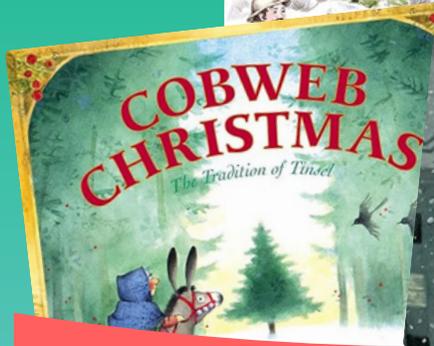
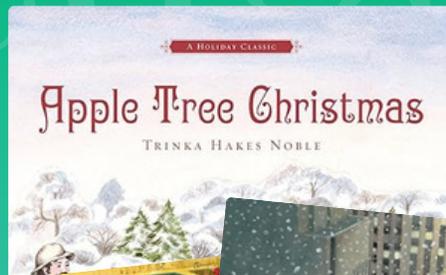


SAMPLE



CHRISTMAS SCHOOL
2025

READ-ALoud
Revival
PREMIUM

WWW.READALLOUDREVIVAL.COM

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You'll find everything you need for Christmas School, from the Weekly Family Book Club Guides, Christmas Short Stories, printable schedules, and more on the [Christmas School 2025 home page](#).

WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS SCHOOL!



[Click the link](#) or scan the QR code to the left to watch the video.

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Christmas School will help your whole family slow down, savor the season, and wait in joyful hope for the birth of our Lord.

This guide uses Read-Aloud Revival's relaxed, bookish, whole-family learning style to guide your December school days with kids of all ages and across the curriculum.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE →



This year, we are featuring **three delightful Christmas picture books**: *Cobweb Christmas* by Shirley Climo and Jane Manning, *Red & Lulu* by Matt Tavares, and *Apple Tree Christmas* by Trinka Hakes Noble. Our prayer is that this guide will help you **refresh your relationships** through timeless moments spent together—whether in a book, in conversation, or simply in enjoying the beauty of the season.

Pick and choose which parts fit your family and your energy level best. The weekly lesson plans and clickable resources are designed to make it easier—and more enjoyable—for you to create meaningful, lasting memories with your kids throughout the month.

No matter how much you get to (or don't), Christmas will soon be here. **The Baby King is born.** So enjoy your kids, enjoy the season, and most of all, enjoy the Reason we're celebrating in the first place.

Merry Christmas-Schooling,



Sarah

SARAH MACKENZIE



How to Use Your Christmas School Guide

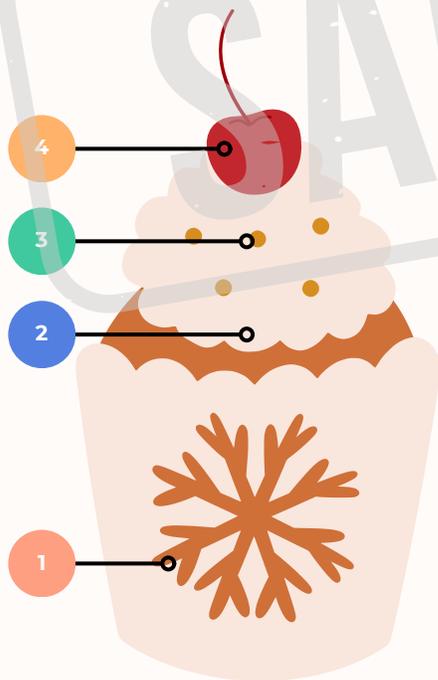
At Read-Aloud Revival, we help you **build a family culture around books**, something no curriculum can do.

This guide is designed to help you make connections and build relationships—with each other, with books, and with the ideas we encounter within them.



You can print this guide or pull it up [HERE](#) to access it from your phone/tablet.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



1
READ ALOUD
(the foundation)

Homeschooling is about relationships, and reading aloud is the best, most effective way to nurture the relationships that matter most.

2
RELATE
(the frosting)

By engaging in open-ended conversations and sharing a cozy memory around the table, we give our kids some of their fondest childhood memories.

3
REMEMBER
(the sprinkles)

Keeping a journal of impactful passages from what you're reading is delightful, effective, and will help your kids remember the book.

4
RABBIT TRAILS
(the cherry on top)

When time and energy allow, you can extend the story with subjects like history, geography, nature study, and art to enhance the experience.



Using Christmas School with Various Ages

RAR's Christmas School is designed to help nurture your family culture of reading, while touching on subjects across the curriculum such as language arts, drawing, painting, handicrafts, baking, science, nature study, history, music, and more!

WITH KIDS UNDER AGE 10

This guide is all you need. If you like, you can continue using any math and/or phonics instruction you're already doing, but that isn't required. (Taking a month off is often just the break your kids need to come back to those subjects refreshed in January.)

WITH KIDS AGES 10-13

In addition to Christmas School, you may like to continue your child's normal math and music lessons, as applicable. You will also likely want to schedule a daily free-reading time, when your child is free to read for their own enjoyment.

WITH KIDS AGES 14-18

Use Christmas School as the basis of your high schooler's learning, adding in whatever math and/or outsourced classwork (music lessons, co-op classes, and/or online coursework, for example) your student is using, and making sure they have time set aside daily for free reading.

TIP

When activities lend themselves better to a particular age group, you'll see the following icons:

-  **YOUNGER KIDS**
-  **OLDER KIDS**



Planning and Scheduling

This guide is open-and-go. There is minimal prep needed—we've done all the planning for you!

Pick and choose what suits your family best. Christmas School can be as relaxed or as planned-out as you'd like it to be.

READY-MADE PLANS

If you'd like a planner that will guide you through each of the activities in this guide, you'll find a **suggested weekly schedule** inside each Christmas School Family Book Club Guide (one for each picture book).

You'll also find a combined PDF of all three weeks' schedules on Read-Aloud Revival's [Christmas School 2025](#) page. Following these plans, Christmas School will take about 1-2 hours a day, depending on how immersive you choose to make it.

Add in math, any outsourced or co-op classes you already have on the schedule, and independent reading time for your older students—and that's a full curriculum!



Introducing Christmas School 2025!

WEEK 1



WEEK 2



WEEK 3



Scan or click [this link](#) to be taken to the main Christmas School 2025 page, where you can download the picture book guide you are ready for.



BONUS

Christmas Short Stories for the Family



Enjoy these hope-filled Christmas Short Stories with your older kids or as a full family read-aloud!

All stories have been obtained from the public domain.

- 1 **Christmas at Red Butte** by Lucy Maud Montgomery
- 2 **A Christmas Dream, and How It Came True** by Lousia May Alcott
- 3 **The Gift of the Magi** by O. Henry



Scan or click [this link](#) to be taken to the main Christmas School 2025 page to download these stories.



BONUS

RAR Christmas Booklists

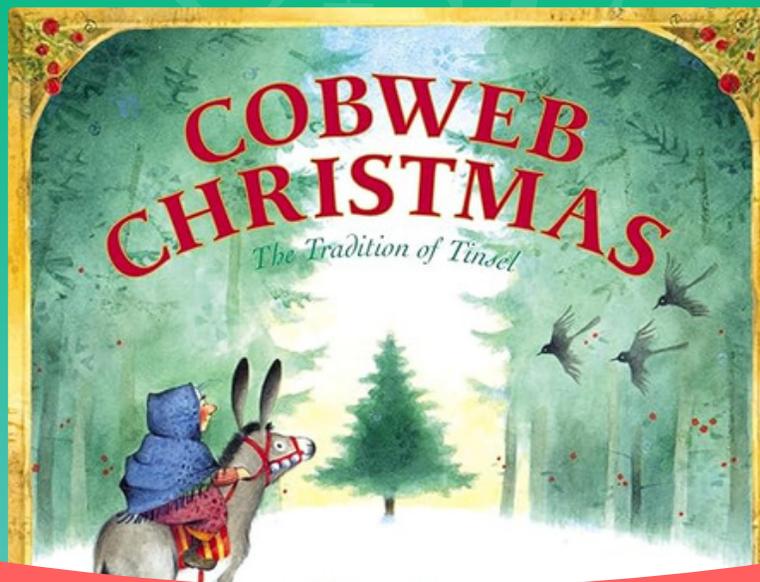
If you're looking for more delicious Christmas book recommendations and enjoyable podcast episodes for the season, be sure to visit our [Read-Aloud Revival Christmas page](#) for more!



[Visit the Read-Aloud Revival Christmas Booklist and Resources Page](#)



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CHRISTMAS SCHOOL

WEEK 1

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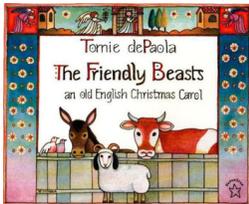
WEEK ONE

COBWEB CHRISTMAS

How to Use Your Christmas School Guide	3
About the Book	5
Looking Closely with Sarah Mackenzie	7
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Related Reading

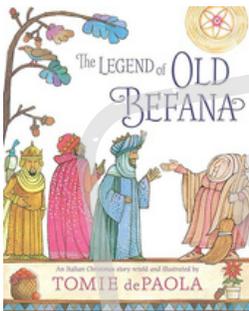
Can't quite get enough of this book? Here's a list of related books we recommend. After all, reading begets reading: the more you read, the more you want to read!



THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

by Tomie dePaola

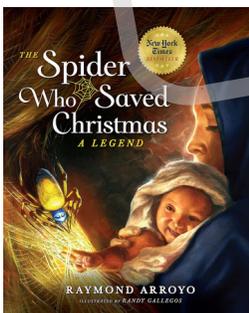
There is a folk legend held in many Eastern European countries that animals might be blessed with an ability to “speak” at midnight on Christmas Eve, which is what Tante hopes she might witness. This carol, traced back to 12th-century France, paints a picture of such a miracle, and is illustrated by Read-Aloud Revival favorite, Tomie dePaola.



THE LEGEND OF OLD BEFANA

by Tomie dePaola

This is one of Sarah's favorite Christmas books by Tomie dePaola. Like Tante, Old Befana has a broom in hand and a dream in her heart, this time to find the Baby King. It might be fun to discuss how you think Tante and Old Befana are alike and how they are different!

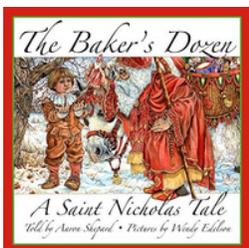


THE SPIDER WHO SAVED CHRISTMAS

by Raymond Arroyo, illustrated by Randy Gallegos

A brave spider plays an important role in this beautiful Christmas retelling centered on the flight of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus into Egypt. Gorgeously illustrated!

*Note: The story alludes to the “massacre of the innocents,” as mentioned in Matthew 2: 16-18.



THE BAKER'S DOZEN

by Aaron Shepard, illustrated by Wendy Edelson

A fun tradition full of cookies and Saint Nicholas. This is a fun book to pair with the history note on the tradition of Saint Nicholas Day on [page 33](#). (Sarah reads it to her kids each year on December 6!)



Around the Table

The simplest way to help your kids form a happy memory is to make it **sensory** and **social**. We do that by pairing conversation with something delicious, shared around the table.

Feel free to substitute your own favorite recipes. It doesn't matter if it's homemade, from a box, or store-bought—what matters is that your kids share the experience with you.



Another way to enjoy a sensory experience is to pull up our beautiful and **curated Christmas playlist**. You can find it [here](#).



Gingerbread Star Cookies

Tante's Christmas tree was laden with wonderful Christmas cookies to share. Here are two suggested ways you can enjoy your own delicious cookies (store bought counts!) Choose whichever matches your energy level this week.

1. Favorite Christmas cookies (any kind) from the store/local bakery
2. Gingerbread Star cut-out cookies

 You can find a printable recipe for these cookies on [page 43](#).



Across the Curriculum

If you'd like to infuse all of your homeschool with Christmas-time fun, check out our selected activities across the curriculum. You'll find tie-ins for language arts, art, handicrafts, baking, science, nature study, history, music, and more!



COPYWORK

Two passages in print and cursive



WRITING

Journal prompts or Write from another perspective



GRAMMAR

Interjections and Fragments



POETRY

"Carol of the Birds," a French folk tradition



NATURE STUDY

Winter Backyard Birds Nature Study from RikiTikiArt / Cornell Lab Bird Feeder LiveCam



HISTORY CONNECTION

The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Origins



PICTURE STUDY

Adoration of the Shepherds by Rembrandt



MUSIC STUDY

"XII. December: Christmas" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky



Language Arts

If you'd like to use RAR Premium to enhance language arts in your homeschool, you'll find activities in this Rabbit Trails Guide for ages 6-12 that include:

- Writing
- Copywork
- Literary devices
- Grammar and usage
- Poetry



(Please note: Phonics and spelling are not included in RAR Premium. You can see a list of our recommendations for those programs [here](#).)

Writing

To become good writers, students need to develop the ability to ask good questions, think deeply, connect ideas, and communicate those ideas effectively.

How do we help our kids develop these skills? Two foundational activities that help kids become good writers are things you're doing all the time: **reading aloud** and **discussing what you read**.



1 READ ALOUD

When you **read aloud**, your student stores grammatically correct, sophisticated language patterns in their brain. This gives them a treasury of these patterns to draw upon, which is the foundation of a solid writing education (even though it doesn't feel like it counts as "writing" at all).



2 DISCUSS

When you **discuss what you're reading**, your kids learn to ask questions, think deeply, and connect ideas. The most difficult part of writing isn't usually putting words on paper—it's learning to think clearly so that you can communicate clearly. We practice this skill every time we have a conversation with our kids about books.





3 COPYWORK OR WRITING PROJECTS

Students also benefit from **copywork** and **various writing opportunities**, depending on their ages. If you'd like to enhance your child's writing education with something in addition to reading aloud and discussing what you read, use the suggestions below to do so.

FIND COPYWORK & WRITING PROJECTS
ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES



SAMPLE



Nature Study

Winter Backyard Bird Study

Did you know that cardinals do not migrate, but stay local all winter long? Observe the types of birds are in your area this time of year and dive deeper through this fantastic **winter bird study** from Lana at RikiTikiArt!

DIRECTIONS:

Choose **one or two activities** based on your energy level this week! From simply bird-watching to a bird-mobile, let this wonderful Backyard Bird unit study facilitate a slow, sweet moment together as a family.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper
- Printer
- Scissors (for specific activities)
- Glue (for specific activities)
- Thread/twine (for specific activities)



One way to enjoy birdwatching from home is through a livecam. Check out the incredible [Cornell Lab's FeederWatch Cam](#), set up in Ithaca, New York!

MEET OUR CONTRIBUTOR:



I'm Lana, a graphic designer and mom of two who loves creating engaging, beautiful learning materials for kids. Through my shop, [RikiTikiArt \(rkitikiart.etsy.com\)](#), I design resources that inspire curiosity and make learning a joyful experience. You can also find my work on Instagram at [@lana_rikitikiart](#).



The Friendly Beasts

TRANSLATED TO ENGLISH BY ROBERT DAVIS

Jesus our brother, kind and good
Was humbly born in a stable rude
And the friendly beasts around him stood
Jesus our brother, kind and good

“I,” said the cow, all white and red
“I gave him my manger for his bed
I gave him my hay to pillow his head
I,” said the cow all white and red

“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown
“I carried his mother uphill and down
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town
I,” said the donkey shaggy and brown

Thus every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel
The gift he gave Emmanuel

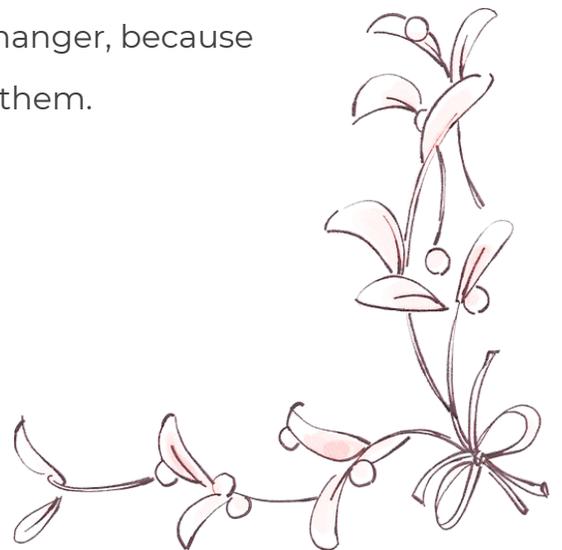




In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. 2 This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.

4 Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, 5 to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Luke 2:1-7



Print Release

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL®

This Read-Aloud Revival® Christmas School 2025 Guide has been provided for single household use.

You may print or copy as many pages from the guide as needed for single family use. You also may have the guide printed for you by a printing service, and bound in any manner you see fit.

Distribution of any Christmas School materials (including the Christmas School Guide, videos, etc) outside of your family in any manner is not permitted.



Sarah Mackenzie

Contact: support@readaloudrevival.com

Website: ReadAloudRevival.com

WWW.READALOUDREVIVAL.COM