

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

You have found a short story about Christmas. Read the short story.

Text 3 Short story



① Samantha looked out of the window and sighed. The ground outside was still patchy and brown, despite the heavy clouds overhead. She wished for a white Christmas because her children loved to build snowmen and have snowball fights. Christmas just didn't feel the same this year.

② A box of Christmas biscuits and a Christmas pudding lay uneaten on the dining table. A big fat turkey lay on the kitchen counter, waiting to be dressed and put in the oven. Everyone in the family was out shopping, so she had the house all to herself.

③ Samantha picked up the turkey she bought from the butcher's. She started meticulously cleaning it, but she felt something inside the bird. She pulled it out carefully. It was a small bag of white powder!

④ 'Oh no, could this be drugs? What should I do?' She thought nervously to herself. What was the world coming to? Even a simple Christmas meal could have terrible complications. Samantha wished for the good old days. Just then, the doorbell rang. Samantha took a deep breath and walked to the door. Jimmy the butcher was standing outside.

⑤ 'Hi Mrs Taylor, I'm terribly sorry to disturb you, but I handed you the wrong bird! I wanted to surprise my wife, so I put a diamond ring in a tiny bag of flour and hid it inside her turkey but ...'

⑥ Samantha opened the little bag, and it was true! There it was - a glittering jewel on a dainty ring.

⑦ As she returned the ring to Jimmy, she saw her children and husband turn into the driveway with a trunk full of wrapped presents. Just then, a beautiful snowflake fell from the sky and landed in her hand. She looked up and smiled. The Christmas magic was just a bit late this year ...



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Comprehension 3 *Your classmate wants to know about the short story. Answer his questions using information from the short story. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 How did Samantha feel at the beginning and end of the story?

Beginning: _____

End: _____

2 Use ONE word to complete each blank.

Even though there were _____ in the sky, it still had not started
_____.

3 Name two activities mentioned in paragraph 1 that Samantha's children usually enjoyed doing around Christmas.

i) _____

ii) _____

4 What does 'the bird' (line 14) refer to?

5 Find words in paragraphs 3–4 that mean the same as the following:

i) meat shop _____

i) very carefully _____

iii) problems _____

iv) the action of taking in air _____

6 i) What did Samantha believe she found in the turkey?

ii) What was actually in the turkey?

iii) Why was it inside the turkey?

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- 7 Match the main points (A–D) with one of the paragraphs on the left. Write the correct letter (A–D) on the line next to the paragraph number.

Paragraph no.	Main point
i) Paragraphs 1–2 _____	A Explaining why there was a little bag inside the turkey
ii) Paragraphs 3–4 _____	B Introducing the main character and setting
iii) Paragraphs 5–6 _____	C Showing Samantha's change in mood as the problem is resolved.
iv) Paragraph 7 _____	D Introducing the problem of the bag in the turkey



- 8 Do you think there will be a white Christmas in the end? Give evidence from the story to support your answer.

- 9 Which of the following is the best title for the short story?

- A A Christmas dinner like no other
- B A present for Jimmy's wife
- C Home alone on Christmas
- D The turkey mystery

A B C D

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