

# CHRISTMAS WONDERPONDERING

Questions for thinking about Christmas

by Ellen Duthie & Daniela Martagón



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|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Leg of ham.                 | 12. Girl.                 | 22. Rifle.  | 28. Teddy-bear.     | 33. Money.          | 38. Diamond.   |
| 2. Building blocks.            | 13. Car.                  | 23. Guitar. | 29. Mirror.         | 34. More money.     | 39. Crayons.   |
| 3. Superhero.                  | 14. Soldiers.             | 24. Tie.    | 30. Bike.           | 35. Loads of money. | 40. Dress.     |
| 4. Basket of fruit.            | 15. Book.                 | 25. Broom.  | 31. Knife.          | 36. Shoe.           | 41. Champagne. |
| 5. Fish bowl with exotic fish. | 16. Doctor's kit.         | 26. Sweets. | 32. Round surprise. | 37. Sun glasses.    |                |
| 6. Alarm clock.                | 17. Pressure cooker.      | 27. Radio.  |                     |                     |                |
| 7. House.                      | 18. Italian coffee-maker. |             |                     |                     |                |
| 8. Bulb or good idea.          | 19. Wool socks.           |             |                     |                     |                |
| 9. Hat.                        | 20. Bonsai.               |             |                     |                     |                |
| 10. Computer.                  | 21. Cat.                  |             |                     |                     |                |

Do gifts make you happy? All of them?

Should I take more gifts to kids than to grown-ups?

Why should I wear such warm clothes, if it's summer in half the world?

**WONDER  
PONDER**

Visual Philosophy for Children





Could anything be a present?

*If you could speak with Santa,  
what would you say to him and why?*

## TIME FOR PRESENTS!

Do we all deserve presents?

Do we need presents?

Would you like Christmas if there weren't any presents?

Does getting presents make us happy?

Do you like surprises or do you prefer knowing what you're getting? Why?

Should everyone receive the same number of presents?  
Presents of the same size? Of the same price?

Do things you need make better presents than things you don't need but you like having?

Could a broom be a good gift?  
A new cooking pot?  
A rifle?

What should a good present be like?  
And what should it **NOT** be like?

Do you prefer a wrapped present or a present with no wrapping? Why?

When we give someone a gift, should we like it? Is it ok to give someone a present you don't like yourself?



# WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

How would you explain to an alien what Christmas is?

What does Christmas need for it to be Christmas?

Are we happier at Christmas than during the rest of the year?

Could Christmas make some people sad? Why?

What do you like about Christmas?  
Is there anything you don't like about Christmas?

What are enough presents and what are too many presents?

Is a football pitch full of presents too many presents?

Is a pair of socks enough of a present?

Is it a bad thing to receive too many presents? Why?



Would you give half your presents to a kid that didn't have any? If your answer is yes, would you open them beforehand, to see what they were and make a selection (this one's for me, this one's for him or her) or would you share them out, half and half, before opening them? Is one of the two options fairer than the other? If you would open them before in order to make a selection, what would you take into account when deciding, for each present, whether to keep it or give it to the other person?

Is it fair for those who behave badly not to get any presents?



Sometimes we know we should stop eating but nonetheless we continue eating. We can't stop. If we know it's going to make us feel sick or oozy, why do we continue to eat regardless? How is it possible for us to want to eat more AND not want to eat more at the same time?

Who decides who has behaved and who hasn't?  
Do you know anyone who didn't behave well and didn't get anything for Christmas as a result?  
What is it to behave well? What is it to behave badly?  
Can we sometimes be good for bad reasons?

What are traditions?  
Are traditions good?  
Is it important to keep them?  
Why?  
What is the difference between tradition and habit?



Some people think of the new year as an opportunity for a new start. Some people resolve to stop smoking. Others determine to go on a diet. Others decide they will work harder at school and others decide it's time to do more exercise or behave better. Is there anything you'd like to change about the way you live or behave -something that is in your hands to change-?

Christmas is a time where lots of people make wishes. Wishes for themselves and wishes for others. If you wish really hard for something to happen, is it more likely for it to occur?



If you could ask for five wishes and you knew they would come true, what would you wish for?

What Christmas traditions do you have in your home?

If it is a family tradition to eat Aunt Hilda's roast turkey, but Aunt Hilda's roast turkey is unspeakably and revoltingly dry, are there good reasons to continue with the tradition?

Do we have to be in a party mood at Christmas?

If you are sad at Christmas, are you a party pooper? Is it a bad thing to be a party pooper? Why?



Who takes care of the decoration at your home?  
Who takes care of the cooking?  
Who takes care of the shopping?  
Who takes care of cleaning up?  
Can you think of a fairer way of dividing the work or do you think the Christmas preparation work is divided fairly?

What would life without holidays be like?

Do we behave better with other people at Christmas than during the rest of the year?



What would you do if someone gave you a present you didn't like at all?





Poor Santa Claus has to travel across the planet wrapped up in very warm winter clothes, despite the fact that at Christmas it is actually summer in half the world. Are you up for designing a more summery Christmas suit for Santa, so he can change into it when passing through the warmer regions?

Can you think of any interesting questions about Christmas of your own?

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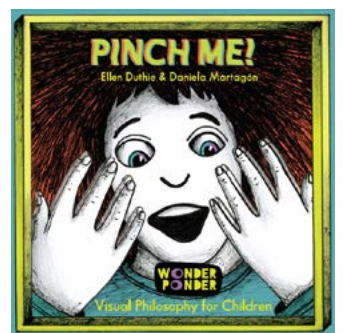
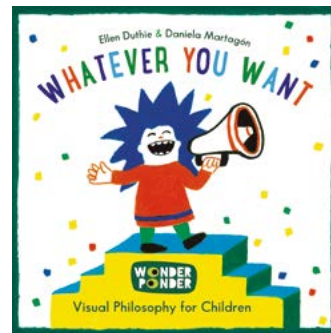
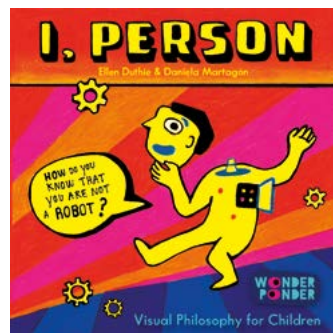
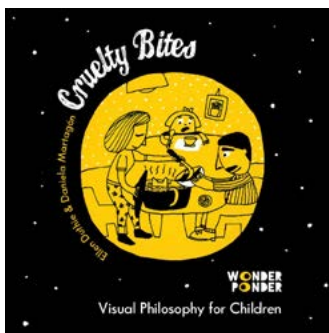
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You can send your drawings and questions to [info@wonderponderonline.com](mailto:info@wonderponderonline.com) or share it on our Facebook page (Facebook/WonderPonderOnline).

This Christmas,  
**Open, Look, Think**  
with Wonder Ponder's  
Visual Philosophy for Children

Wishing you all a  
**WONDERFUL, PONDERFUL CHRISTMAS!**

Is it more cruel to eat roast cat than to eat roast turkey?  
How do you know Santa is not a robot?  
Is whatever you want a good gift?  
Could everything you see be part of a dream?



Wonder Ponder's Visual Philosophy for Children series introduces readers to philosophy's big questions playfully and appealingly. Wonder Ponder boxes are designed for children (and adults!) to look at, read and think about by themselves or with others, in educational, play or family settings.



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