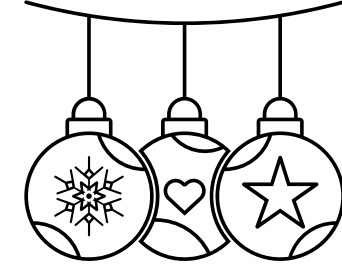




Christmas with the Grumbletons



In a small village called Winterwonderland, it was Christmas. Everywhere, lights sparkled, and snow covered the ground. The scent of freshly baked cookies filled the air. Childrens eyes gleamed in joyful anticipation of the holiday season. However, the Grumbleton family couldn't quite embrace the Christmas spirit. They always found something to grumble about:

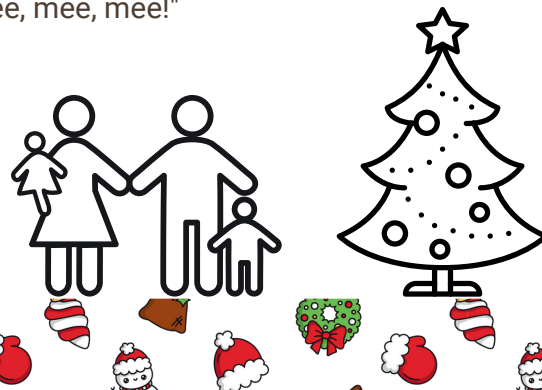
"We still have so much to organize before the holiday," said Mama Grumbleton. "Haven't we decorated enough already?" said Papa Grumbleton. "Still one more night until we finally get presents," said little Mats. And the tiny baby said, "Mee, mee, mee!"

From the North Pole, Santa Claus looked at the Grumbleton family through his large binoculars and thought, "Why should I even bother still bringing them presents? Every year, they find something to complain about. Last Christmas, there was so much grumbling when they opened my boxes:"

"The perfume smells like dog poop," said Mama Grumbleton. "The sweater is way too big and scratchy," said Papa Grumbleton. "But I wanted the green car," said Mats Grumbleton. And the little baby said, "Mee, mee, mee!"

So, Santa Claus came up with something special this year: no gifts at all for the Grumbleton family. Thus, they wouldn't have anything to grumble about. That is why Santa visited the Grumbletons already on December 23rd, a day before Christmas Eve. He brought a big sack with four boxes. After he squeezed down the chimney, the Grumbletons immediately had something to grumble about:

"You're way too early," said Mama Grumbleton. "In this house, we take off our shoes," said Papa Grumbleton. "Is that all you brought?" said Mats Grumbleton. And the little baby said, "Mee, mee, mee!"



Then Santa said, "You know what, my dear Grumbleton family? This year, I will not visit you on Christmas Eve because it always ruins my mood. That is why I'm already giving each of you a box today." And he handed them four boxes. The Grumbleton family couldn't wait and opened the boxes immediately. What a surprise!

"My box is empty," said Papa Grumbleton. "I don't understand. There's nothing in mine," said Mama Grumbleton. "I didn't get a gift. Just a stupid box," said Mats Grumbleton. And the little baby looked into the empty box and said, "Mee, mee, mee."

Santa replied, "Before I go and wish you a Merry Christmas, I would like to say something: This year, I want something from you for Christmas. I wish that you understand the meaning of Christmas and grumble less. If you can do that, you will have a beautiful Christmas." So, Santa hopped back into his sleigh and rode away.

The next day was Christmas Eve. The Grumbleton family sat at the breakfast table and grumbled:

"I don't want to go buy the Christmas goose. All stores will be so crowded," said Papa Grumbleton. "I don't know how I'll manage to decorate everything by tonight," said Mama Grumbleton. "It's not really Christmas if we don't get any presents," said Mats Grumbleton. And the little baby said, "Mee, mee, mee."

Suddenly, Mats Grumbleton had an idea: "Well, we don't have a proper Christmas today because there are no gifts. So, why don't we let everything else be and have a fun family day instead?"

The others couldn't really grumble about this suggestion. The idea of a stress-free Christmas Eve was not bad. So, Mama Grumbleton got lots of books and read them to the two children. Papa Grumbleton baked some delicious cookies, which he decorated together with the children. Everyone played and laughed. They also took a beautiful winter walk to the nativity play.

And in the evening, they sat together by their Christmas tree, enjoyed the twinkling lights, ate the delicious cookies, drank children's punch, and sang songs. For the first time, they had nothing to grumble about.

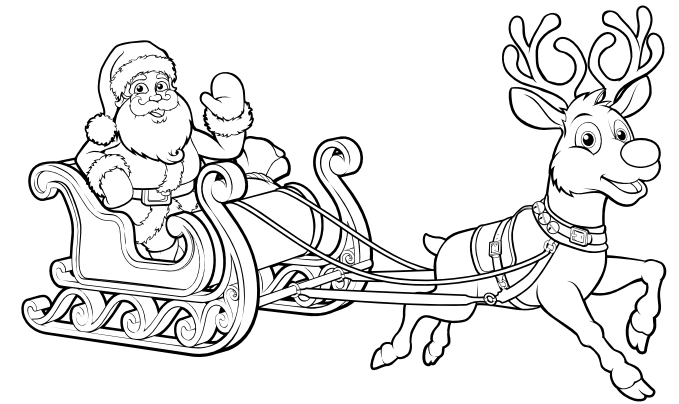
"That was a very nice Christmas day with all of you," said Papa Grumbleton. "I really enjoyed spending so much time with you," said Mama Grumbleton. "I liked that we played and sang all day, and that you read so much to us," said Mats Grumbleton. And Baby Grumbleton said, "Ho, ho, ho!" and pointed to the fireplace.

With a loud bang, Santa Claus appeared in the room again. But this time, he was happy: "Grumbleton family, you did it! A day without grumbling. You had a joyful day and focused on what is truly important not only at Christmas: family and spending time together. Because of that, I have a little surprise for you."

Suddenly, there was a sparkle under the Christmas tree, and the once empty gift boxes filled up.

"Would you like to open them?" asked Santa Claus. "That can wait," said the Grumbleton family with a smile. "First, you have to try our delicious cookies."

And for the first time, everything was perfect.



We wish you a Merry Christmas with your loved ones! Enjoy the time together and be nice to each other.

