

# A Christmas Surprise

"family, holiday traditions", "fiction")

It was the week before Christmas, and Emma's family was busy preparing for the holiday. Snow covered the streets, and colorful lights blinked on every house. Inside, the smell of cookies filled the air as Emma and her mom baked gingerbread men. "Don't forget the buttons!" her mom said, handing her tiny chocolate pieces.

Emma's dad was in the living room, untangling a long string of lights for the tree. "How do these always get so messy?" he laughed. Emma's little brother, Jack, ran in circles, pretending to be a Christmas elf. "Look at me! I'm Santa's helper!" he shouted, wearing a red hat far too big for him.

That evening, the family decorated the tree. Emma carefully placed shiny ornaments on the branches. Jack tried to hang a candy cane, but he accidentally ate it instead. "Jack!" Emma laughed, pointing at the sticky mess on his face.

Later, Emma's mom said, "I have a surprise for everyone." She brought out a big, wrapped box. "But you'll have to wait until Christmas morning to open it!" Jack groaned, "I can't wait that long!" Emma felt curious too. What could it be?

The days passed quickly. Emma and Jack made cards for their grandparents, sang carols, and even built a snowman in the yard. On Christmas Eve, they left milk and cookies by the fireplace for Santa. "Do you think he'll like them?" Jack asked. "Of course!" Emma said.

Finally, Christmas morning came. The family gathered around the tree. Jack tore through his gifts, shouting with joy at every toy. But Emma couldn't stop thinking about the big, mysterious box. When her mom handed it to her, Emma's hands trembled with excitement.

She unwrapped the box slowly. Inside was a soft, fluffy blanket with a picture of their family printed on it. "It's from our trip to the mountains last summer!" Emma exclaimed. The blanket had a photo of all of them, smiling together. "Now we can always feel close, even when we're apart," her mom said with a smile.

Emma hugged the blanket tightly. "This is the best Christmas ever!" she said. Jack jumped onto the couch, wrapping the blanket around both of them. The family spent the rest of the morning together, laughing and sharing stories. It wasn't just the gifts that made Christmas special—it was the love they shared.

## Questions

1. What holiday is Emma's family preparing for?
2. What does Emma bake with her mom?
3. What was Emma's dad doing in the living room?
4. Who pretended to be a Christmas elf?
5. What did Emma and Jack leave out for Santa?
6. When was the big box opened?
7. What was inside the big box?
8. Why was the blanket special?
9. How did Emma describe this Christmas?
10. What made Christmas special for Emma's family?

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. What holiday is Emma's family preparing for?
  - a) Easter
  - b) Christmas
  - c) Halloween
2. What does Emma bake with her mom?
  - a) Gingerbread men
  - b) Cake
  - c) Brownies
3. What was Emma's dad doing in the living room?
  - a) Wrapping presents
  - b) Untangling lights
  - c) Watching TV
4. Who pretended to be a Christmas elf?
  - a) Jack
  - b) Emma
  - c) Their dad
5. What did Emma and Jack leave out for Santa?
  - a) A blanket
  - b) Milk and cookies
  - c) A Christmas card
6. When was the big box opened?
  - a) Christmas morning
  - b) Christmas Eve
  - c) The week before Christmas
7. What was inside the big box?
  - a) A new toy
  - b) A soft blanket with a family photo
  - c) A pair of shoes
8. Why was the blanket special?
  - a) It had a picture of their family on it
  - b) It was very expensive
  - c) It was made by Santa
9. How did Emma describe this Christmas?
  - a) The best Christmas ever
  - b) A boring Christmas
  - c) A regular Christmas
10. What made Christmas special for Emma's family?
  - a) The gifts
  - b) The love they shared
  - c) The decorations

