

December 2025



Boredom Busters

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December in History

Did you know?

December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.

December 6, 1877 - At his laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey, Thomas Edison spoke the children's verse "Mary had a Little Lamb..." while demonstrating his newly invented phonograph which utilized a revolving cylinder wrapped in tinfoil to record sounds.

December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.

December 10, 1896 - Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel died at San Remo, Italy. His will stipulated that income from his \$9 million estate be used for awards recognizing persons who have made valuable contributions to humanity. Nobel recipients are chosen by a committee of the Norwegian parliament. Prizes for Peace, Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Economics are presented annually in a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on the anniversary of his death. Each prize is valued at about \$1 million.

December 19, 1732 - Benjamin Franklin first published *Poor Richard's Almanac* containing weather predictions, humor, proverbs and epigrams, eventually selling nearly 10,000 copies per year.

December 6, 1896 - Birthday - American lyricist Ira Gershwin (1896-1983) was born in New York City. He collaborated with his brother George to create many Broadway successes including; *Lady Be Good*, *Funny Face*, *Strike Up*

the Band, and songs such as *The Man I Love*, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, and *I Got Rhythm*.

December 8, 1886 - Birthday - Mexican artist [Diego Rivera](#) (1886-1957) was born in Guanajuato, Mexico. He created large works for display in the U.S. which aroused controversy due to his political point of view as a Communist. In 1933, his fresco *Man at the Crossroads* was removed from Rockefeller Center in New York City amid claims it included a figure resembling Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin. A year earlier, a mural done for the Detroit Institute of Arts had been criticized as irreligious. Following these controversies, he was denied further commissions in the U.S., although his work remained popular in Mexico.



Avi

December 23, 1937

“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

Avi has been writing for nearly fifty years. It is something he loves to do and something he tries to do every day. After publishing fifty books and receiving two Newbery Honors, Avi won the prestigious Newbery Medal in 2003 for *Crispin*, a coming-of-age novel set in fourteenth century England.

Although Avi is best known for his middle grade historical fiction, he also writes popular mysteries, fantasies, adventure stories, ghost stories, and animal tales for younger readers. And, in spite of his many successes as an author, Avi acknowledges that writing is still hard work. “Not knowing what to put down for the next sentence is what my life is all about,” he says.

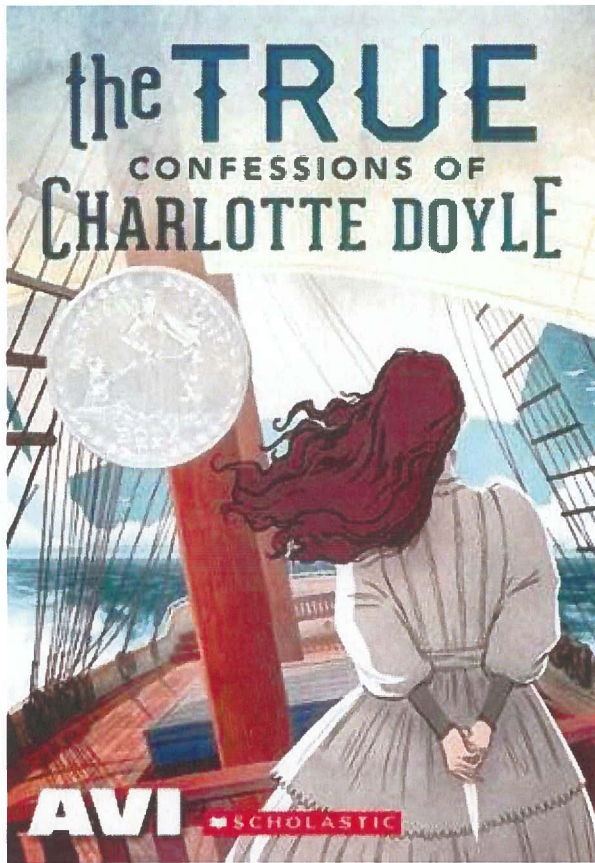
Avi was born in New York City in 1937. He grew up in a family of readers, writers, and artists. His twin sister, who gave him the nickname “Avi” at an early age, also became a writer.

Throughout his elementary and high school years, Avi’s teachers complained that his writing was messy and careless. Avi would later find out that he had symptoms of dyslexia, which explained his poor spelling, letter reversals, and other “sloppy” work. After failing out of his first high school, Avi received special tutoring sessions one summer that inspired him to become a writer. Although Avi avoided English classes during college, he continued to read and write voraciously.

Avi originally wanted to become a Broadway playwright. But as he later acknowledged, “I spent a fair number of years writing a whole lot of bad plays.” Avi discovered the world of children’s writing only after he became a father. His first published book was a collection of stories he had invented for his oldest son.

For 25 years, Avi worked as a librarian – a career that supported both his family and his writing. Eventually, Avi’s literary success enabled him to become a full-time author. After winning Newbery Honors for *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* and *Nothing But the Truth*, Avi won the 2003 Newbery Medal for *Crispin: A Cross of Lead*.

Although writing is his passion and his profession, Avi emphasizes that family still lies at the center of his life. Now both a father and a grandfather, Avi lives with his wife in Denver, Colorado.



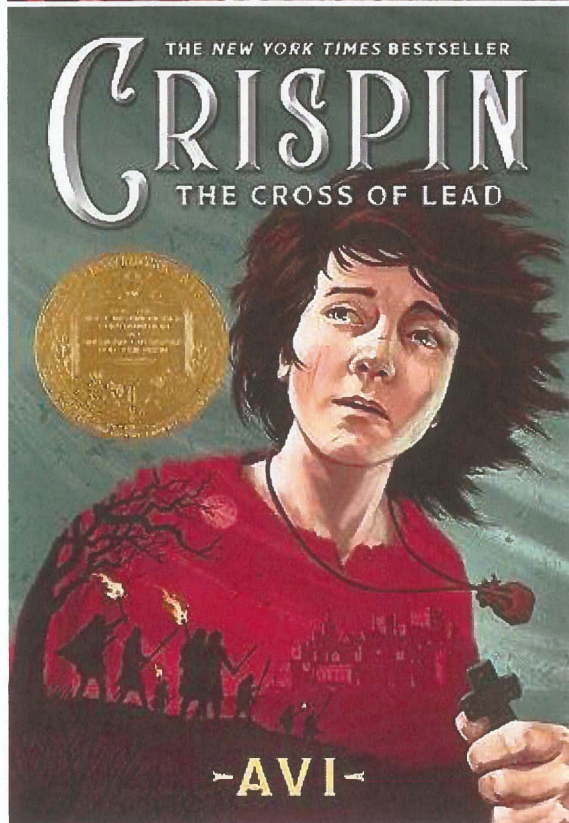
NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT WHAT SO PROUDLY

WE HAILED AT THE TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAM THOSE BROAD STRIPES AND THIRTY STARS THRU THE PERILS OF THE RAMPARTS WE WERE SO GALLANTLY STRENGTHENED BY THE ROCKET'S RED GLARE, THE BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR, GAVE PROOF THROUGH THE NIGHT THAT OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE.




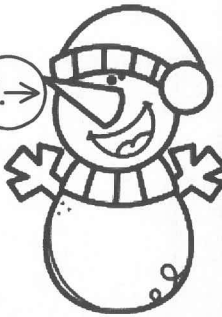
A novel by **AVI**
SCHOLASTIC







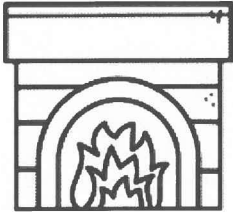
Christmas Words


13. → 

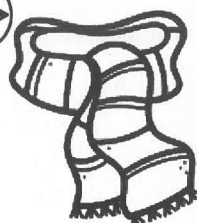
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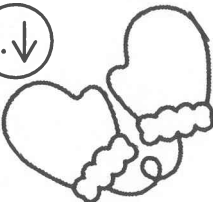
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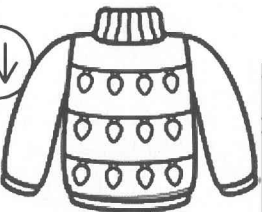
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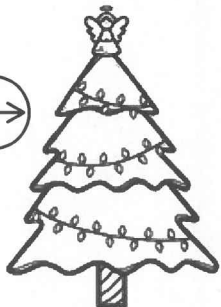
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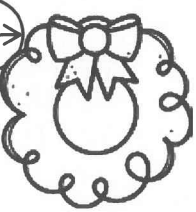
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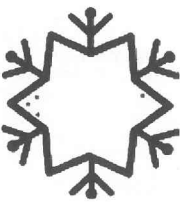
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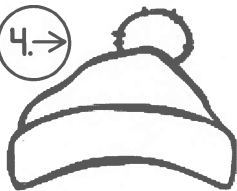
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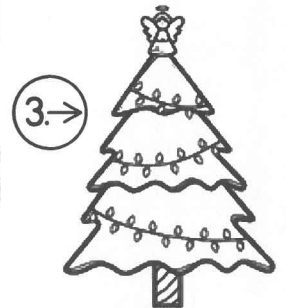
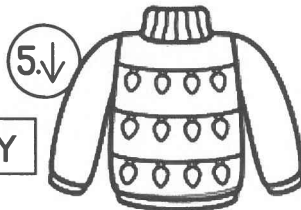
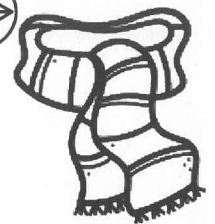
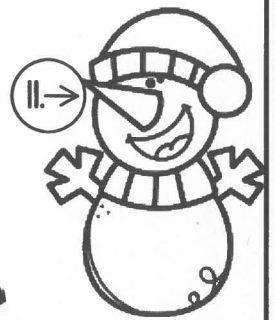
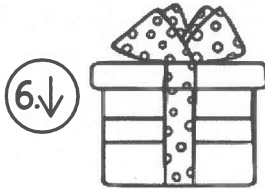
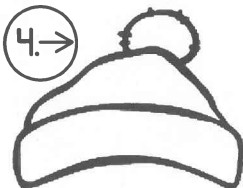
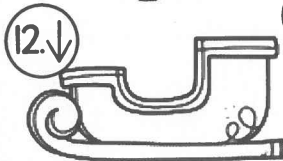
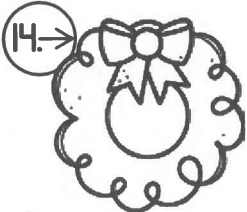
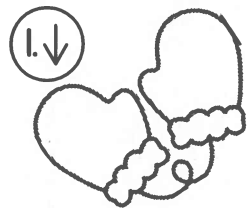
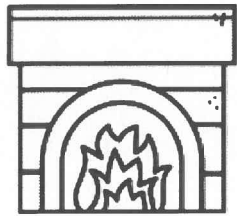
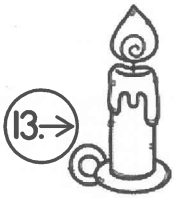
15. ↓ 

9. → 

Word Bank

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| bell | ornament | snowflake |
| candle | present | snowman |
| candy cane | reindeer | stocking |
| fire | Santa Claus | sweater |
| hat | scarf | tree |
| holly | skate | wreath |
| mittens | sleigh | |

Christmas Words



13. →
 18. ↓
 8. →
 1. ↓
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 12. ↓
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 16. →
 6. ↓
 7. ↓
 11. →
 12. →
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Word Bank

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
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| candle | present | snowman |
| candy cane | reindeer | stocking |
| fire | Santa Claus | sweater |
| hat | scarf | tree |
| holly | skate | wreath |
| mittens | sleigh | |



Christmas

Word Search

Name: _____

S L E S N O W M A N S T A R S
T F N R Z Q G R E E T I N G S
O C R F R O S T Y Y J I N A G
C Z A U E O Q M T M Y I P Y B
K F A M I L Y I M Q D B L A H
I S R R F T V G W I A N G E L
N L C P E I C E T R N V V P D
G E Y H T I U A S Q E I F J S
F I F A R W N Z K M C A B B R
Z G N P I I E D F E A S T T Y
X H U R B J S G E Y O N U H L
Y Q S P I R I T G E Q E G Q H
S S C O L G P K M N R O A E Z
P Q B G I F T C Q A O O P C R
P R E S E N T S G J S G Y X S

Word list:

ANGEL	FROSTY	NATIVITY	SPIRIT
CHRISTMAS	FRUITCAKE	PRESENTS	STAR
EGGNOG	GIFT	REINDEER	STOCKING
ELVES	GREETINGS	SLEIGH	TIDINGS
FAMILY	MANGER	SNOWMAN	WREATH

Christmas

Name: _____

Word Search

S L E S N O W M A N S T A R S
T F N R Z Q G R E E T I N G S
O C R F R O S T Y Y J I N A G
C Z A U E O Q M T M Y I P Y B
K F A M I L Y I M Q D B L A H
I S R R F T V G W I A N G E L
N L C P E I C E T R N V V P D
G E Y H T I U A S Q E I F J S
F I F A R W N Z K M C A B B R
Z G N P I I E D F E A S T T Y
X H U R B J S G E Y O N U H L
Y Q S P I R I T G E Q E G Q H
S S C O L G P K M N R O A E Z
P Q B G I F T C Q A O O P C R
P R E S E N T S G J S G Y X S

Word list:

ANGEL	FROSTY	NATIVITY	SPIRIT
CHRISTMAS	FRUITCAKE	PRESENTS	STAR
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ELVES	GREETINGS	SLEIGH	TIDINGS
FAMILY	MANGER	SNOWMAN	WREATH

Printable Sudoku Puzzles – Easy #5

			3	6	9			4
		9					5	
	2				4	7	1	
4	9	8						7
			1		7			
1						4	3	5
	8	1	6				4	
	5					3		
9			2	7	1			

					6			7
	6						9	8
1			4		2		3	
	4	9		6	7		5	
	1						6	
	3		8	9		4	7	
	2		5		1			4
5	8						2	
6			3					

6			4	2				
8		4	9				7	3
3						4	5	
			8	7			9	
	8						2	
	3			6	1			
	2	5						7
9	6				5	8		2
				3	9			4

		9	4	7			3	6
				8			2	9
	1		2				5	7
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		1				6		
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1	4			6	9	7		

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For more free Sudoku puzzles, visit
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SOLUTIONS: Printable Sudoku Puzzles – Easy #5

5	1	7	3	6	9	8	2	4
8	4	9	7	1	2	6	5	3
6	2	3	8	5	4	7	1	9
4	9	8	5	2	3	1	6	7
3	6	5	1	4	7	2	9	8
1	7	2	9	8	6	4	3	5
7	8	1	6	3	5	9	4	2
2	5	6	4	9	8	3	7	1
9	3	4	2	7	1	5	8	6

3	5	8	9	1	6	2	4	7
4	6	2	7	5	3	1	9	8
1	9	7	4	8	2	5	3	6
8	4	9	1	6	7	3	5	2
7	1	5	2	3	4	8	6	9
2	3	6	8	9	5	4	7	1
9	2	3	5	7	1	6	8	4
5	8	1	6	4	9	7	2	3
6	7	4	3	2	8	9	1	5

6	5	7	4	2	3	1	8	9
8	1	4	9	5	6	2	7	3
3	9	2	1	8	7	4	5	6
5	4	6	8	7	2	3	9	1
7	8	1	3	9	4	6	2	5
2	3	9	5	6	1	7	4	8
4	2	5	6	1	8	9	3	7
9	6	3	7	4	5	8	1	2
1	7	8	2	3	9	5	6	4

2	8	9	4	7	5	1	3	6
5	7	6	1	8	3	4	2	9
3	1	4	2	9	6	8	5	7
7	6	2	5	1	8	3	9	4
4	5	1	9	3	2	6	7	8
9	3	8	6	4	7	2	1	5
6	9	7	8	2	1	5	4	3
8	2	3	7	5	4	9	6	1
1	4	5	3	6	9	7	8	2

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