



## WINTER PARTY

Games: Pass the 'snowball' (kids pass a soft white ball using their necks – two teams racing each other)

Toss the 'snowball' (kids toss to each other, two teams – who gets through the line 1<sup>st</sup> w/out dropping it)

Dress the snowman (2 teams race dressing with scarf, hat, coat...) **Would we have time to do all games or just one? All are cute.**

Food/Storytime:

"Hot Chocolate" Bar (warm chocolate drink) – kids get to add what they want (whip cream, marshmallows, cinnamon, etc)

Cookies

The kids can do this before sitting down to listen to a story – what about telling the kids to wear PJ's that day for a 'wintery cozy feel'??

Any good ideas for books to read??

**Like the hot choc 'bar' with cookies, too. I make Santa's buttons I could bring for the class (pretzel w/hersheys kiss & m\*m). PJs would be great! We have lots of books, most are heavily Christmas-themed, but could probably find some.**

Craft:

**I was thinking a/b a bird feeder craft as well... I could take this center if y'all like it - get the supplies & help the kids w/it.**

**Found this online. Probably messy but we could send home in baggies.**

### ***Pine Cone Feeder***

***Probably the most simple bird feeder is the pine cone feeder. All you need is a pine cone and some string plus the food you will use. Tie the string to the top of the pine cone, make sure it is tied tight - you don't want it to fall when a bird lands on it. You can then cover the pine cone in different kinds of food for the birds. You can use plain peanut butter to cover the cone, or put the peanut butter on and then roll the cone in bird seed so it sticks to the peanut butter. You can also spread suet all over the pine cone and either leave it plain or roll it in bird seed.***

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### Party Ideas:

I did the Minute to Win it party. That party was for 3rd grade but could translate up down to 2nd and up to 5th depending on the games. The website for the TV show "Minute to Win it" has all the games laid out with how to play, supplies, etc. We had four stations of games which we rotated and then a food station (same old stuff-ice cream social this time).

Also, in second grade, we had an end of the year carnival. It was all red and white themed with items from Oriental trading. We had hot dogs (precooked in buns and brought to school wrapped in foil), popcorn (in carnival themed bags) cupcakes with little clown toppers, water, etc. Then there were basic games like ring toss, rolling the ball to knock over pins, things you would find at a carnival. We had a mom who was arty do face painting (they loved it-inexpensive kit from Party City) and did temporary tattoos. It was a huge hit for all who came. This also works well for Kindergarten and first grade.

Much easier themes are the end of year Luau (lots of cut up fruit, water, leis which they can make themselves), along with the ice cream socials and chocolate fountains (or fondue pots) with the cut up fruit, marshmallows, pretzels, etc. Good crafts for Winter parties are the stringing their own Jingle Bell necklaces.

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One year in a 5th grade class we had a morning party and we made pancakes. The kids each made their own pancake and topped it with fun stuff. We also had the game and craft stations. I think the older kids like good food.

My favorite parties are ones focused on games giving the kids a chance to get up and move alot. This is different than the normal quiet, controlled feel of a school day. We divided the kids into teams and did a Minute to Win It party that was a huge success. This can easily be adapted to any grade level. Just go on the website and select or adapt games for the children. We had each child participate in 2 events and cheer on the team for the others.

Olympic theme parties are always a hit. The kids again are in teams and participate in relay races. I am sure you will get lots of ideas for this but one we did this year was to sit the team in a line or semi circle. Place a basket full of tennis balls at one end and an empty basket at the other end. The children pass one ball at a time to the end. After the starter passes the first ball a second ball can be started as long as each person is holding only 1 ball at a time. The team with the most balls in the ending basket at the end of the given time wins.

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The best party that I ever helped with was in 3rd grade. We did "Camp Fugatt"- A mom made bandanas and water bottles with the Camp Fugatt logo and even had a banner made. She had a fake "camp fire"- we made smores with marshmallow fluff, hershey bars, and graham crackers....told "ghost" stories around the camp fire....sang/learned camp songs...made bracelets...and played camping charades- very fun.

Another party we did that year was a giving party- we got wrapping paper and toys from the dollar store...the kids got to pick a toy....then go to the wrapping station and wrap it to give to a needy child. I ended up taking the toys to Toys For Tots- had to unwrap everything b/c they only take unwrapped gifts- but the kids never knew. We also make cards for Ivy Hill nursing home residents down the street- the kids decorated them and I took them down there after the party. Also with that party we just had a regular cookie decorating station.

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### **Winter Party**

Usually the theme is **Winter Wonderland** since our school is very multi-cultural and it is best not to highlight/celebrate one holiday over others. All the way K through 3rd grade, kids have always enjoyed making a **craft**. **It's nice to bring a craft home for the Holidays**. **Of course, kids love to use glitter, gemstones, etc.** In addition to making **cards** for their family (obvious and simple but the kids always put their heart at it), we've decorated **ornaments** (which can be used any place in the house, not just on a tree) and **magnets** (everybody enjoys snowmen, penguins, polar bears, an easy way to avoid any connotation with a particular holiday), **book marks** (beads on a string), **wooden frames or small keepsake boxes** (for cute \$1 items, check not only the Dollar Store and Party City but also JoAnn Etc. and Michaels). One year the kids decorated a shoe box to gather other crafts and goodies that they were taking home (a bit of a challenge to get that many shoe boxes, not all parents followed up, room moms emptied their closets!). Last year one new component was to make something that could be donated to a **charity**. We made a card for orphans in Africa (one room mom had a friend involved with that charity).

**If holidays are highlighted in the party, it is nice to have multi-cultural holiday music.** Ask parents if they can provide music from their culture to make a medley (for Cecilia's 1st grade party, I was able to get Chinese music, and then added classic songs such as "Let It Snow", "Frosty the snowman", Hanukkah songs such as "I have a little dreidel". To add a modern twist to Hanukkah songs please check the following song on UTube based on the famous "Dynamite" from Mike Tompkins : "Candlelight" by the Maccabeats (sorry the link won't copy in this email). **If planning activities around the different holidays in the world, the dreidel game is always a favorite for K and 1st graders.**

**Games:** parties with a craft and a game(s) provide a good balance in the excitement and release of energy. For young grades, pin the nose blindfolded on the snowman is fun. Can't think of over games right now.

Kids also love **food crafts:** decorating a **ginger bread snowman with candy** (selecting candy, I would stay away from the mix of red and green, blue and white). They can make a **food craft to take home** (easy packing and transportation required) or **to eat as a snack** (cookie to decorate with various sprinkles, also the ice cream sundae is always a hit with all ages as they love to select their toppings –fruit is a great one-). In 3rd grade, Joshua came home with a clear medium size jar that was filled with chocolate powder and marshmallows (he had to make his own and

fill it up- the idea being that it would be used during the winter break to make hot chocolate at home). At his 5th grade winter party, the snack was “fancy” and fun: chocolate fondue with fruits to dip in. A hit for everyone!!

*4th and 5th grade themes: (good for either winter or end-of-the-year party for 4th grade. 5th graders have a winter party and a whole Finale week filled with events during the last week of school)*

\* **Karaoke** –kids LOVE it. They can sing by themselves but also love to perform in a group of 2 or more!! Fun and entertaining for all. **Be super careful selecting the songs as it is very hard to find current music that the kids know and love that have age appropriate lyrics (no kidding!!). Room moms should have karaoke theme and songs selection approved by the homeroom teacher.**

\* **Minute to Win It** –never gets old. Be creative with the games as kids in 4th and 5th by now, and in the future, may have had that type of party in younger grades.

### **- End-of-the Year parties**

\* **Olympic theme:** the party is a succession of games (some involve more physical activity or agility than others). The classroom needs to be well cleared to provide a good play space, a big rug on the floor would prevent kids from slipping on some activities. 3 teams are “competing” (promotes team spirit and good sportsmanship). Potato sacks relay races are always tons of fun. Obstacle course (might work better outside though due to limited space indoors). Ring toss or toss and catch games. Other games using water balloons or shaving cream that we have done in the past are too messy/wet to be done indoors. Olympic theme music. Olympic medals given at the end of the party.

\* **Beach party:** every kid needs a beach party in his/her elementary school lifetime! Tourist relay race will include each contestant to dress up with an Hawaiian shirt, funky glasses (no hats to prevent lice spread), grass skirt, lei, etc., going from point A to point B (hopping or scooting on a beach towel), contestant needs to hula the hoop at point B and come back to his/her team. Dress up items need to be transferred from one contestant to the next. Sand art is popular with 1st and 2nd graders (takes a little cleanup afterwards and drying time if a picture is made). A scavenger hunt with “science” questions regarding sea animals is always tons of fun (we’ve done it one year using the school premises, it went well, kids did not run, but we are now limited to the classroom).

\* **Jungle party:** cute for Kindergarten or 1st grade. Kids went on a scavenger hunt for jungle animals (also outside, in the forest/nature walk that is next to the K recess area). One room mom had made binoculars from 2 toilet paper rolls painted in black, glued together and attached with a string. Kids can also make a craft related to jungle/zoo animals.

\* 3rd and 4th graders enjoy having something that the whole class can autograph at the end of the year (it’s great for the kids who do not buy the yearbook). Joshua came home with a pillow

case signed by his classmates one year. The T-shirt is always a classic one (parents can send it to school to limit expenses).

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The theme will be Snowmen. We are NOT going to be doing rotating stations in the classrooms. The class will all do the game at the same time, and the craft at the same time and the snack at the same time. Here's the flow.....

### **SET- UP**

5 volunteers per class (I just made that number up – smile – ask however many you want in your classroom with you.)

1 Roll blue streamers to tape in the doorway for the kids to walk through as they come in. Price \$1

4 big plastic throw away table cloths you may only need 2 – but I would grab a couple extra just in case. Price \$4

Bring in music or have your teacher music through the white board

While the game is going on (or if the class is not in the room right before the party – we can do this ahead of time) – a few volunteers will move the desks together to make what looks like 2 big rectangle tables and cover them with plastic throw away table cloths – color theme is blue and white – so whatever you can find at the dollar store in those colors are good. Set out “footprints” and items from the “CRAFT” section below so they will be ready to do the craft after the game.

### **GAME – Create a Snowman Race**

We will divide the class into 4 teams (of about 5 students each depending on the class size). On “GO”, each team will have one roll of toilet paper, one pair of gloves/mittens and one scarf.

The first team to use these items to make one of their teammates into a snowman wins. We will repeat this game 5 times so each of the students will have a chance to be wrapped up like a snowman.

22 rolls of toilet paper (one for each student and one to wrap the teacher – smile). Price \$6ish

Bring these items from home – if you don't have enough just send an e-mail to the group and we can bring extras

4 pair gloves

4 scarves

I think we decided not prizes – just “YEAH – YOU WIN” – right?!?!

### **SNACK (Pretzel Snowman)**

I had my kiddos do a trial run with making one of these (thank for the idea to try on Maria!) and attached is the photo. I think they will be cute!

2 bags LARGE Marshmallows (Publix brand has 36 per bag and each child needs 3. Price \$1.29

per bag)

1 bag pretzel rods (Snyder's brand has 27 rods so it gives a few extras in case any are broken. \$2.49)

1 bag pretzel sticks – for arms (\$2.50 for big bag – could probably get a smaller bag)

1 bag mini chocolate chips – for eyes, nose, mouth, buttons (Publix brand \$2.15)

1 can white frosting – to stick the chocolate chips and hat on (each child needs VERY LITTLE – so one can and walk around w/ a knife and put a bit on each plate that they can dip their items in the “glue” on. I bought Betty Crocker Rich & Creamy and it worked great. Price \$1.57)

1 box fruit roll-ups for scarf (I bought the min roll-up so the length was short so not as much cutting. I cut each roll-up into several “scarves” then let the kids unroll them to use – see picture attached. Price \$2.59)

1 carton of large gum drops (I bought these in a plastic container at Target – see picture attached - because that was all I could find there and was too lazy to go across the street to the Dollar Store to check – so I paid \$3.50 but I bet you can get them cheaper)

1 bag of LARGE soft “lifesaver type” candy (I got these at Target – see picture attached - and they call them Candy Rings and they are right by the gum drops. Price \$1.50ish)

22 Paper plates (or however many students you have) Price \$2

22 Juice or water pouches (or however many students you have) – these are usually on sale at Publix for \$1.75 for 10 – So \$4ish.

**Total party cost \$35 - \$45**

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Winter Party:

1) My favorite and most fun was a Minute to Win it Holiday Style party (I am secretly hoping we will do this with our class this year:-) and I even have all the games together). There is even a website with the games and instructions how to play - <http://www.nbc.com/minute-to-win-it/> . Soon they will have up their holiday games. The kids had a blast! We had 5 different games so we split the class into 5 different groups and each child was able to do the challenge. The group leader kept track of the number of children in the group that completed the challenge and the winning group at the end received a prize. The children enjoyed snowman donuts (premade at home:-)) and hot chocolate. We also had the children bring in used books in good condition that we donated to Hope House (a home for less fortunate children).

2) We have also done:

- Polar Express themed party. We have make pancakes and hot chocolate, each child received a bell, we did a craft, read the book. Each child was a 'holiday helper' (aka elf) and we gave out 'holiday helper' (elf hats). Super cute & fun for K & 1st.

-Winter Workshop party. We turned the classroom into a winter workshop and the kids were 'holiday helpers' (it always works and we never have gotten a complaint). They received a holiday helper hat and rotated stations making different things for other people (like the elves would do). At one station they made a gift for their parents, a second station was a gift for another child (children brought in donations prior to the party and we let them wrap them during the party and write a special note), a snack station of course and the 4th station was a special gift they did for the teach.

-Fake snow is always a big hit

### End of Year Party:

-Survivor Party (I Survived 1st Grade) - See attached activities we did last year -End of year Beach Bash - see attached -Idols Party - we did this when Matthew was in Ms McWilliams 2nd grade - super fun (See attached)!!! The kids all sent in their song choices a few weeks before the party. We put them together, decorated a stage area, brought dress up items and the kids performed! FUN, FUN! I also burned a cd with all the music from the party as a take home. We did a popcorn bar (popcorn & mixings) and root beer floats.

### Teacher Gift:

-I know teacher appreciate money so of course that is the big gift but I also like to do something personal to give to them as well. Last year we did a scrapbook (see attached). As the kids get older I have provided them with paper and asked them to write the teacher a letter and put it together in a nice keepsake for them.

-We have had the kids answer question about the teacher and put them together in a special book.

-To give money - I love to make the teachers a money tree. I wish I had a picture of one we have done - it turns out so pretty. Then I attach this poem to one of the branches:

Who says money  
doesn't grow on trees?  
Go have some fun  
With your new leaves!  
For teaching children lessons  
to help them as they grow,  
Let this gift remind you  
you're the best teacher we know!  
With Love & Appreciation,  
Your Kindergarten Class  
2009 - 2010

- We have also gone in and do a project with the kids and have them thumbprint a pot - something like 'You will always Bee special to me' with thumbprint flowers and thumbprint bees. And give this pot with goodies inside & of course a gift card or cash.

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Summertime is almost here which means the school year is quickly coming to an end. It is time to think about an end-of-the-year gift for Ms \_\_\_\_\_. We appreciate your participation in the monetary gift. We are also planning to present her with a scrapbook with a section from each child! Below are instructions for completing this.

We greatly appreciate everyone's participation!

## Scrapbook

The theme for the scrapbook is, "**Everything I Need to Know I Learned in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**". Enclosed are 2 pieces of paper for your child.

1. On one paper they should write a letter to Ms. Cohen. In the letter they can include what they learned 1<sup>st</sup> grade, a specific memory they have about 1<sup>st</sup> grade, the funniest thing that happened in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, what was their favorite part of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, etc. The more specific the children are with examples the more meaningful it will be!
2. On the other page the children should draw a picture - it can be any drawing they would like to make.
3. Send in a picture of your child that we can use in the scrapbook.

Please encourage your child to do a great job on this since it is something Ms. Cohen will have for years to come.

The papers & picture can be sent back in the same envelope.

This book will not be complete without something from everyone! Please return the papers in this sealed envelope to Jennifer Gravely (Ryan's mom) by **Friday, May 20th!**

Thanks so much!!!  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade Room Moms

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**All About 5th Grade in Ms. Masi's Class**  
**By: \_\_\_\_\_**

Ms.Masi's favorite team is \_\_\_\_\_ and my favorite team is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ms.Masi loves to eat

\_\_\_\_\_.

Ms. Masi's favorite sport is

\_\_\_\_\_.

When Ms.Masi is not at school, she

\_\_\_\_\_.

Ms.Masi's favorite thing to say is,

“

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.”

This year in 5th grade, I really improved in

\_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite subject is

\_\_\_\_\_.

I like when Ms.Masi

\_\_\_\_\_.

In 5th grade, I learned to

\_\_\_\_\_.

I loved 5th grade because

\_\_\_\_\_.

The funniest thing that happened in class this year was

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite things that we did in class this year were

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

I will miss 5th grade and Ms. Masi because

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I know that I will do well in middle school because

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

What advice would Ms. Masi give you about middle school?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ BONUS: How will you spell Ms. Masi's new married name?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## Weigle's Beach Bash

**Take class picture**

**Buy decorations**

**Activities**

Decorate Canvas Beach Bag

**Supplies**

Paint –

Decorate Front &  
Kids sign the back

Canvas Bags –  
Beach Stamps –  
Paint Brushes -

Decorate a Picture Frame

Popsicle sticks to AI

### Outside for activities

(Need boom box & beach music)

(Gummy fish/sharks for prizes)

Split into 2 groups & rotate:

Limbo

Beach Bucket Toss

bean bags)

Whole Group Activities:

Relay Race

Musical Beach Towels

All Bring Towels

Back inside for beach snack  
juice bags

Decorations

4 tablecloths

Door Sign – Weigle’s Beach Bash

Something hanging in the door

Goodies to take home:

Water bottle with names

Beach bag

Beach Bucket

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**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Cohen is \_\_\_\_\_ years old. She weighs \_\_\_\_\_ pounds and is \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall.

Ms. Cohen's favorite sport is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ms. Cohen's favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ms. Cohen's favorite team is \_\_\_\_\_ and my favorite team is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ms. Cohen loves to eat \_\_\_\_\_.

When Ms. Cohen is not at school, she \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Ms. Cohen's favorite thing to say is,  
" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

This year in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, I really improved in \_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite subject is \_\_\_\_\_.

I like when Ms. Cohen \_\_\_\_\_.

In 1<sup>st</sup> grade, I learned to

\_\_\_\_\_.

I loved 1<sup>st</sup> grade because

\_\_\_\_\_.

The funniest thing that happened this year was

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite thing we did all year in class was

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

I will miss 1<sup>st</sup> grade and Ms. Cohen because

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

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**Survivor Party**  
**“I Survived 1st Grade”**

\*If you have any decorations from a previous luau then bring them\*

Divide the class into 3 tribes  
Tuesday teams will come up with name &  
decorate team banner

Paper roll –  
Markers –

### 1<sup>st</sup> Activity

Distribute Bandanas

bandanas -  
“I Survived 1st Grade”  
Logo

Each team paints their face to represent their tribe

Face Paint –

### 2nd Activity

#### **Hula Hoop Relay**

Jennifer/Jacque

Each tribe holds hands and passes the hula  
hoop without breaking hands to the end of the line  
and goes back the other way. 1<sup>st</sup> team done, wins!

Hula Hoops –

### 3rd Activity

#### **Beach Ball Bounce**

Each team stands around a beach towel and bounces the  
ball up without it falling off the towel. Team to get the most  
bounces in a row, wins!

Towels & balls –

### 4th Activity

#### **Maraca Madness**

Each team must shake the gumballs threw to the other  
bottle. Pass to the next person in line. The 1<sup>st</sup> team done  
wins.

6 bottles/gumballs -

### 5th Activity

## **Food challenge**

1 person from each team is blindfolded and eats one of the following & show mouth when done. Rotates to next in line.

Food –

Dirt – crunched up Oreos

Rat droppings – raisinettes

Worms – cooked spaghetti

Tree bark - pretzels

Monkey eyeballs – peeled grapes

Bird droppings – Jr. Mints

Cooked rice – maggot

## **6th Activity**

With hands behind back, find the worm in the whip cream and eat it.  
Rotate so everyone does it. 1<sup>st</sup> team done, wins.

Paper Towels/Wipes -  
Whip Cream & Worms –  
Plates & tablecloths -

## **End of Party Activity**

Everyone signs bandanas with sharpies

Sharpies –

Dirt/Worm Sundaes

Bottles of water

## **Take aways:**

Bandanas

Decorated Water bottles

Flowers

Leis

Bubble Wands

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Games:

1) Frosty the Snowman toss game: large cutout of Frosty with several holes, and marshmallows tied in plastic wrap for "snowballs".

- 2) Spoon and "snowball" relay-- using either large cotton balls or styrofoam balls. Might also do a styrofoam ball-between-the-knees relay.
- 3) Twister.

Crafts:

- 1) Pipe cleaner and bead snowflakes
  - 2) Edible marshmallow snowmen
- 

### **Snowball Making!**

**Supplies:** Large sheets of tissue paper, one for every child Bucket for each team

**How To Play:** Divide the children into two teams. The first person on each team gets a piece of tissue paper and crumples it into a ball using one hand (this keeps them soft). Child then places the snowball in the bucket. The next child repeats the first child's actions and the process continues until the team has all their snowballs made. Follow this game with a Snowball Throw.

Do a crystal activity (science). On a black piece of construction paper have them draw a winter scene with crayons. Colors like red, blue, brown, white, orange, and yellow work best. They have to color hard on the paper. You need to make a Epson Salt/Hot Water Mixture for the next part. Let it cool down and then give the kids paintbrushes. They paint on the paper where they would like snow to appear. In a day the crystals will appear and continue to grow. It's a really neat experiment that my kids love!

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Snowball fight-balled up socks-throw & once hit you are out. Last one standing wins?

Guessing game—bring in photos of themselves as babies at the holiday

Bring gently used book to wrapped and the play gift exchange? Steal the book

**Summary:** Traditional holiday game- bring a gift to exchange and get a gift in return!

**Goal:** End up with a good gift.

### **Preparation:**

- Ask all participants to bring a wrapped gift (value under \$10) ahead of time
- Deck of cards

### **How to Play the White Elephant Gift Game:**

1. Have everyone sit together in a circle. Pile the gifts in the middle of the circle. Have each person draw a card from the deck of cards.

2. The person with the lowest card, the two of spades, picks a present first (Card suit from lowest to highest: spades, clubs, diamonds, hearts). After picking a present, the first person unwraps it for everyone to see.

3. Next, the person with the next lowest card has the choice of picking a gift from the pile or stealing the first person's gift. If he/she chooses to steal the person's present, the first person can take choose and unwrap a different gift from the pile.

4. This pattern continues until everyone has a gift. When the last person picks a gift, the game is over. After the game, people can barter and exchange their gifts.

**Note:**

A gift can only be “stolen” three times. After a gift has been stolen from two different people, the third person is able to permanently keep the gift (the gift cannot be stolen anymore).

**Variation:**

Instead of using playing cards, people can draw numbers from a hat. The person with the lowest number picks a gift first.

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