**Christmas – Children’s Funnies**

**After Billy notices the manger scene in the neighbor’s front yard, he runs into the house and yells out to his mother: “Know what the McCormicks have on their front lawn? An activity scene.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Our four-year-old granddaughter, Susan, had been engrossed in drawing a picture of the Nativity scene and finally took it to her father for his approval. “Why, it’s excellent, Susan,” he said. “But why is one of St. Joseph’s legs so much longer than the other?” “Oh, he’s stamping his foot,” she explained. “He wanted a girl.” *(Lenore Patton Christ)***

**Dean: “Look, I didn’t mean to tease you, Heart. C’mon, tell me what you’re gonna ask Santa for.” Heart: “Sorry, Dean, it’s very personal.” Dean: “Oh, I get it. Time to re-stock the underpants department, eh?” Heart: “Might I suggest asking Santa for a sense of humor!” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City, comic strip)***

**I was happy to see January 2nd roll around. The holidays had worn me out, with all the demands of cooking, shopping and family get-togethers. Won’t it be nice to get back to normal? I thought as I began dismantling the Christmas tree. Before I’d gotten far, David, my three-year-old grandson, walked in. “Can I help?” he asked, picking up the tree skirt and draping it around his shoulders like a cape. “Put these ornaments in the box,” I said. David put them on himself instead. “Honey, it’s time to put Christmas away.” He looked at me sadly, so I hung candy canes on his ears and pinned the treetop star to his blond hair. “I am the boy who sings the hallelujah song,” he said, holding out his arms. Yes, I thought, hallelujah! Each and every day. Thanks to a boy who wouldn’t put Christmas away, I was reminded of the joy that has no season. *(Mary Belle Estes, in Guideposts)***

**The child goes up and sits on Santa’s knee and says to him: “About that pony you back-ordered last year!” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Our dog-loving six-year-old son was to be in our church’s Nativity play. One day, as the holiday approached, my wife and I found him in front of the Christmas tree in our living room, down on all fours and barking. When we asked what he was doing, he replied, “I have to practice. I’m going to be one of the shepherds.” *(Robert Hatch)***

**I was surprised when my teen-age son handed me a Christmas gift, because I knew he had little money to spend. Opening the gaily wrapped box, I found two AA batteries with a note: “Gift Not Included.” *(Chet Rogowski, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Billy looks up at his mother and asks: “How many ‘behave days’ ‘til Christmas?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dennis walks up to Santa and whispers in his ear: “Do you believe in yourself?” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**The child says to Santa: “Naughty or nice? Umm -- don’tcha have something in between?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Heart: “Look at these old ratty boots, Mom! They’ve got pictures of ‘The Little Mermaid’ on the sides! That’s so yesterday!” Mom: “I complained I had no shoes, until I saw a man who had no feet.” Heart: “I can see getting you that ‘Quote of the Day’ calendar for Christmas was a big mistake.” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City, comic strip)***

**Billy says to Santa Claus: “If your sleigh breaks down, just use one of those scooters from your pack.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dennis notices Santa ringing a bell for Salvation Army and goes up to ask him: “You an’ Missus Claus aren’t broke, are you?”*(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**Son: “Mom, you’re right!” Mom: “I am? Wait, let me get this on tape!” Son: “Look at all these ads for toys and games and stuff! None of this is about peace or goodwill or the spirit of the season! It’s all about buying stuff! Just like you said!” Mom: “You know, you are one very cool dude.” Son: “Is this a great time to be a kid, or what?” *(Ed Stein, in Denver Square comic strip)***

**One day last month I opened my morning newspaper and saw a cartoon depicting a child in a department store saying to his mother, “Look, Mommy! Christmas decorations. It must be close to Halloween.” *(Joy O. Daane)***

**Andrew: “Mom, I decided for New Year’s I’m gonna make some positive changes in my life. I’m gonna make my bed, and not fight with Royboy, and then work toward world peace!” Mom: “That’s wonderful, Andrew.” Andrew: “Plus I figure Santa Claus will notice and then I’ll get a lot more presents next Christmas!” *(Rick Stromoski)***

**A grandmother took her grandson to see Santa Claus in a department store after purchasing about a dozen Christmas gifts. Santa gave the boy a little present. “What do you say to Santa?” prompted grandma. “Charge it,” said the boy. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Son: “Come on, Dad! Santa’s been here!” Dad: “He has?” Son: “Yeah, look!” Dad: “Wow!” Son: “I wonder how Santa got all this stuff down the chimney?” Dad: “I don’t know.” Son: “Because you don’t even have a chimney.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Shirley & Son comic strip)***

**As Dennis walks along with his friend he notices Santa and says to his friend: “That’s the third one today. I think somebody’s been cloning Santa.” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**Dolly says to her mother: “Why don’t they get Santa new clothes? He wears that same red suit every year.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Our daughter, Cindy, who remained in California after graduating from college, has developed an acute sense of things distinctly Southern Californian and occasionally sends them back to us in Ohio. One Christmas she sent gifts in colorful wrapping paper that showed angels with harps on a background of blue sky and billowing clouds. It was traditional holiday wrapping in every respect--except for one thing: all the angels wore sunglasses. *(Leonard F. Waite, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Girl: “So what would you like for Christmas?” Boy: “Nothing store-bought, make me something instead.” Girl: “Make you something? Who do I look like, Martha Stewart? It’s unnatural not to buy gifts this time of year.” Boy: “Well, I argue it’s unnatural the way people have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. Everything is so commercialized.” Girl: “Not this argument again.” Boy: “If God had wanted all this materialism, Jesus would have been born in a ‘Wal-Mart.’” *(Steve Breen)***

**Each Christmas our church presents a concert featuring a live Nativity scene. My five-year-old nephew was up in the balcony, not paying much attention. As the wise men began marching down the center aisle toward the manger, my brother leaned over and whispered to my nephew, “Curtis, look! You’re missing it! Here comes the king!” Curtis jumped up, looked over the balcony railing and asked, “That’s Elvis?”**

***(Julie Loomis, in Reader’s Digest)***

**We had moved to Seattle from Texas, and each of us missed our old home. That December, when I went to pick up our first-grade-son, Madison, from school, his teacher told me about a conversation she overheard. One boy said, “We’re Catholic, and we are going to Christmas Mass.” “We’re Jewish,” said another child. “And we’re going to have a Hanukkah celebration.” Madison chimed in, “We’re Texans, and we’re going to have a barbecue.” *(Steve Moore, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Charlie Brown writes: “Dear Gramma, thank you for the Christmas cookies. They were good. Thank you, thank you, thank you. What else can I say?” Snoopy adds: “Send some more.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**Santa: “Well now, little lady, what can Santa bring you for Christmas?” Heart: “I want my Dad. Let me give ya the back story. See my Dad left me and my Mom when I was a baby. Heck, I never even saw him in real life. Just in videos and pictures, like a movie star or something. Anyway, I found this tree ornament he gave me before I was born. It says ‘Our First Christmas Together,’ and I figure it’s a sign! A sign that we’ll be together at last! And who best to make a Christmas sign come true but Santa Claus? So what do you think, big guy?” Santa: “I think I should’ve taken that job in men’s shoes.” Heart: “C’mon, Nick, you did it for Natalie Wood! She wanted a whole house! I just want a lousy Dad!” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City comic strip)***

**A boy was praying as loud as he could for a Christmas present. His sister said -- “You don’t have to pray so loud, God isn’t deaf.” Said he -- “I know God isn’t deaf, but Grandma is.” *(Rev. Leon Hill, in O for the Life of a Preacher, p. 25)***

**Son: “I’m home.” Mom: “Where have you been?” Son: “Me and Max had a very enlightening discussion about whether or not Santa really exists.” Mom: “And what did you decide?” Son: “We decided that some things are better left undecided.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Shirley & Son comic strip)***

**Charlie Brown: “When Santa Claus brings me the dog, will he leave it on the front porch or in the back yard? He wouldn’t drop it down the chimney would he?” Lucy: “There’s something I sort of feel I should tell you.” Charlie Brown: “Maybe he’ll just leave a gift certificate.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**One very special Christmas day, little Amy unwrapped a beautiful golden-haired doll given to her by her grandmother. “It’s such a pretty dolly,” Amy squealed excitedly, hugging her new doll. “Oh, thank you, Grandma!” Amy played with her new doll most of the day, but toward the end of the day, she put down her golden-haired doll and sought out one of her old dolls. Amy cradled the tattered and dilapidated old doll in her arms. Its hair had come off; its nose was broken; one eye was gone, and an arm and a leg were missing. “Well, well,” smiled Grandma. “It looks as though you like that dolly the best.” “I like the beautiful doll you gave me, Grandma,” said little Amy. “But I love this old doll the most, because if I didn’t love her, no one else would.”**

***(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker’s Sourcebook, p. 10)***

**I figured that at age seven it was inevitable for my son to begin having doubts about Santa Claus. Sure enough, one day he said, “Mom, I know something about Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy.” Taking a deep breath, I asked him, “What is that?” He replied, “They’re all nocturnal.” *(Marie Warren, in Reader’s Digest)***

**My little brother was in first grade at St. Matthew’s in South Bend, Ind., in 1945, when Sisters all wore habits. Shortly before Christmas, Mother asked what he’d like to give his teacher. “Let’s get her a new dress,” he replied. “She wears the same one every day!” *(Joann K. Schilling, in Catholic Digest)***

**Billy says to his mother: “Santa Claus’ mommy sure dresses him funny.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Decorating the Christmas tree is a ritual our family looks forward to every year. Our four-year-old son, Dean, helps his father carry the artificial tree from the attic to its place in the family room. Then, after the last ornament and strand of tinsel are hung, we take a drive to see the many Christmas lights around town. On one such tour, Dean spotted a freshly cut Christmas tree tied to the roof of a passing car. Perplexed, he looked to his father for an explanation. “Dad,” he asked, “how come those people are taking their tree for a ride?” *(Mary Corpas, in Redbook)***

**“And what would you like for Christmas this year?” a department-store Santa asked the cute kid sitting on his lap. The little girl was indignant. “Didn’t you get the fax I sent you?” *(Quoted by Elston Brook,s in Fort Worth Star-Telegram)***

**“Here’s a king,” announced our three-year-old as he unwrapped a figurine from our Nativity scene. “And here’s a donkey,” he added as he continued unpacking. Removing tissue from the statue of the infant, molded permanently in his manger, our son exclaimed, “Here’s baby Jesus in his car seat!” *(Nancy Wolfinger)***

**There is a story about a little boy who was particularly drawn to his class’s Christmas manger scene. It was filled with animals, and angels, and shepherds, and every type of ornamentation. But this one small boy was not satisfied with the lovely display. The teacher asked: “What are you looking at? What about the manger scene bothers you?” The child simply asked, “Well, where will God fit in?” *(King Duncan & Angela Akers)***

**A six-year-old was watching the classic film, King of Kings, on TV with her eight-year-old brother. She was quite wrapped up in it emotionally and started crying during Christ’s final moments on the Cross. Whereupon her brother put his arm around her. “Don’t worry, Janie,” he said, “He’ll come back at Christmas.” *(Gene Scott)***

**Mom: “The presents are wrapped, the tree is trimmed, the halls are decked. We should be all ready for Christmas, yet it feels like we forgot something.” Child: “Church?” *(Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**No matter what denomination a child may be, he still likes to be a free agent. “Do you like Christmas?” I asked one boy. “Yeah,” he said, “but I’m changing. My friend Harry’s gonna let me be Jewish.” “Is he a rabbi?” “No, he’s just a kid.” “Whaddaya mean? What I mean is: Why are you changing from Christian to Jewish?” “Because you get a present every night of the week for Harmonica.” *(Bill Cosby)***

**One: “What’re you getting for Christmas?” Other: “I heard my father say he’s going to give me a thesaurus.” One: “Wow, are you ever lucky! My old man won’t even let me have a hamster.” *(Johnny Hart, in BC comic strip)***

**Dolly says to Billy while watching a Christmas movie on TV: “The three wise men brought gifts of Gold, Frankenstein and Mirth.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Lucy: “I don’t want you to give me anything for Christmas this year, Linus.” Linus: “Really? That’s too bad but I can understand how you feel, and I admire you for it.” Linus then yells: “Cancel that order for the ten-thousand dollar necklace!!!” Lucy: “After the holidays are over and everything has quieted down, I’m going to slug you!” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**Aunt: “What are you going to give your little sister for Christmas?” Nephew: “I don’t know yet.” Aunt: “What did you give her last year?” Nephew: “The whooping cough.” *(Jeannette Fidell, in Jokes, Jokes, Jokes, p. 14)***

**Santa: “So, young man, tell Santa, have you been good?” Boy: “Define ‘good’?” *(Rick Stromoski, in Soup To Nutz comic strip)***

**A group of school youngsters were told to draw the pictures for Christmas cards they would give their parents, but to get the verse from a card they found at home. That’s why one mother and father received this greeting from their daughter: “It’s been a pleasure to do business with you.” *(Mississippi Educational Advance)***

**Boy: “Oh, I’ll be back for dinner.” Mom: “Glad your home. My little boy is growing up. His first trip from his car to the house was with Christmas presents, not his laundry.” *(Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds, in Second Chances comic strip)***

**As the child leaves Santa’s knee with a long list of Christmas wishes the size of a roll of toilet paper, the next boy gets up on his knee and says to Santa: “I’ll have what he’s having!!” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Our extended family had grown so large and gift-giving so expensive that we decided to draw names one Christmas. I explained to five-year-old Adrienne that if she drew my name out of a hat, she would have to buy me a gift. “I wouldn’t have to buy you a gift,” Adrienne responded. “I’d love to!” *(Rosemarie Roebuck, in Redbook)***

**A department-store Santa Claus asked a little boy if he had anything to say. Came his reply, “My daddy says to use your head this year and not bring anything he has to assemble.” *(Leslie B. and Bernice Flynn, in Humorous Incidents and Quips, p. 51)***

**Heart: “Hot chocolate! It’s Christmas day at last! Woo-hoo! C’mon, Mom! Don’t you want to see what Santa brought you?” Mom: “If there’s a God in heaven, it’s coffee and facial surgery.” Heart: “Sheesh, Mom! You act like you’ve never been up at 4:30 before!” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City comic strip)***

**With a whole package of paper in his hand Billy asks: “Who wants to help me write a letter to Santa?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dennis calls up Mr. Wilson during the night and says: “Hi, Mr. Wilson! Santa’s already been to our house. How about yours?” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**A concerned little girl approached her father one day and said, “Daddy, I just don’t believe it’s right to ignore Jesus.” The father, more than a little confused, answered, “I agree with you. We shouldn’t ignore Jesus. But what made you think of that?” “Well, it’s that Christmas song we sing at church. You know, the one that says, ‘O come let us ignore Him.’” *(King Duncan & Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 68)***

**Dolly says while looking at the book: “Instead of REINdeer at the North Pole, shouldn’t Santa have SNOWdeer?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**One child’s interpretation of the Christmas story: “And there was no room for them in the inn because Joseph forgot to make reservations.” *(King Duncan & Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 68)***

**Santa: “So have you been kind to your brother and sister?” Child: “Yes, Santa.” Brother: “He’s lyin’! He tortures us!” Sister: “He’s the devil!” Child: “Shut up, you mooks, or I’ll pound yer brains in! Of course I meant that in a good way.” *(Rick Stromoski, in Soup to Nutz comic strip)***

**“For Christmas,” a woman remarked to her friend, “I got a visit from a jolly, bearded fellow with a great big bag over his shoulder. My son came home from college with his laundry.” *(Morrie Brinkman, Washington Star Syndicate)***

**As the radio plays “You better watch out, you better not cry, better not pout,” Billy asks: “Mommy, I know all about cryin’ but have I learned to POUT yet?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**The little girl starts writing her letter to Santa: Dear Santa Claus, I have been a very good girl this year. Mom: “Okay, that’s a pretty good start. Now what?” Little girl: “How much paper do we have?” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**Billy: “Can I just e-mail my list to Santa?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**The child says to Santa: “Listen up, fat boy! You didn’t get me that pony I asked for last Christmas! What we have here is a failure to communicate!” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**As the child of a Judeo-Christian marriage, my son, Justin, was happy to learn that he would be celebrating all the religious holidays in December. One day, when he had forgotten his lunch money, I drove to school and stood in the doorway of his kindergarten classroom to get his attention. A little girl spied me and came running. “Mrs. Carretta,” she said excitedly. “Is it true? Justin just told us he’s half Jewish and half Christmas.” *(Stacey Carretta, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Dolly sings: “We wish you could marry Christmas, we wish you could marry Christmas!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Girl: “C’mon, there has to be something I can buy you for Christmas.” Boy: “How can I think about material things when I’m surrounded by so much natural beauty?” Girl: “Now I know how Henry David Thoreau’s sister must have felt.” *(Steve Breen, in Grand Avenue comic strip)***

**Son: “Dad, can I have some money to buy you a Christmas present?” Dad sighs as he gives his son ten dollars. Son: “Ten dollars? I can’t buy you anything nice for ten dollars!” Dad: “Just do your best, Son.” Son: “Man, what a cheapskate!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**Dolly asks Billy while looking at a calendar: “Christmas is my favorite month. What’s yours?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**My wife and I took our six-year-old nephew, Nicholas, to see Santa. While waiting in line, we remarked that both he and Santa had the same first name. When Nicky’s turn came, he enthusiastically climbed up onto Santa’s knee. “What’s your name?” Santa asked. “The same as yours,” the youngster replied. “Well, isn’t that nice,” said the tired and harried Santa. “And what would you like for Christmas, Leonard?” *(Neil Scott)***

**In a rehearsal in Barbara Robinson’s delightful story, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, a question arises over what to name the Christ child. One little boy offered the names found in Isaiah, “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” One of the children, Imogene Herdman, spoke up and said, “He’d never get out of the first grade if he had to learn how to write all of that!” *(King Duncan & Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 346)***

**Dolly asks her Mother: “Mrs. Clarke says we’ll exchange names for Christmas. Won’t I be Dolly anymore?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Billy says to his friend: “Santa finds out who’s naughty and nice by checking on who’s sent to the principal’s office.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dear Santa, I need a new skateboard for Christmas. The one I got now crashes too much. Band-Aids would be OK, too. David! *(Rodney & Cathy’s Joke List)***

**As a professor at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., I often begin class by telling a story about my son who attends the U. S. Naval Academy. Last December, one ingenious student left me a note on the blackboard, wishing me a merry Christmas with the following words: “Feliz Navydad!” *(Bing B. Bayer)***

**Dennis says to his mother and father: “Did ya notice that Santa used our wrapping paper?” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**How old is Baby Jesus? Four, according to my 6-year-old godchild, Shaun. While lighting the Advent wreath, Shaun observed that since Christmas is the celebration of the birthday of Baby Jesus, and there are four candles on the Advent wreath, then Jesus must be turning 4 this Christmas. *(Michael J. Bradley, in Catholic Digest)***

**April: “Daddy, I can’t wait ‘til tomorrow. Can I open a present tonight? Please, please, please?” Dad: “Well, I suppose.” April: “Yah!” Dad: “What are you doing now, April?” April: “Wrapping it up again. This isn’t the one I meant to open.” *(Lynn Johnston, in For Better Or For Worse comic strip)***

**Billy says to his Dad while examining the presents under the Christmas tree: “This is from me to you, Daddy. Want me to open it for you?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Preparing for a large Christmas Eve family gathering, I had been giving out orders like a drill sergeant: “Pick up your things! Don’t get your clothes dirty! Put away those toys.” My four-year-old daughter had been underfoot, so I sent her to the next room to play with our wooden Nativity set. As I scurried around setting the table I overheard her make-believe conversation in an all-too-familiar tone of voice: “I don’t care who you are, get those camels out of my living room!” *(Catherine J. Halverson)***

**Dolly: “I’m going to be Mary in the Christmas play, and Billy’s a German shepherd.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**The annual Christmas playlet was the order of the day at a private school, and the coach chose an amiable, beautifully brought-up boy of seven to play the role of the innkeeper at Bethlehem. The boy had trouble learning to turn away Mary and Joseph with a curt: “There is no room at the inn,” but had his part down pat by the end of the rehearsal period. Then came the big night, with his proud mother and father beaming at him from the front row. He boomed out his “There is no room at the inn” with great authority, but then he couldn’t resist adding, “But come in, anyhow, and have some cookies and milk.” *(Sunshine Magazine)***

**Dolly asks her Grandma: “Grandma, were you and Santa Claus playmates when you both were little?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dolly says to her Dad: “That police car has its Christmas lights on.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**When my former landlady stopped by to visit one day, she told me about a group of Boy Scouts who had come to see her at the Masonic Home during the holidays. One boy said, “Mrs. B., you are my troop’s problem for this Christmas.” *(Mrs. W. O. Campbell, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Elementary teachers in Nome, Alaska, subscribe to the same professional publications as their colleagues in other states, but their problems are sometimes different. The third-grade teacher, a newcomer to Alaska, had just received her latest project magazine and was discussing with the class the suggestions for a Christmas pageant. For the children playing Santa’s reindeer, there should be brown cambric outfits, and passable reindeer horns could be made of bare branches, trimmed to the proper shapes and painted. She looked out at the barren, treeless landscape. “Well, children,” she sighed regretfully, “I guess we’ll have to do something else. We can’t make horns of branches, because there isn’t a tree for miles.” The children looked disappointed. Then one little boy spoke up. “We haven’t any trees, teacher,” he said, “but we do have lots of reindeer horns.” *(Edith M. Jarrett, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Dolly reading to her little brother says: “Then the three wise men came to baby sit while Mary and Joseph went caroling.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Our daughter announced that she no longer believed in Santa Claus and flatly refused to leave milk and cookies out for him on Christmas Eve. Upset at losing a four-year tradition, her father tried bribing and cajoling her. Nothing worked. Later that evening, to my surprise, she walked into the living room carrying a bowl of oatmeal. Her father helped her put the bowl under the tree, next to eight others just like it. “What on earth are you doing?” I asked. “I thought she didn’t believe in Santa.” “She doesn’t,” he said, beaming. “But the reindeer -- they’re a different story!” *(Karen Dwyer)***

**Hattie: “Say, Brutus, what happens to reindeer when the temperature drops below freezing?” Brutus: “Gee. Nothing, I think!” Hattie: “Wrong! They turn into snowdeer.” *(Art Samsom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**Christmas was fast approaching when my friend Dawn reminded her eight-year-old son, Ken, that he would soon be visiting with Santa Claus. He seemed unusually resistant to the idea. “You do believe in Santa, don’t you?” Dawn finally asked her son. He thought hard, then said, “Yes, but I think this is the last year.” *(Penny Harrison Gill, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Girl: “Boy, my Mom sure was Christmas shopping up a storm today!” Heart: “I didn’t see her with any bags. How do you know?” Girl: “Look, feel. Her VISA card’s still warm.” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City comic strip)***

**Because of my fluency in American Sign Language, I was hired to be a Santa Claus in a mall. My employer wanted to provide deaf children with a Santa who could communicate with them. I sat for hours, performing for the children who came to visit. But none of them was deaf. Then, two girls approached shyly. One explained that her sister was deaf and could not speak. “What is your name?” I signed slowly. “J-A-S-M-I-N-E,” she replied with her fingers, grinning from ear to ear. I was bubbling over with pride when I absent-mindedly signed, “My name is H-E-N-R-Y, nice to meet you.” The startled child pulled back and furiously began signing, “I thought your name was Santa Claus!” *(Henry E. Lowe, in Reader’s Digest)***

**“There’s no need to worry about the size of your Christmas tree,” intoned the Rev. George Hall last Sunday. “Whatever its height, in the eyes of your children, that tree will be 10 feet tall.” *(Burton Hillis, in Better Homes and Gardens)***

**Santa: “The sleigh is ready and the reindeer are hitched! Yo, elves! The time is nigh! Fill my bag!” Elves: “Paper or plastic?” *(Art Samsom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**My 17-year-old son asked me if he could have two of my trading-stamp books to buy a Christmas present for his grandmother. I was quite surprised and told him so. “What makes you think that you should buy a present for Grandma with my trading stamps?” I asked. “Well,” he replied, “you wouldn’t have all those stamps if I didn’t eat so much.”**

***(Jane E. Blaine, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Dad: “What are you going to ask Santa Claus to bring you this year, Nelson?” Nelson: “A bicycle, a scooter, a video game, a baseball mitt, a chemistry set, and a toy garage with cars and trucks.” Dad: “Wow. That’s a lot of stuff. Santa will probably have to check in his book to see if you were good.” Nelson: “If I just settled for a scooter would he still have to check in his book?” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Dolly asks her little brother: “Shouldn’t the swaddling clothes be blue for a boy?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Billy says to his friend: “Thanksgiving was okay, but I bet we’ll have a lot more to be thankful for on Christmas.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Child: “Montgomery, what are your thoughts on Santa Claus?” Montgomery: “Well, let’s be realistic. It’s hard to believe one man could do all that in just one night’s work.” Child: “But you still sent him a list, didn’t you?” Montgomery: “And some no-doz in case we’re at the end of the route.” *(Steve Dickenson & Todd Clark, in Lola comic strip)***

**While working as a mall Santa, I had many children ask for electric trains. “If you get a train,” I would tell each one, “you know your dad is going to want to play with it too. Is that okay?” The usual answer was a quick yes. But after I asked one boy this question, he became very quiet. Trying to move the conversation along, I asked what else he would like Santa to bring him. He promptly replied, “Another train.” *(George T. Faure)***

**Dolly says to Santa Claus: “We wanted to trick-or-treat at your house, but we can’t go off our block.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**As the kids listen to “On The 12th Day of Christmas” being sung on the TV, Billy says: “Her true love sure gave her a bunch of weird presents.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**As Billy observes the Christmas village which Mom placed under the Christmas tree, Billy says to her: “Your village is nice, Mommy, but those lots are zoned for Christmas presents.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**During the week before Christmas vacation, my child’s second-grade parochial-school teacher related the story of the birth of Christ, telling part of the narrative each day. On the fourth day, she quizzed the children, “What is baby Jesus’s mother’s name?” “Mary! Mary! Mary!” they answered, waving their little hands in the air. “Wonderful!” Sister congratulated them. “Now what is baby Jesus’s father’s name?” Silence filled the classroom. Finally, one small boy jumped up, pumping his hand wildly toward the ceiling. “I know, Sister!” he shouted. “It’s Virg!” “Virg?” the stunned nun asked. “Yeah,” explained the child. “You know -- everybody’s heard of Virg and Mary.” *(Judy M. Booth)***

**Dennis: “I’m sure I’ll get what I want this year. I’ve already talked to five different Santas.” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**Mom reads: “Shepherds watched over their flocks.” Dolly: “That means they were lookin’ at the fake snowy stuff on their Christmas trees.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Mom: “Peter, get upstairs! You have homework to do!” Peter: “But ‘A Charlie Brown Christmas’ just came on. It’s a holiday staple! A touchstone for generations! Not watching it would be downright unamerican!” Mom: “Which is why we have it on videotape. Go.” Peter: “Who says modern conveniences are convenient?”*(Bill Amend, in Foxtrot comic strip)***

**Billy: “We woke up so early this morning it was still the night before Christmas.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Lucy: “I was wondering if you’d like to address all my Christmas cards for me and maybe do all my shopping and wrap all the presents for me.” Charlie Brown: “I don’t think so.” Lucy: “No Christmas spirit, huh?” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**As holiday preparations began around the house, our seven-year-old was relaying all his worldly knowledge of Santa Claus to a neighbor’s four-year-old. “Santa Claus works real hard making all those toys,” he said, “and if you’re not good, you won’t get any.” “Well,” the four-year-old replied, “he can’t be working that hard. He’s always hanging out at the mall.” *(William D. Olson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Billy says to Santa: “Don’t wrap any presents this year. It takes too long to open them.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Charlie Brown: “I just don’t think you should write to Santa Claus and call him “Snooty.’” Linus: “Why not? He made me mad last year. I refuse to call him Mr. Claus!” Charlie Brown: “Well, give it some thought.” Linus says “I will,” as he writes Dear Shorty.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**Dennis says to his Mom: “Margaret said I should write to Mrs. Claus first ‘cause she probably handles the important things.” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**Charlie Brown: “I’m writing to Santa Claus, which should I ask for, a bicycle or a dog?” Lucy: “I think, maybe a dog.” Charlie Brown: “You can’t fall off a dog.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**Shortly before last Christmas my four-year-old daughter Vicki was laboriously writing on a piece of paper. “What are you writing, Vicki?” I asked her. “I’m writing a letter to Santa Claus,” she answered. “What are you telling him?” I inquired. “I don’t know,” she replied. “I can’t read.” *(Mrs. Beverly Bulligan, in Catholic Digest)***

**As Dad hits his finger with the hammer while hanging a Christmas decoration, Dennis says to him: “You did it wrong, Dad. It’s s’posed to be hung by the chimney with care.” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**First boy: “And I want a new dump truck and ice skates and a new bike and . . .” Second boy: “Why are you yelling? Santa hasn’t a hearing problem.” The first boy after noticing Grandma sitting in the next room says to the second boy: “I know, but Grandma might.” *(Bud Blake, in Tiger comic strip)***

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