

THE LEFT RIGHT GAME

A "PASS THE PRESENT" STORY FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGES - Everyone sits in a circle holding the present they brought. Someone reads the story. Anytime you hear the word "left", pass your present to the left. Anytime you hear the word "right", pass your present right. Whatever present you end up with is yours to open and keep!

Santa has a problem. He's lost his Santa sack and can't remember where he **left** it! This is no ordinary sack: on Christmas Eve Santa ties his sack **right** on top of his sleigh and sets off to deliver the **right** gifts to the **right** children. Every time he gets to a new house, the gifts for the children in that house magically appear in the sack **right** in time for him to hop down the chimney. Since he's had the special Santa sack he's never **left** a gift behind!

"Santa!" calls the Head Elf, Snowflake. He's Santa's **right** hand man. "It's time to go, **right** now!"

"But my Santa sack," says Santa. "I don't know where I **left** it!"

"Where did you last see it?" asks Snowflake.

"**Right** here by the sleigh!" says Santa.

"Well, it's not **right** here anymore," says Snowflake.

"You must have **left** it somewhere else and you better find it **right** now!"

"But that's the problem - I have no idea where I could have **left** it," said Santa sadly.

"**Write** down everywhere you've been today," said Snowflake, "and I'll get the other elves to help us look **right** away!"

Santa made his list and Snowflake called the other elves over to help.

Snowflake pointed to Elf #1 - "Ok, you need to check the cocoa corner."

"**Right**," said Elf # 1. "What's the fastest way to get there?"

"Go straight through these doors, then take a **left** at the Candy Cane Castle, then **right** at Gingerbread Lodge, then another **right** at the cookie kitchen. Start looking **right** now!"

"**Right** you are!" said Elf #1, and he **left** to look.

Snowflake turned to Elf #2 and said, "Go check the workshop for Santa's sack! And take the shortcut:

go **left right** past the sled garage and you'll find five doors on the **left**. Take the one that's **right** next to the one on the furthest **left**."

"Was that a **right** at the sled garage?"

"No, **left**."

"**Left**?"

"That's **right**."

Snowflake checked Santa's list again and pointed to Elf #3. "**Right**, you'd better check Santa's bathroom. I don't know why he would have **left** his Santa sack there, but you never know, **right**?"

"**Right**," said Elf #3, and he **left right** away to go looking.

Snowflake checked his watch. "Oh dear, Santa, we really do need to leave **right** away. Are you sure you can't remember where you **left** your Santa sack?"

Santa shook his head from **right** to **left**, and then from **left** to **right**. "I wish I could remember where I **left** it! Why aren't the elves back yet? What are we going to do? Christmas could be ruined! I can't stand to think of all the children waking up tomorrow to the wrong presents. I need that sack to make sure I deliver the **right** gifts to the **right** children!"

"You're **right**," said the head elf. "This is getting serious. There's only one thing left to do."

serious. It's time to call in reinforcements." Snowflake pulled out a walkie talkie and pushed the **right** button to activate the loudspeaker.

"We have a code red," Snowflake said on the loudspeaker. "Santa has **left** his sack somewhere on the premises, and we need to find it **right** away. I repeat: Santa has **left** his sack and we need to find it **right** away. It is imperative that the **right** gifts get to the **right** children, so please start looking and make sure no stone is **left** unturned. If found, deliver the sack to the sleigh **right** away!"

They waited a few more minutes, but no one arrived with the sack. "You're just going to have to go without it, Santa," said Snowflake.

"Maybe not!" rang out a voice **right** behind Santa. It was Mrs. Claus, and in her hands was a bright red sack. "You **left** this in the closet while you were getting dressed. Something tells me you need it **right** about now."

Santa gave Mrs. Claus a great big hug. "You're the best!" he exclaimed. "I don't know what I would do without you."

"**Right** you are," said Mrs. Claus. "Now get out there and make some dreams come true. Merry Christmas!"