

# I SPY CHRISTMAS



Find all the Christmas objects and count them!



# What?

## WHERE ARE WE GOING?



DOES SANTA KNOW  
WHERE IT IS?

**BET NOT!**

BY SUSAN BRANDT

Cody thought to himself. Cindy was right. Coming to her Nana's would be a great Christmas for everyone. It was so different than what they had ever done before.

The quiet was broke when TJ handed him a cookie. Cody shook his head saying "No, thank you." TJ got a very sour look on his face. "Dad, I'm sharing and everyone knows what Granny Annie says about sharing." Dad smiled big and he agreed his Granny Annie had in set in each child's mind "Sharing was fun." TJ only gave him two cookies, one for each had. "Nana's rule" one cookie for each hand. So if you want more you go see her. Don't ask mom, she's not sharing her big box of Nana's cookies." He pulled the toddler up into his laps and said. "Maybe we've all learned a lot coming to Nana's this Christmas."



All the children went screaming and running to their dad. Stevie was bouncing around in Nana's arms.



"Merry Christmas, my boss gave us all today and tomorrow off. So I called Nana to see if she had any ideas on how I could get here. She suggested Santa (and giggled). With in minutes she had it all figured out.

After lunch, if you want, we can go back to the city and do a movie or the imagination station," Cody told everyone.

 "No!!! No! No! Dad I'll speak for me and Sam, but we don't want to go any where," Sassy Sally blurted out waving her hands. Silent Sam just shook his head up and down.

"OH?" said dad.

"No oh! This has been a great Christmas. Let us stay," said Sally.

"I will tell you about the big box," JoJo added quickly.

Every one was so excitement. Nana was glad her great-grandchildren enjoyed the beauty of the simple life she had there.

After breakfast, each child was given a paper mask and told they were a character in the Christmas story. Stevie had a sheet with wings drawn on the back (an angel). TJ was handed a tin coffee can and two wooden spoons (a drummer boy. Mom had a very had time getting them away from him after the little play). Sally and her doll were Mary and Jesus. Sam was Joseph, of course. JoJo got to be the wise man. He was wearing a funny beaded robe and carried a small box of Nana's magic cookies. (Cindy told him those were true treasures and handle them with great care.) The adults read the story in formal fashion and the kids got to make up the in between stuff. "This is best Christmas story ever," said Dad.

"See what I mean," Sally turned, looking up at him, as they played out the birth of Christ.

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P	A	A	I	W	I	N	T	E	R
S	N	Y	L	X	Y	W	K	L	M
G	G	U	O	I	U	F	G	V	A
N	E	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R
O	L	P	V	J	I	K	X	S	Y
M	S	M	U	E	P	T	L	F	H
E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	G
D	X	H	R	U	U	M	J	L	D
J	I	S	B	S	L	E	I	G	H
S	A	N	T	A	K	V	K	T	A



- ANGEL
- MARY
- DECEMBER
- PRESENTS
- ELVES
- SANTA
- GNOME
- SLEIGH
- JESUS
- WINTER



To write this book, it took 12 children, five adults plus myself and some extra holiday magic. It is our hope you can see some old-fashioned Christmas is possible even today and the holiday magic is just sitting there waiting to be found.

We would like to thank the children of Allen and Ruby Burse (Abilene, Texas) and Cliff and McKenzie Pirtle (Roswell, New Mexico). This is one of over 70 books available on [freebooks-4u.com](http://freebooks-4u.com). You are encouraged to visit the website.

All books are the creative property of Susan Brandt. (Abilene, Texas United States.) Easy translations are available on the website.

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Nana had homemade chicken soup for everyone.

"Nana, these are such funny bowls, with chickens on the side of them," giggled Sally and Sam just shook his head.



After they ate, they were given markers to color the Christmas trees. Cindy and Annie put the trees on the children's doors.

It was Christmas caroling, baths and to bed.

Christmas morning, at the door of each child, there was a hand made box, filled with old fashioned

Christmas gifts (like in the 1950's) yoyo's, giant gingerbread men, marbles, jump ropes, etc. All laughed as they played with the toys.



"Santa did find us!" JoJo whispered to Cindy with a huge smile on his face, "and I found \$28 in the big box last night."



three just grinned because they had quickly learned there was magic at Nana's. They singing Christmas carols as they made their way to the barn. When they got there, Mikey Dog was taking a long hard look out the barn door watching everything that was taking place in the barn yard. Speedy came running out from the back of the barn barking

"Rudolph the Red-Nose Dog." bark - bark  
"I'm Rudolph the red-nose dog." Bark - bark-

"Too bad daddy's not here," Sally said "He would be having so much fun with us." While the children were playing with the dogs and chickens. No one saw Nana send Cindy to the the barn.

When she entered, she saw Cody. He put his finger to his lips. "You'll understand," he whispered and motioned her out. When the couple got to the door all you could hear was..  
daddy daddy daddy...





Cody knew it was going to be tough. Every year, he and Cindy had taken the family on a winter trips. He just wasn't going to be able to get all the time off this year from work.

Cindy suggested that she and the kids go to her Nana's place.

"Hon, she's a kid at heart and the kids have never spent any real time with her. This would be a great change for them to get to know her.

Cody bit his lip one way and then the other. Finally he said, "Well, you drive the classic, so it's a special trip for the kids from the start."

He went to the garage and pulled the "Classic" out. Soon the kids where were hollering with excitement. "Oh Dad's got the classic out! Something fun is going to happen."

Cindy stood beside Cody as he announced, "You kids and your mom are taking the classic to Nana's for Christmas." He explained about work and how he would not be able to get off.



"What!? You can't be serious!" said Sassy Sally. Looking at Silent Sam. The twins were the oldest of the family's five

"You ask 'em again Sally," said Silent Sam. He was thought to be the king of the one sentence statement. (Sally did all the talking but Sam did all the agreeing.)



Next was JoJo. He was kinda quiet around adults. But with kids his own age he had more than enough words.



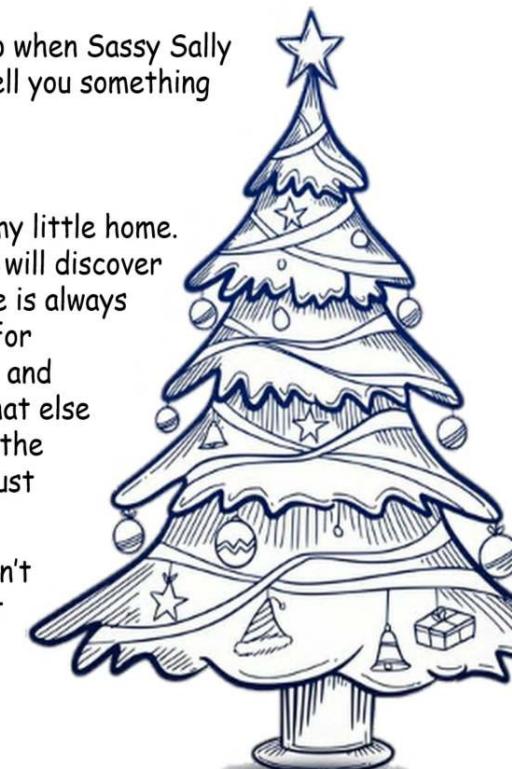
Then came the little ones, TJ and Stevie. If one was going somewhere the other was right behind.



Nana was getting ready to get up when Sassy Sally popped up with, "We all had to tell you something about us. It's your turn, Nana."

She shook her head,

"Sally, these two acreage's are my little home. If you come here frequently you will discover a bit of magic everywhere. There is always something to do and lots of fun for everyone. I love people's stories and always have a story to share. What else do you want to know?" answered the older woman. The young woman just shook her head.



JoJo went over to Nana. "You don't have some place for Santa to put the gifts. Does he does know where you live?"

"Each of you are going to color a Christmas tree



and we'll set it on the door of your room and I'm sure he'll find your room by the time you wake." The children rolled their eyes... looked at their mom. "I am sure you'll be surprised, Nana never disappoints," said Cindy looking at the three skeptic, older children.

"Annie please grab the huge box and bring it to the middle of the room," She smiled real big as she looked at the book, "Mom?" "Yes it is," replied the silver headed woman. "Kids, inside that box you will find bunches and bunches of paper wadded up. Inside some of the wads, there was nothing, others had coupons or money. All the wads have to be opened so you can find all the treasures."



Annie remembered the first time her mother did this and there was empty papers everywhere. It was so much fun. Nana looked at her daughter and whispered 90. Annie would need to help track the money. Annie had no idea where her mother came up with these ideas, but she did and the kids always enjoyed them. It took all the five kids about two hours to go through all the box.

They are full of energy from the moment their feet hit the ground 'til bed time.



Cindy wasn't worried about this trip. She had the perfect backup. Mom! She'd ask her to go. It was only two hours, to in the middle of nowhere. Cindy had only been there once, in her teens. It would be nice to have someone with the directions.



When the children learned the trip would be in the classic and Granny Annie was going along, they knew it would be a perfect holiday. The older children screamed with excitement.

"Grannie, does Santa knows where Nana lives," asked JoJo. No one gave him an answer. Granny Annie, changed the subject by getting the kids to singing Christmas carols. This made the trip go really fast. Soon they were pulling into Nana's big yard.

She came walking out of the back door with basket full of cookies. Cindy thought, "she never forgets the cookies and I know what kind they are."



Nana lead everyone to the living room with a big basket full of her special chocolate chip, oatmeal, peanut butter cookies. Cindy and Annie took the mugs of chocolate off the counter and joined everyone else

already sitting in the living room. Nana suggested the children introduce themselves.



"I'm Sally. This is Sam" said Sassy Sally popping up out of the chair. "We are identical twins. I have lots to say about everything, just ask."

"Yes, ask her." Sam said.

Sally carried on. "Nana, you know that you are going to die soon and you had better just accept it."

"Tell her more, Sally," added the other wise silent Sam.

Both Cindy and Granny Annie looked at each other. Nana put her finger to lips and then to her ears. She wanted to hear more.

"All my friend's grandparents are old. They die. All gray haired people die. I hear everyone has eaten pickles in 1897 has died. Did you eat pickles, Nana?"

 "Excuse me, Sally, my hair is silver, not gray. No one knows how old I am so that's ruled out. Since I don't like pickles, I think I may have a lot of time left to live."

"Sally, ask her more," spit out Silent Sam, with his arms waving.

Cindy quickly shook her head. "Let the others have a chance to speak," said Cindy and then giving JoJo the "I-mean-it-finger". He knew what it meant, so he quickly started.

 "Nana, I really like video games! That's why I'm always on the phone. You know, a friend of mine, his older brother was so ... so .. good that he got a full scholarship to some big ... hunka school ... everything paid. So I'm practicing. So my folks don't have to pay for me to go to school." Then he leaned back in against the edge of the chair and returned to his phone.

Cindy and Granny Annie looked at each other, they both thought there has not ever seen him so many words so fast or expressing thoughts of college, come out of him before.

 TJ just knew it was his turn, it was hard to sit still as long as he had, so he exploded off the floor, twirled around facing HIS Nana. "I'm TJ. I'm 3. They tell me to sit. I stand. They tell me to stand. I sit. It's what I do. I think it's my mission in life. Oh, yea, tell me to be quiet and I'm going to talk. And shoes aren't my things." That was it. He took off to the cookies, He grabbed one for each hand, holding them up, and turning to the group of women, and saying "Nana rule," only one for each hand."

 Nana slid over to Stevie. He looked at her and all of a sudden they were talking "Stevie" language". Then Stevie took off to see what TJ was doing. "Big brothers where so cool." Stevie thought, as TJ handed him a cookie for each hand.