

Fabulous Christmas Haiku from Year 7

7H

Against the harsh wind,
Canopies of snowy limbs

Guard and shelter me. By Eloise M.

Our busy lives stop

Although in a long freeze frame

Silent falling snow. By Abi F

7S

A fox leaps through snow

Chasing flashes of auburn,

Prints left behind him. By Ayesha C

Trees are holding hands,

Shivering in the cold breeze,

How long will it last? Anonymous!

7L

Curtains of dark clouds,

Sharp arrow of silent wings,

Escaping the cold. By Rosie P

The last light of day,

Glistening through snowy trees

On a winter's eve. By Anna D-P

Fantastic Fifty Word Stocking-fillers from Year 8

The Beauty of Christmas

Christmas morning. A blanket of diamonds sparkled on the rooftops. Glass baubles twirled elegantly on trees. A warm amber fire glowed and sparked. The smell of pine. A layer of ice on the lake, a mirror of the present. Children's laughing faces, beaming with joy. Dreams coming true.

Merry Christmas

White lips, bleached skin; nobody knows where she's been. Just inhale it in. Blanket as a coat, trying to find antidotes, she lies on the floor. Imaging her old front door, she longs for more to make her forget a life filled with regret.

She stops, "Dad?"

"Merry Christmas Sophie!"

Boxing Day

I yawn, open my eyes. Yesterday was wonderful. Candles flickering, cascading light over the heavily adorned tree. Embers of the fire crackling; mountains of presents. So different from today. I trudge to my window and draw the curtains. Snow is melting; sun feeble emits a faint light. Just one night, the atmosphere changes.

A Gift for the World

A heartfelt wish from Year 9

My gift for the world this Christmas emanates from the distress and anger I have felt watching the dreadful experience that many Syrian migrants have had to endure in their quest to find safety from the horrors of the war that is raging in their homeland. Thus, my wish is for these people to be given safe passage to their countries of choice throughout the rest of the world and for this passage not to have to be undertaken via horrendously unsafe boats and dinghies that are operated by evil middle men, who charge these desperate people extortionate amounts of money to travel in abhorrent conditions which often result in injury and trauma at best, and actual death at worst.

This wish would mean that governments worldwide would reach out with a programme whereby people could apply and have proper transport and a dignified welcome into alternative countries. Upon arrival in these countries, people who normally reside there would understand that these migrants do not choose to be refugees, and therefore should be treated with respect and sympathy. After all, they have lost their homeland, their livelihood, their culture and even their loved ones.

As a final thought, none of us have a choice in the countries in which we are born, and the cultures and politics that operate within them. Instead, we should remember that we are all human beings and that any one of us could be facing a similar situation and all we would want is a humane response. At Christmas, we remember that Jesus was born and that part of the Christian belief is

that “you should love thy neighbour as yourself” and so, in our actions towards the Syrians, this would be my gift for the world.

Florence M.

A Letter to Santa

Dear Santa,

I hope you are good, and enjoyed the rather delicious orange and nut cookies we left for you last year! I hope Rudolph is feeling better and Mrs Claus is keeping well. This year, I'm afraid, you need to inform your elves to work very carefully, because I have a pretty big wish ... Well, it's not exactly for my own benefit ... I was hoping if you could possibly give the world its fair share of Love. The children in Syria, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Palestine, Libya, Pakistan, Bangladesh facing such cruel atrocities, waking up to the sounds of bombs, running from the place that is their home, parents putting their little children in boats on the sea and going to unknown lands: hoping, praying for a better life and brighter future ... or a place where their little children can be safe.

Please give them Love. Give them the Peace and Security they deserve. Please just answer their longing cries of Hope, give them the Strength they need to get through the terrible crisis. There are mad people going around killing innocent citizens in our beautiful cities around the world, please instil in them humanity. As well as that ... please help all the families searching desperately for their lost loved ones, find them. Either on this earth or in Heaven.

Also, I would be extremely grateful if you could give all those suffering with horrific diseases (such as cancer) a Place that they can access within their minds, where their body is free of pain, free of tubes and needles and vile medication. A Place where they can just be free to go wherever they want. Help them get through their brutal suffering and let them know that they are not alone and that someday it will all be over. Help their families of the victims, cope and be supportive, make sure that their family is not isolated by fear and depression. Give them Love too. For the people dealing with family difficulties, give them Love too. For those young adults and teenagers who have to deal with abuse, parents who argue and don't provide the Security young minds need. For those who have turned to other means to make themselves forget about the difficulties they face. Make it known that they are not forgotten and shower them with Love.

Finally Santa, to all those who know nothing but to Hate, feed them with nothing but Love. For all those who misunderstand the events of our world, help them not just to understand but also teach them to show Love. I wish that young people can wake up to the sounds of birds singing, not bombs and that they go to sleep at night content and not worried about the fate tomorrow brings, not thinking whether their house would still be intact the next morning.

Light up the world with Unity, play the symphonies of Peace, let the sweet aroma of Friendship fill the air on Christmas Eve. But most of all ...

Give everyone Love.

Alaina K.