

### The Santa Claus Wait

Christmas Eve is a special time for children. Every year they wait for their presents from Santa Claus. Magic is everywhere in Tim and Robert's house which is decorated with greeting cards, candles and lights. The sweet smell of Mum's homemade cookies also brings to mind the coming wonders.

Throughout the month before Christmas Tim and his brother Robert regularly made their beds, set the table and followed their parents' instructions about the house. As usual, each of them wrote a letter to Santa to ask for a toy. They knew Santa wouldn't visit naughty children.

The same thing happened each year until the brothers were nine. They suddenly began to doubt that Santa could decorate their tree and millions more trees in a single night. It also seemed hard for Santa to deliver all the gifts before daybreak. Besides, they kept asking Dad how Santa could get inside their house without a chimney!

Dad usually answered that Santa would surely come, but that the children should be good and go to bed early. So on Christmas Eve, after Mum had checked that there was enough food left for Santa, the boys were sent to bed as usual. Robert was soon asleep, but Tim silently lay in bed, hoping to hear Santa coming. It seemed the longest night of Tim's life.

In the early morning, when the other members of the family were still asleep, Tim bravely went to the living room to check for presents from Santa. When he switched on the light, he cried "Wow! He's come!" In the room the Christmas tree stood in the middle of a big platform that looked like a small town with a toy railroad. It was unbelievable; a toy wonderland!

Tim spent an hour among the toys and then decided to wake up Robert and his parents to see the presents. While running upstairs he saw that the cookies had disappeared. In excitement he went into his parents' bedroom but didn't notice that they seemed a little bit more tired than usual.

"Mum! Dad! Quick! Robert! It's fantastic!" he shouted. Everybody went down. Robert immediately saw his new car. It was wonderful. Poor Robert was upset because the car wouldn't run. Dad said he couldn't understand why the car wouldn't start. The batteries in the car had been absolutely new.

He didn't know Tim had turned on the car and had forgotten about it when he was checking out other gifts earlier. Within that hour the batteries died, in those times they didn't last long. Tim kept silent as he didn't want to be punished on Christmas Day.

Tim was the first to get up on Christmas Day.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated