

What is Christmas?

Suzy looked at Toby and Doby, a look of surprise on her "measly," spotted face. After all, doesn't everybody know what Christmas is?

"You don't know what Christmas is," Suzy asked. The brothers shook their heads.

"Wow," she said, "I thought everybody knew what Christmas was."

As long as she could remember, Suzy knew what Christmas was. It was her favorite time of year.

Toby and Doby waited patiently. They had never even heard the word Christmas before. Suzy seemed so amazed that they didn't know what it was. It must be something pretty special. The two mice brothers were about to learn all about Christmas, and just how special it is.

Suzy was thinking. How do you tell people, mice, about Christmas? It is such a wonder time of year. So much goes on, and so many, beautiful things happen. Her problem wasn't so much telling Toby and Doby about Christmas, but wondering where to start?

"Let me see," Suzy began, "where do I start?"

"Is it candy," Doby asked.

"Don't be silly," Toby said, "is it a game?"

"No," Suzy giggled, "it isn't candy or a game. It's a hol, hol..." she struggled, trying to remember that big word her mommy used. Suddenly, her face lit up, "it's a Holiday," Suzy said, happily.

"A holiday, what's a holiday," Doby asked.

"A holiday is a special day," Suzy said.

"What makes it so special," Toby asked.

"Lots of things," Suzy answered.

"Like what," Doby wondered.

"Well," Suzy began.

Aunt Olive opened the door, "Well, hello again," she said, seeing Toby and Doby, "are you boys still here?"

"Yup," they said, "Suzy was just getting ready to tell us all about Christmas," the brothers replied.

"Really! That's wonderful," Aunt Olive replied, "Christmas is such an exciting time of year. Lots of candy and food."

"Candy. Food," Doby said, a big impish grin on his face.

"Why, yes, Doby. Lots of it," Aunt Olive said.

"I think I'm going to like Christmas," Doby said.

"You like anything with food," Toby teased.

Aunt Olive, Suzy and Toby chuckled. Doby pouted, "It's not nice to laugh at people."

"You are right Doby, it's not nice to laugh. But, you are just to cute," Aunt Olive said, tickling his tummy.

Doby started to laugh too.

"I'll tell you what, tonight, at bedtime, I will tell you boys all about Christmas," Aunt Olive said.

"Me too," Suzy asked.

"But, you already know the story of Christmas," Aunt Olive said.

"I want to hear it again," Suzy said.

Aunt Olive smiled, then asked the boys, "how's your mommy and daddy today? And, that new baby sister of yours?"

"Mommy and Daddy are good," Toby replied.

"Abby likes to cry a lot," Doby said.

"Baby's are like that," Aunt Olive said, "that's their way of communicating. They cry if they are hungry, or wet. Sometimes, they cry because they want you to hold them."

"That's what Mommy said," Toby said.

"We thought she was hurt," Doby added.

"Yes, like we cry, when we get hurt," Toby said.

"But, now we know better, so, we aren't scared anymore. We know she is okay," Doby said.

"Abby sure is lucky to have two, big brothers like you," Aunt Olive said.

"Just like me," Suzy said, "I have two, big brothers too."

"You do," Toby and Doby asked.

"Yup, Flint is away in the Navy, and you met Tommy already," Suzy said.

"Tommy? He's your brother? Cool," Toby said, "we didn't know he was your brother. He's really nice."

"Yeah, he takes us on bike rides, and pushes us on the swing, and everything," Doby added.

"I'm afraid you kids are going to have to continue this conversation later," Aunt Olive interrupted, "Suzy's mommy wants her to go downstairs for dinner tonight."

"You mean I don't have to eat in my bed anymore," Suzy said, excitedly.

"Nope, you get to come down with us," Aunt Olive said.

"Yeah," Suzy cheered, "see you boys tomorrow, I get to go downstairs, I'm not conta..."

"Contagious," Aunt Olive said.

"Yeah, contagious, anymore," Suzy smiled.

"We better get home for dinner too, Doby," Toby said.

"Okay," Doby said, "see you tomorrow Suzy. Glad you can't count stages anymore."

"Contagious," Toby said, shaking his head.

Suzy chuckled, "see you tomorrow."

Toby and Doby waved good-bye and scampered off into the closet.