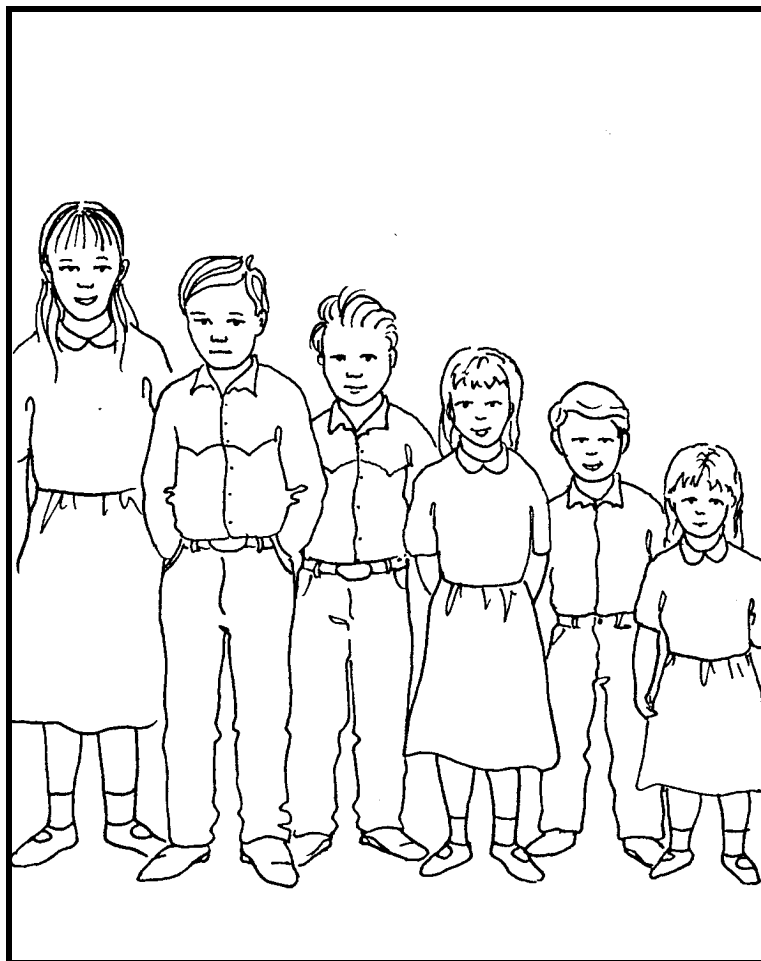
A book project of:
Pembina Valley Learning Centre
Cheryl Campbell, Manager

Funded by:
The National Literacy Secretariat
Human Resources Development Canada
2003

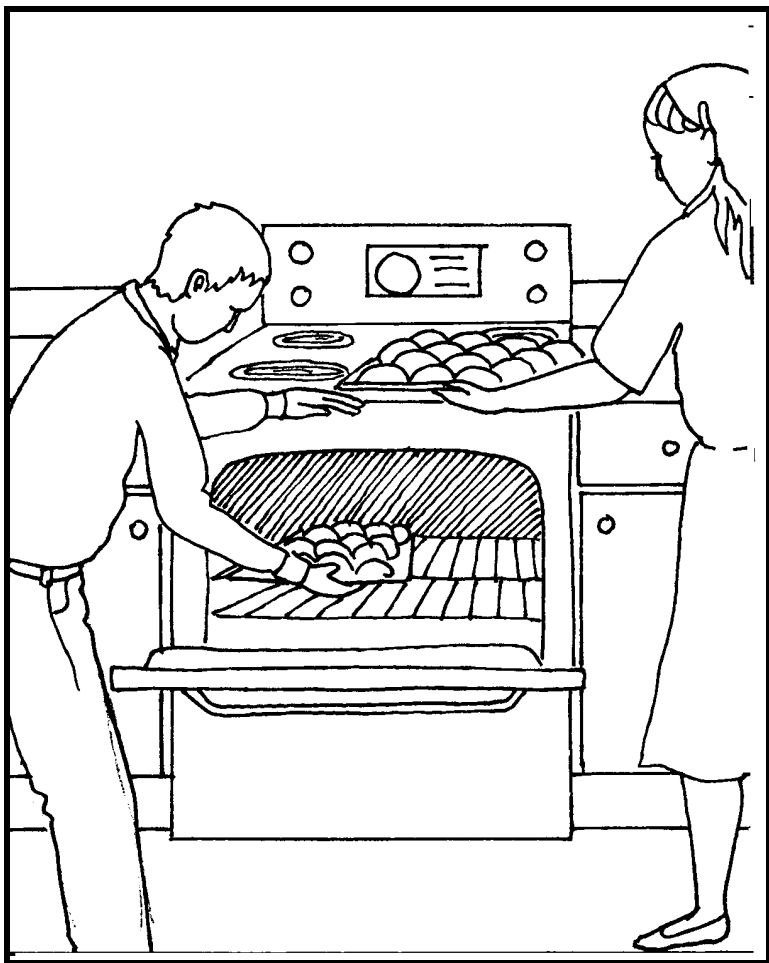
This book is dedicated to Adult
Literacy Learners



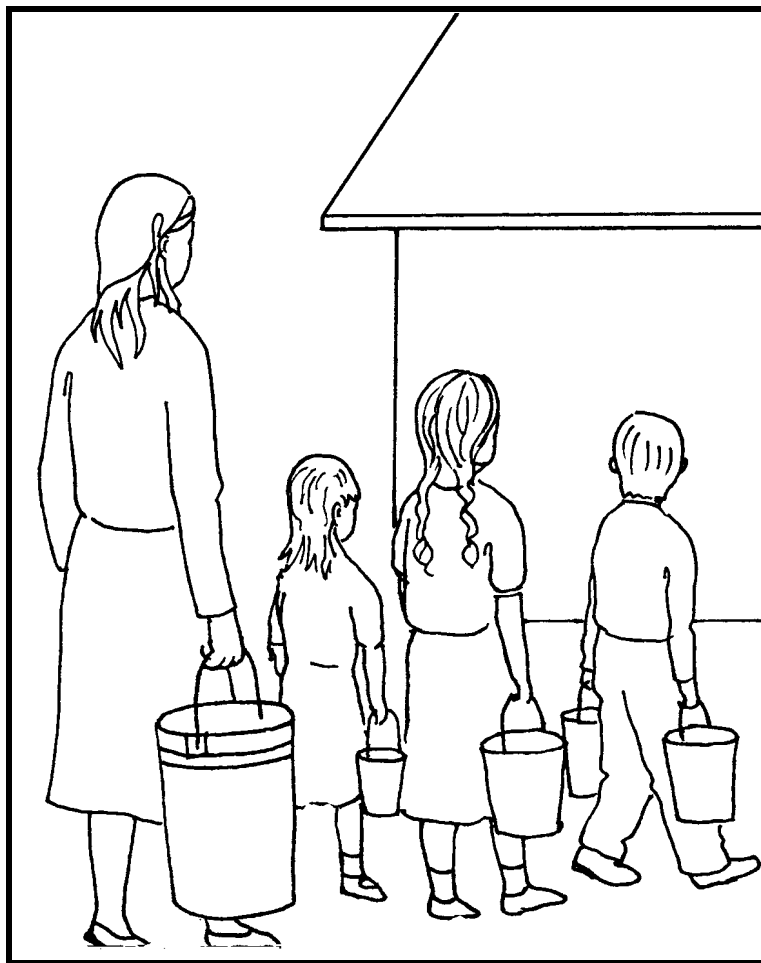
This is Ben and Cathy.
They live in Mexico.
They live in a nice house.
They work hard, but it's a good life.



They have six children.
Danny is 9, Joel is 8 and Johnny is 5.
Sara is 10, Maria is 7 and Katie is 3.

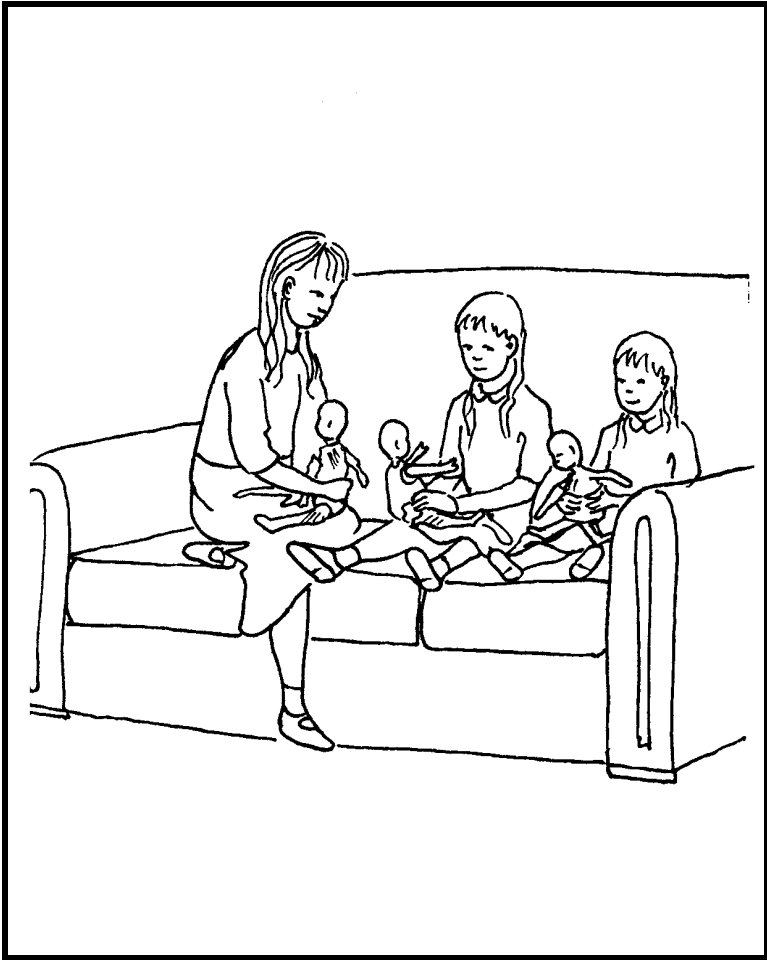


Sometimes Ben helps Cathy.
He likes to help bake and cook.
Sometimes Cathy helps Ben.
She likes to drive the tractor.

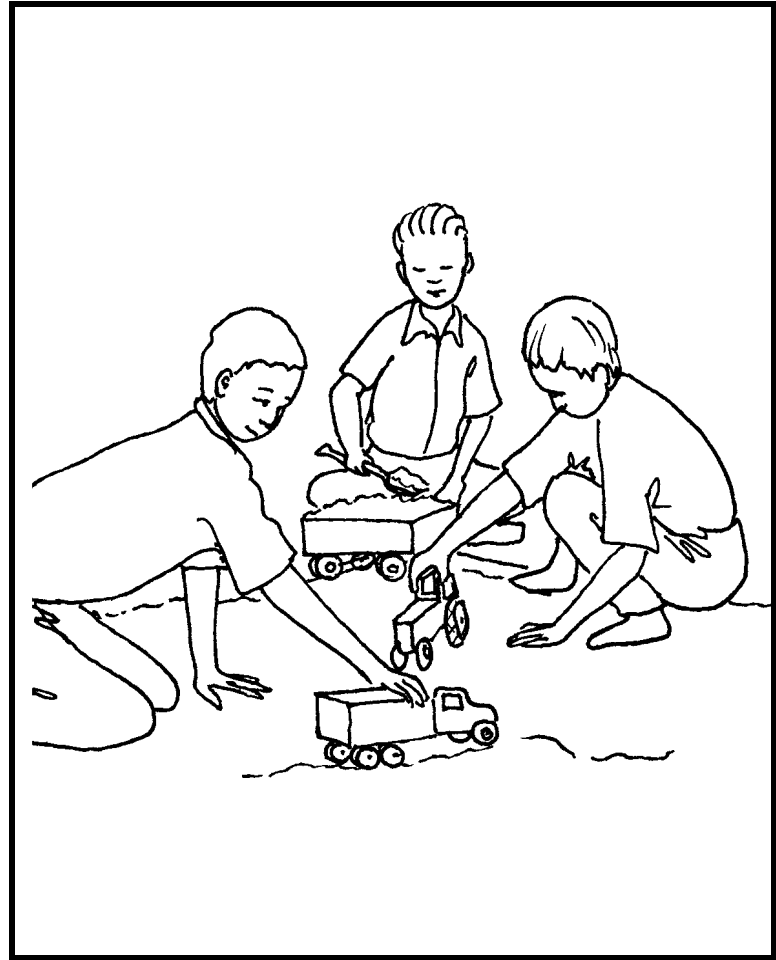


The children help a lot.
Danny, Joel and Sara help Dad.
Maria, Johnny and Katie help Mom.
Katie is not much help yet!





The children like to play.
The girls have dolls.
They love the dolls,
but the dolls look very old!



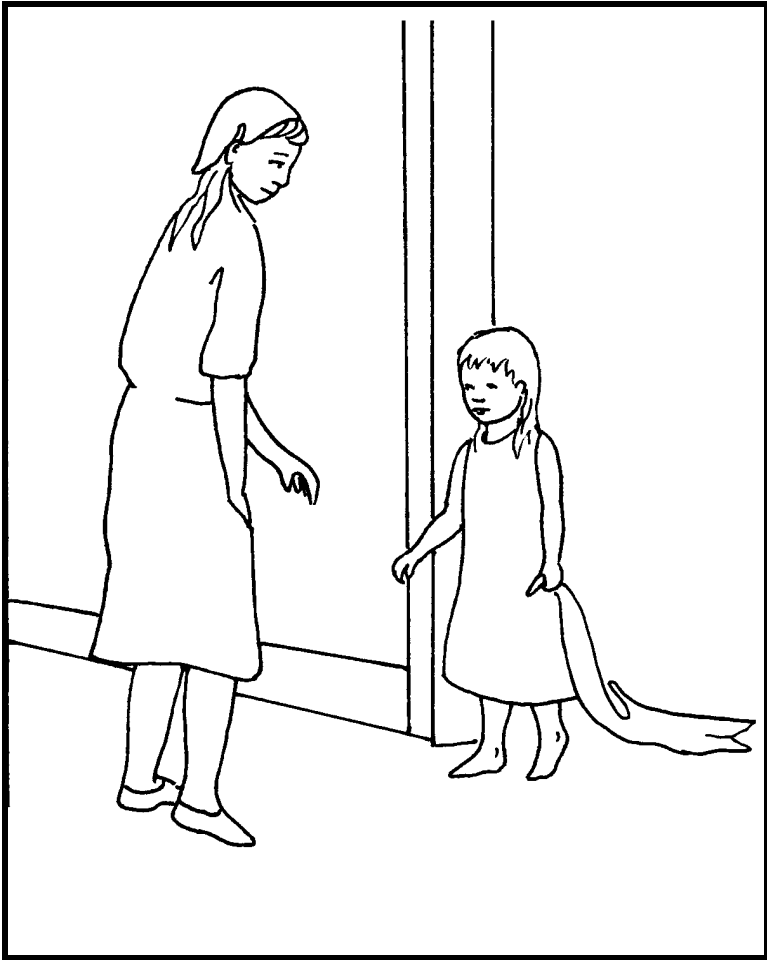
The boys like to play in the sand.
Danny has a truck.
Joel has a wagon.
Johnny has a tractor.
It's fun to play!



The children go to bed.
Mom and Dad sit up late.
Mom gets the three dolls.
Dad goes to work in his shop.



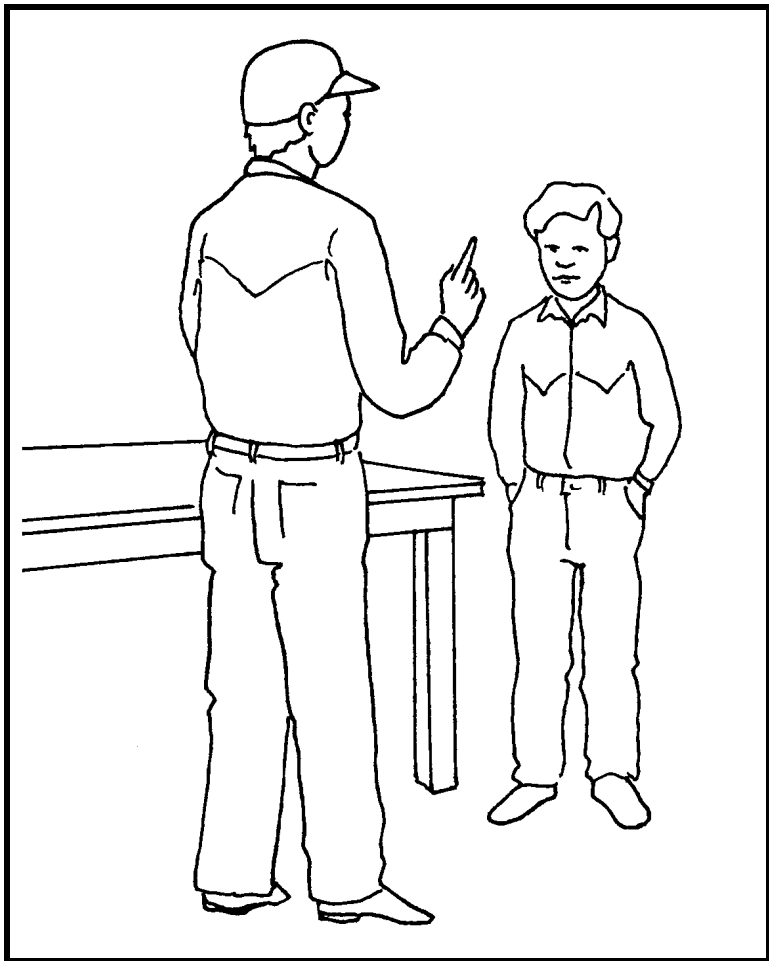
In the morning Katie says,
"Where is my doll?"
Mom says, "The dolls went away."
Katie says, "I want my doll!"



Mom says, "If you are good,
you can ask Santa."
Katie says, "How many days til Christmas?"
Mom says, "20 days."



Mom works when the children go to bed.
She makes new dresses for the dolls.
She makes the dolls look nice.
Dad works in his shop.



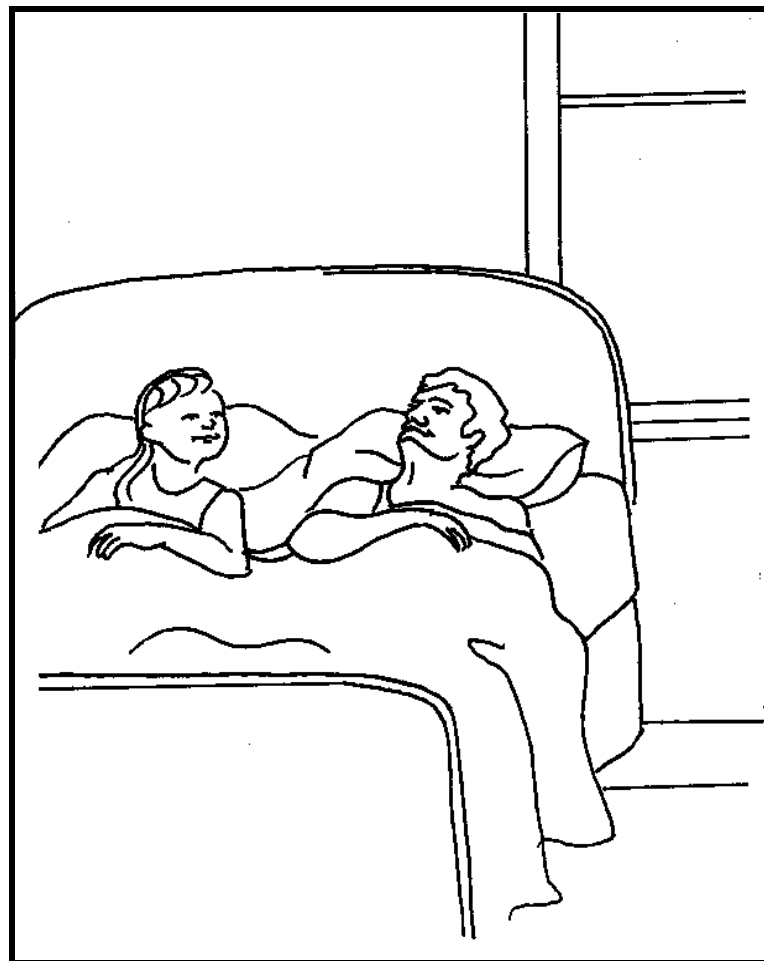
Katie says, "Is it Christmas yet?"
Mom says, "No. Ten more days."
Danny says, "Will we get a present this year?"
Dad says, "Be good!
If you are good, you will get a present.
If you are bad, you will not get a present!"



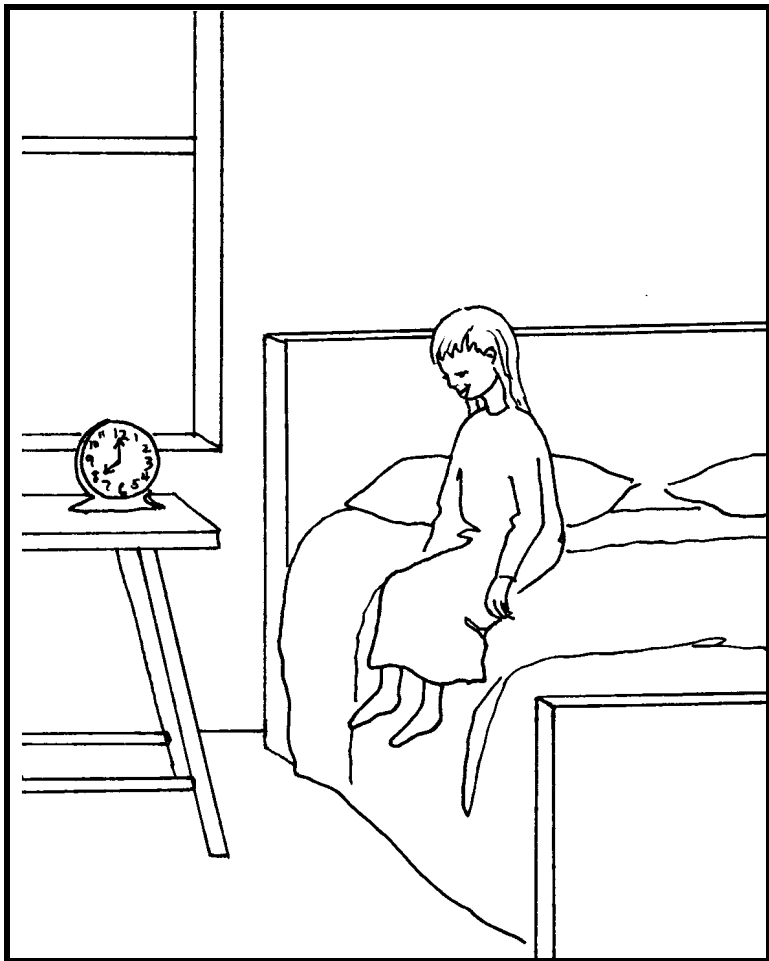
Mom bakes lots of cakes and cookies!
Maria says, "Can we eat them now?"
Mom says, "No, they are for Christmas."
Katie says, "How many days til Christmas?"
Mom says, "One!"
Katie and Maria jump up and down!



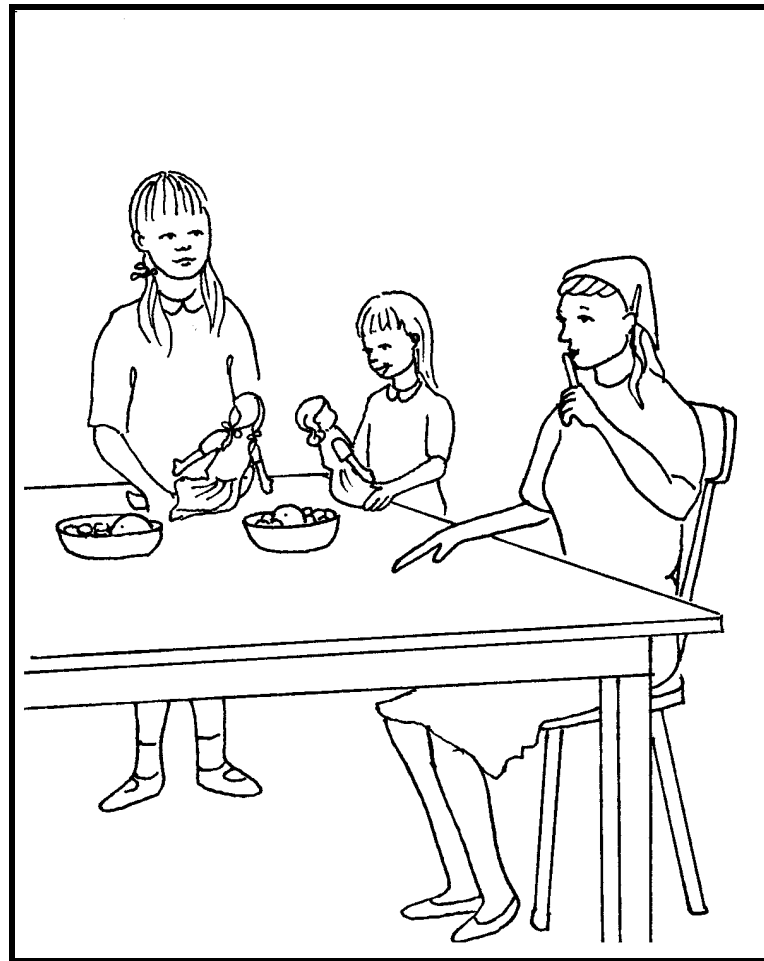
It is time for bed.
Sara says, "Can we put our dishes out now?"
Mom says, "Yes. Put them here."
Joel says, "I want a very big dish!"
Mom says, "Go to bed now."
Dad says, "And go to sleep!"



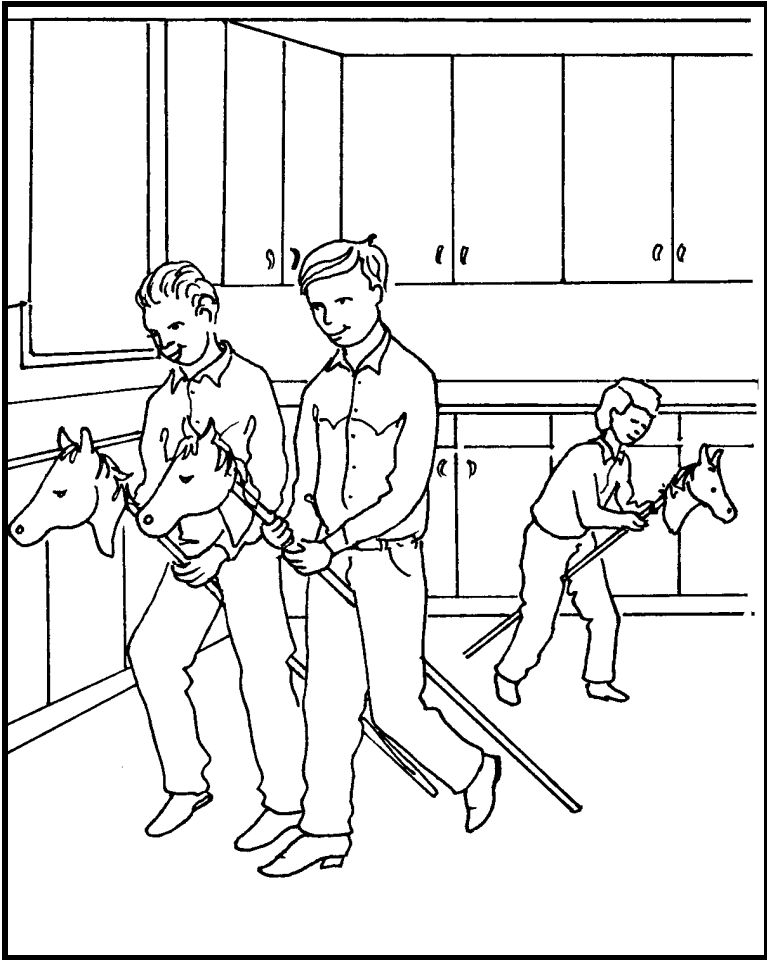
Mom and Dad are in bed.
The children are in bed.
Joel says, "Can you see Santa?"
Sara says, "Sh! Go to sleep!"
Johnny says, "Can you hear Santa?"
Danny says, "Sh! Or you will not get a present!"



At 6 a.m. Johnny says, "Can we look now?"
Danny says, "No! Not yet!"
At 7 a.m. Maria says, "Can we look now?"
Sara says, "No! Not yet!"
At 8 a.m. Katie says, "Can we look now?"
Danny says, "Yes!"



The children jump out of bed.
Katie says, "Look! A pretty new doll!"
Sara says, "I think this is my old. . . ."
Mom says, "Sh! Don't say that!"
Sara says, "What a pretty new doll!"



Joel says, "Look at the horses!
There is a white one, a black one, and a brown
one."
Johnny says, "Let's go! Giddy up!"

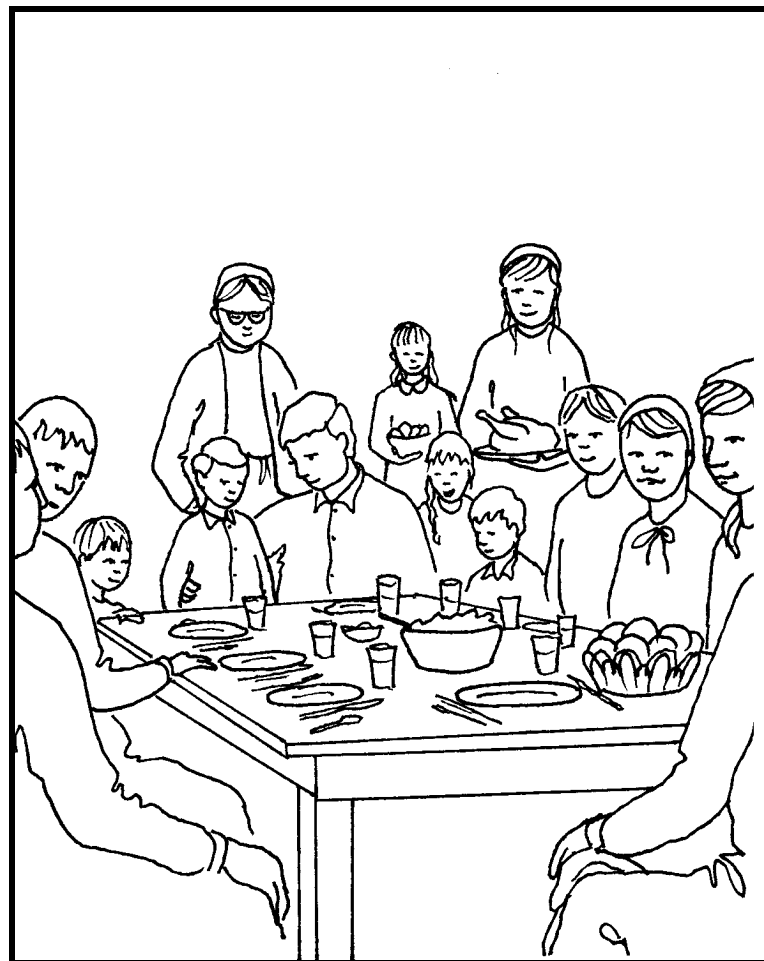


Sara says, "I have candy!"
Maria says, "I have an orange, too."
Johnny says, "We have good things to eat!"

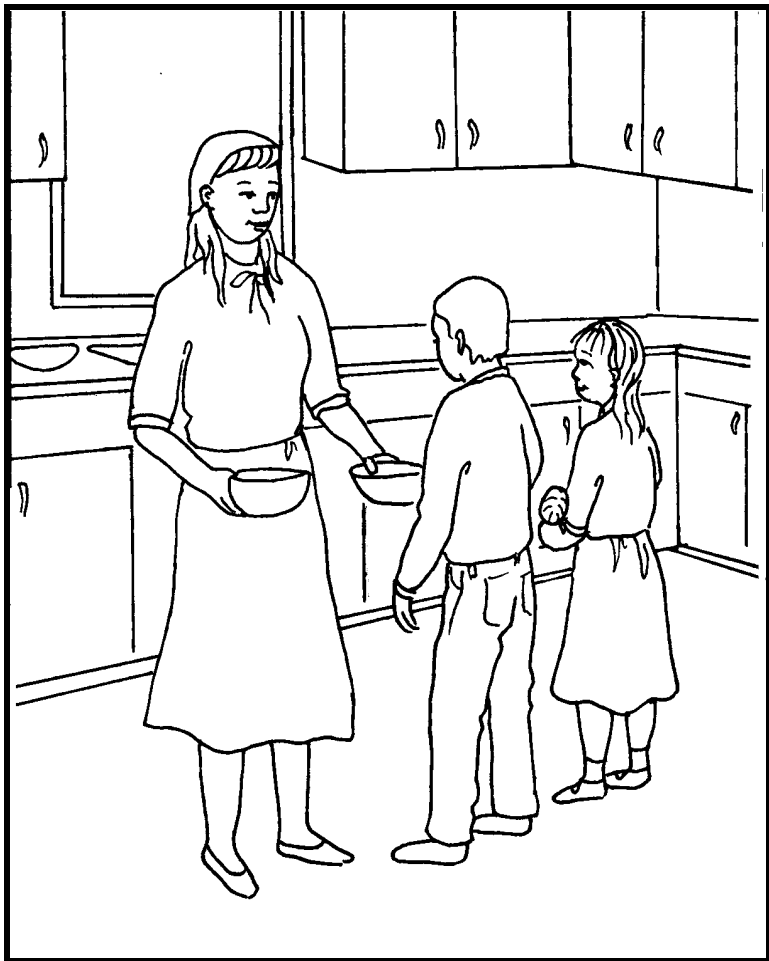




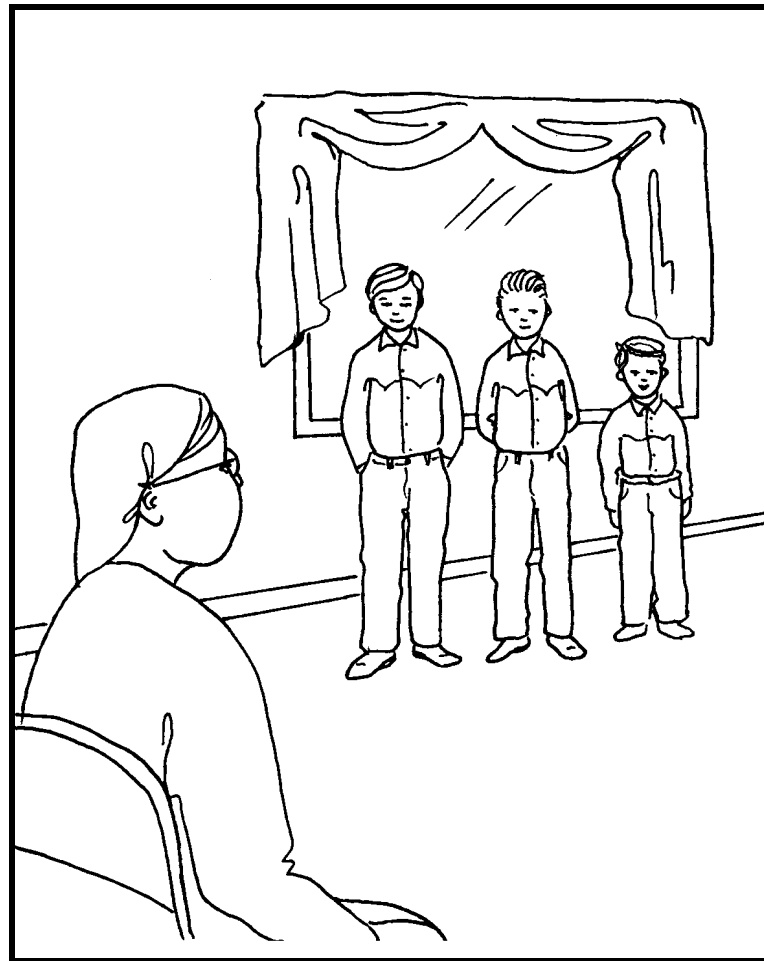
They go to Grandma and Grandpa's
for a family gathering.
Grandma says, "Come in! Come in!
Merry Christmas!"
Katie says, "See my new doll?"
Grandma says, "She is very pretty!"



The house is full of moms and dads and
children!
Grandma says, "It's time to eat!"
There is a lot of food.
It is very good.
Dad says, "Oh! I ate too much!"



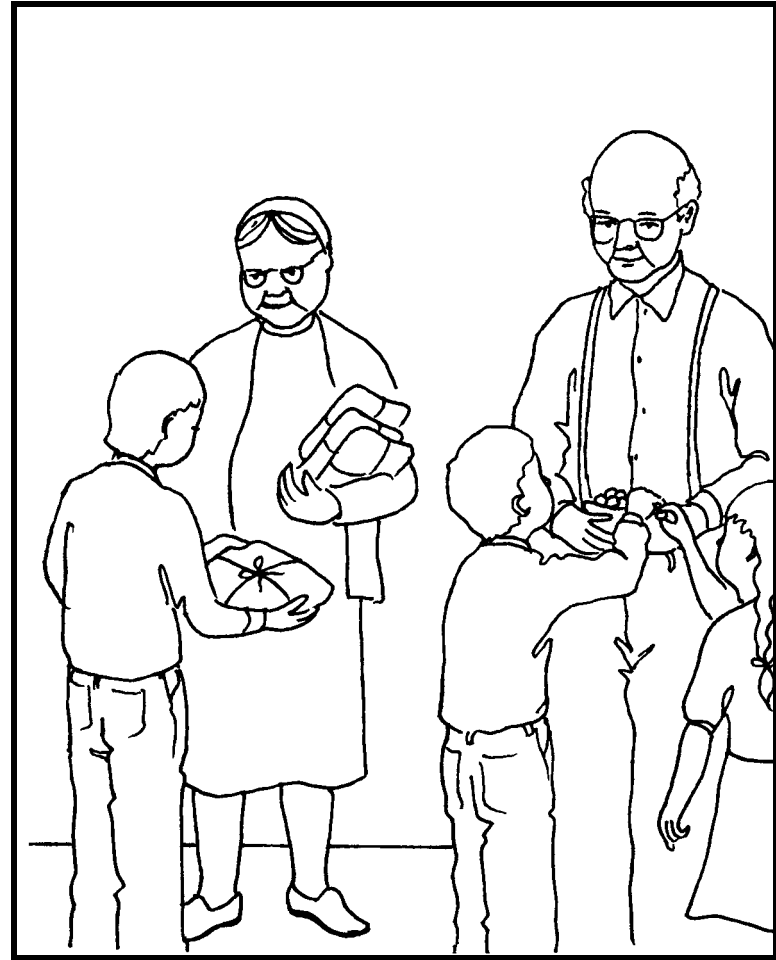
Mom says, "Children, go out to play."
Grandma and the moms clean up.
The men sit and talk.



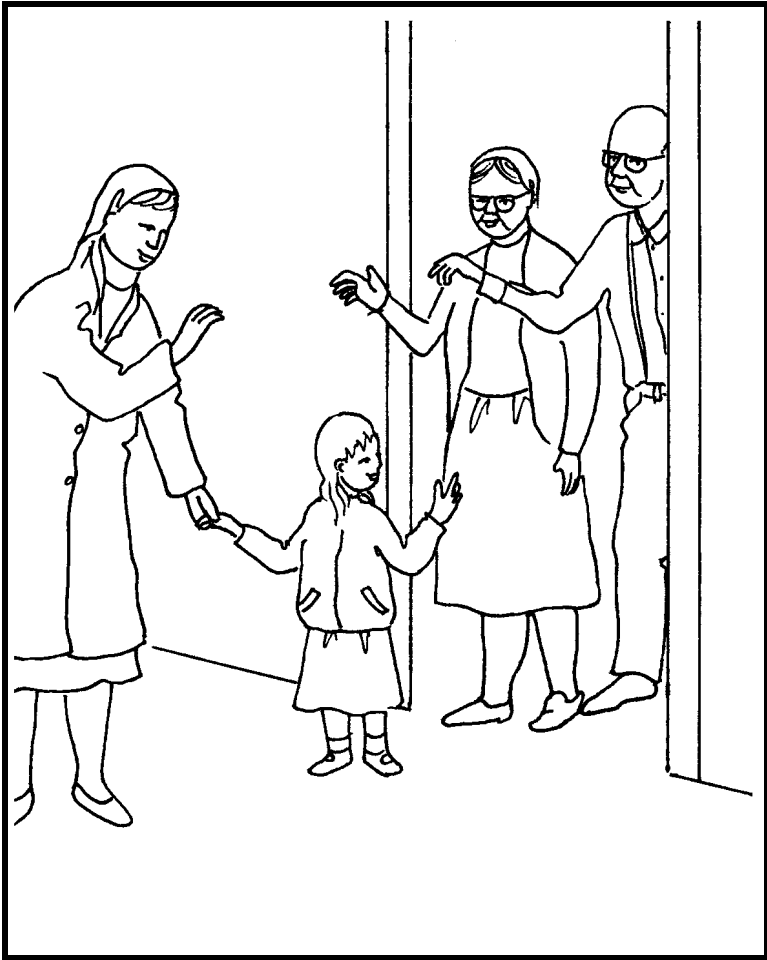
Grandma calls the children in.
She says, "It's time to sing.
It's time to say your verses."



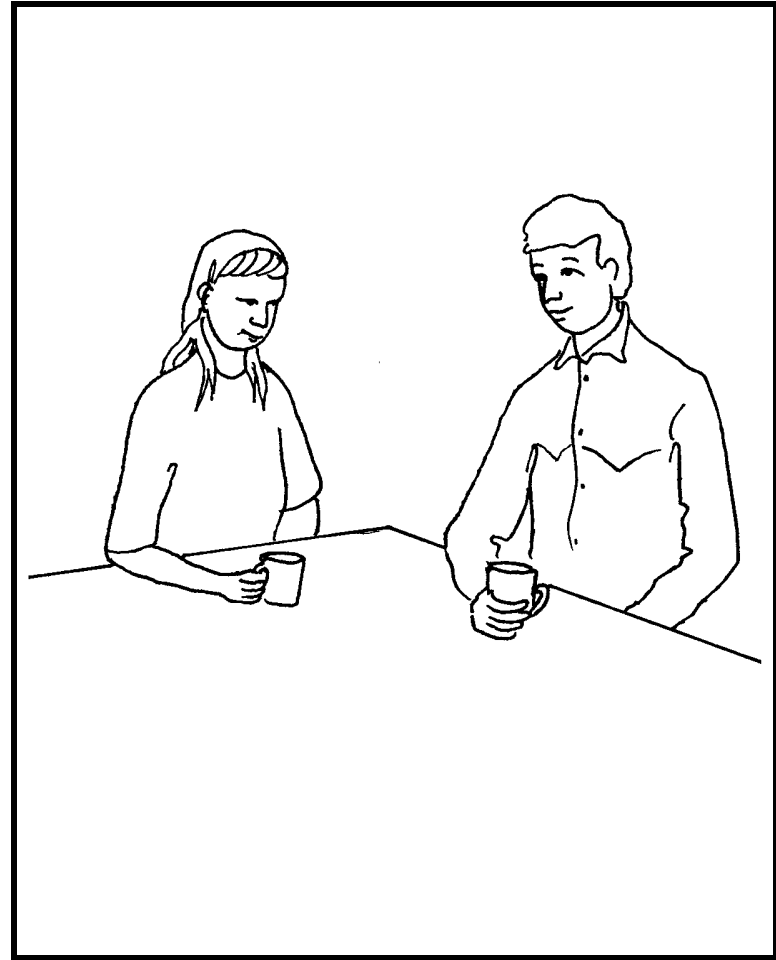
The children sing.
They say the verses.
Katie says a verse, too.



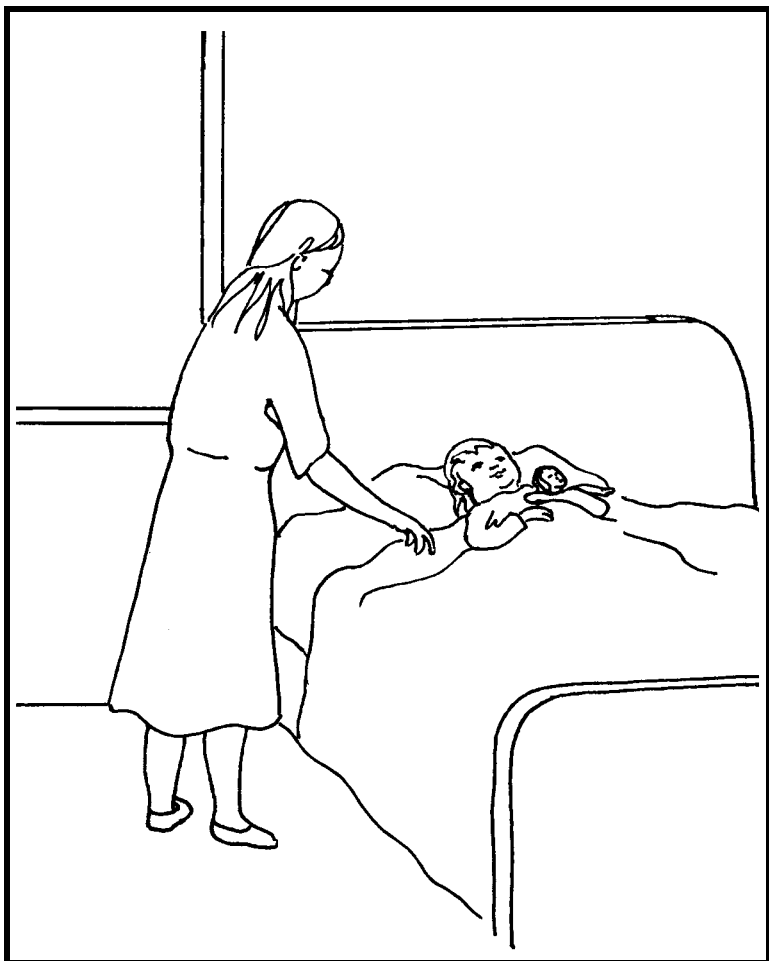
Grandpa gives the children candy.
Grandma gives cloth to the children.
Mom will sew something nice for the children.



It is time to go home.
They say, "Thank you!
We had a good time!
Merry Christmas!"



At home the children go to bed.
Mom and Dad sit down for a rest.
Mom says, "It was a big day."
Dad says, "We had a good time."



Mom goes in to look at the children.
She looks at Katie.
Katie looks up.
She says, "I love Christmas, Mom!
How many days 'til next Christmas?"

Name: _____ Date: _____

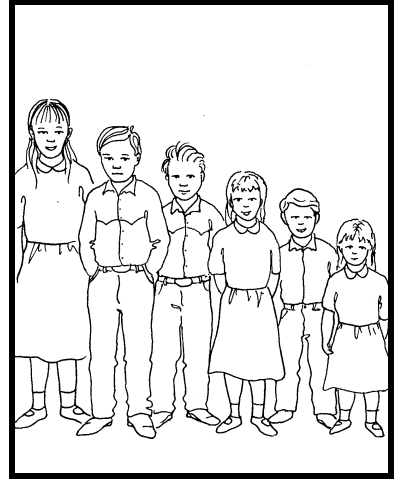
How Many Days 'Til Christmas?

Before you read pages 1 to 4.

- * 1. Look.
Say the names.

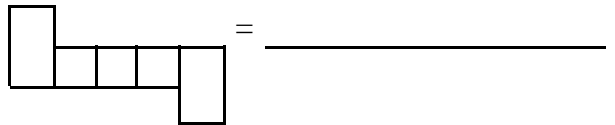
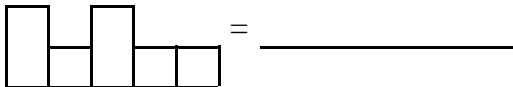
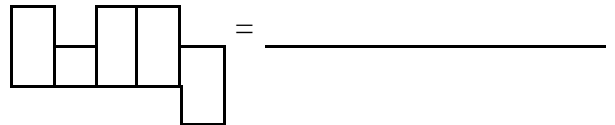
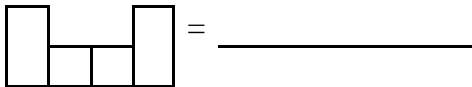
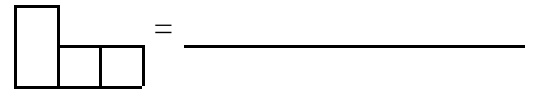
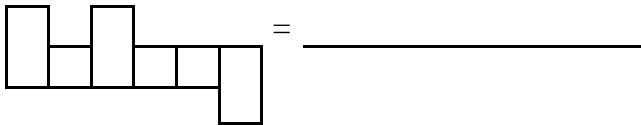
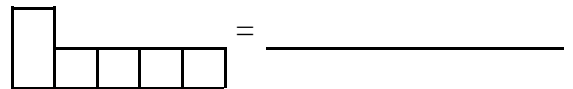
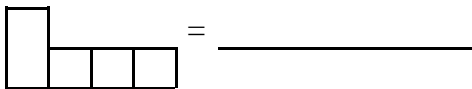


Ben - Cathy



Sara, Danny, Joel, Maria
Johnny, Katie

- * 2. Write the names.



Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas?

Before you read pages 1 to 4.

** 3. Read the words. Talk about the words.

live	bake	drive	help	like
work	cook	have	helps	likes

* 4. Fill in. Write the words.

l _ v _	=	_____	w _ _ _	=	_____
l _ k _	=	_____	_ _ i _ _	=	_____
b _ k _	=	_____	l _ k _ s	=	_____
_ _ _ k	=	_____	h _ _ e	=	_____
h _ _ p	=	_____	h _ _ p _	=	_____

* 5. Read the words.

This	children	tractor	hard
They	sometimes	yet	life

6. Fill in. Write the words.

_ _ _ s	=	_____
_ _ _ y	=	_____
y _ _	=	_____
l _ _ _	=	_____
h _ _ _	=	_____
_ _ i _ _ _ _	=	_____
_ _ a _ _ _ _	=	_____
_ _ _ _ _ i _ _ _	=	_____

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas? After you read pages 1 to 4.

* Write in order.

1. and in live Cathy Ben Mexico

2. and work Ben hard Cathy

3. Ben have children Cathy and six

4. cook He and bake likes help to

5. tractor She the likes drive to

6. a help The lot children

* **Practice reading the phrases quickly**

in Mexico

to help bake and cook

in a nice house

to drive the tractor

a good life

not much help yet

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas?

After you read pages 1 to 4.

** Circle Yes or No

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-----|----|
| 1. | Ben and Cathy live in Mexico. | Yes | No |
| 2. | They work hard. | Yes | No |
| 3. | They have two children. | Yes | No |
| 4. | Ben helps Cathy. | Yes | No |
| 5. | Katie helps a lot. | Yes | No |

Answer the questions.

** 1. Where do Ben and Cathy live?

They _____

** 2. How many children do they have?

They _____

** 3. What does Ben like to help with?

** 4. What does Cathy like to help with?

*** 5. Why is Katie not much help?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas?

Before you read pages 5 to 9.

** 1. Read the words.

play	love	boys	gets
girls	went	Santa	goes

** 2. Put a around words for something *you can do*.

play	love	boys	gets
girls	went	Santa	goes

** 3. Read the words.

dolls	late	truck	away	where
very	shop	wagon	morning	sand

** 4. Put a around words for *things*.

dolls	late	truck	away	where
very	shop	wagon	morning	sand

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas? After you read pages 5 to 9.

** Number in order. Write the sentences.

_____ Mom gets the three dolls.

1 _____ The children go to bed.

_____ Katie wants her doll.

_____ Mom and Dad sit up late.

_____ Dad goes to work in his shop.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Answer the questions.

** 1. What do the girls play with?

They _____

** 2. What do the boys play with?

They _____

** 3. How many dolls are there?

** 4. Where does Dad go?

*** 5. Why did Mom get the dolls?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas? Before you read pages 10 to 13.

** 1. Read the words.

new	nice	dresses	cookies	time	jump
now	year	present	cakes	sleep	dishes

** 2. Put a around words for something *you can do*.

year cakes sleep nice jump

** 3. Put a around words for *things*.

dresses present jump dishes
now cakes cookies new

** 4. Find these words.

dresses	cookies	dishes
present	cakes	year

p	y	e	a	r	t	b	d	r	e	s	s	e	s	c	e	l	t
p	r	e	s	e	n	t	l	m	a	b	d	c	a	k	e	s	g
o	n	c	o	o	k	i	e	s	m	x	d	i	s	h	e	s	c

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas?

After you read pages 10 to 13.

** Draw lines to put the parts together.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mom works when | new dresses for the dolls. |
| 2. She makes | you will not get a present. |
| 3. Dad works | the children go to bed. |
| 4. If you are good, | in his shop. |
| 5. If you are bad, | cakes and cookies. |
| 6. Mom bakes lots of | you will get a present. |

* Write the sentences.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas? After you read pages 10 to 13.

Answer the questions.

** 1. What does Mom make for the dolls?

She _____

** 2. Where does Dad work?

He _____

** 3. What does Mom bake?

She _____

*** 4. Why do Katie and Maria jump up and down?

They _____

*** 5. Why do the children put out dishes?

They _____

*** 6. Why does Joel want a very big dish?

He _____

* Practice reading phrases quickly.

1. Mom works when the children go to bed.

2. She makes the dolls look nice.

3. Dad works in his shop.

4. If you are good you will get a present!

5. Katie and Maria jump up and down.

6. It is time for bed.

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas? Before you read pages 14 to 18.

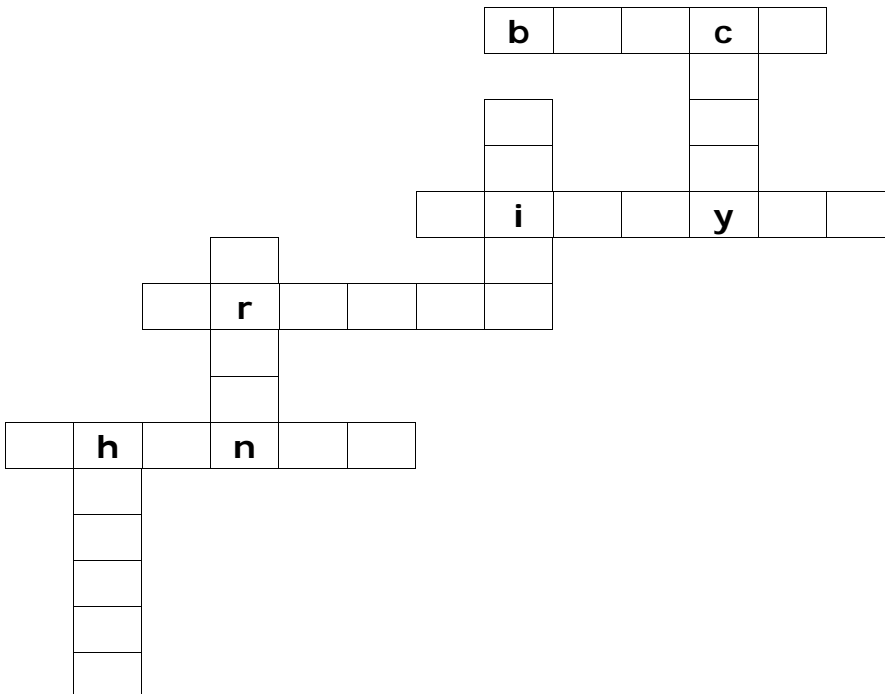
** 1. Read the words.

horses	white	black	candy
giddy up!	brown	things	orange

* 2. Write the words.

g h t s i n	=	_____	n a c d y	=	_____
o r s e h s	=	_____	t e i h w	=	_____
b a k c l	=	_____	r o w n b	=	_____
d i g d y p u	=	_____	a n g r o e	=	_____

** 3. Fill in from (1).



Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas?

After you read pages 14 to 18.

* Put one of the words on each line.

horses	orange	candy
doll	bed	Giddy up

1. Johnny says, "Let's go! _____!"
2. Katie says, "Look! A pretty new _____!"
3. Sara says, "I have _____!"
4. Mom, Dad and the children are in _____.
5. Maria says, "I have an _____, too!"
6. Joel says, "Look at the _____!"

* Draw lines to the right ones.

1. Katie says, "Can we look now?" 6 a.m.
2. Johnny says, "Can we look now?" 7 a.m.
3. Maria says, "Can we look now?" 8 a.m.

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas? After you read pages 14 to 18.

Answer the questions.

*** 1. Why do Sara and Danny say, "Sh!" (page 14)

** 2. _____
What do the girls get from Santa?

*** 3. _____
Why does Mom say, "Sh! Don't say that!" (page 16)

** 4. _____
What do the boys get from Santa?

** 5. _____
What do the children get to eat?

Practice reading phrases quickly.

1. Mom, Dad and the children are in bed.

2. At 8 a.m. Katie says "Can we look now?"

3. The children jump out of bed.

4. There is a white one a black one and a brown one.

5. Johnny says "We have good things to eat!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas?

After you read pages 14 to 18.

*** Write about Christmas when *YOU* were a child.

1. Did you put out a bowl for Santa?

2. What did you get in the bowl?

3. What was one present you got?

4. Where did you go on Christmas Day?

5. What did you like to eat on Christmas Day?

6. What did the children do on Christmas Day?

** Write the answers like a story.

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas? Before you read pages 19 to 27.

** 1. Read the words.

family gathering	full	home	verses
Merry Christmas	food	rest	cloth

* 2. Write the words.

l l u f = _____ t e r s = _____
d o f o = _____ c o h l t = _____
e r e v s s = _____ e o h m = _____
y r e M r m s h C r i s t a = _____
i l a f m y t h r g n i a g e = _____

* 3. Practice reading quickly.

for a family gathering	Merry Christmas
time to eat	clean up
a lot of food	sit and talk
go out to play	time to sing
say the verses	for a rest
full of moms and dads and children	

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas?

Before you read pages 19 to 27.

** 4. Read the words.

Put a

box

 around words for something *you can do*.

next	love	sing	thank	much
goes	something	talk	sew	clean

* 5. Circle 2 the same. Write the word.

next	much	next	_____
thank	thank	talk	_____
sing	sew	sew	_____
love	clean	love	_____
something	gathering	gathering	_____
goes	goes	food	_____

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas? After you read pages 19 to 27.

Answer the questions.

- ** 1. Where do Mom, Dad and the children go?

- ** 2. What do the children do after they eat? (page 21)

- ** 3. What do the moms do after they eat?

- ** 4. What do the dads do after they eat?

- ** 5. Who sings and says verses?

- ** 6. What does Grandma give the children?

- ** 7. What does "a big day" mean? (page 26)

- *** 8. What do you think Mom will do when Katie asks, "How many days 'til next Christmas?"?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Many Days 'Til Christmas? After you read pages 19 to 27.

** Circle the right ones.

1. They go to Grandma and Grandpa's for
 - a) a sleep.
 - b) a family gathering.
 - c) a horse.

2. Grandma says Katie's doll is
 - a) clean.
 - b) big.
 - c) pretty.

3. The house is full of
 - a) moms, dads and horses.
 - b) moms, dads and Santa.
 - c) moms, dads and children.

4. After they eat, Dad says
 - a) "I ate too much!"
 - b) "I sang too much!"
 - c) "I talked too much!"

5. After they eat, Grandma and the moms
 - a) sit up and talk.
 - b) clean up.
 - c) sing and say verses.

- ** * 6. What is the whole story about?
 - a) A present for Christmas.
 - b) A good Christmas for Ben, Cathy and the children.
 - c) Mom makes the dolls look new.

Special appreciation to:
Cheryl Campbell, Manager
Pembina Valley Learning Centre
for her encouragement and expertise.

This book is not based on the lives of specific people; however, the situations are based on stories told by many learners over the years.