

Lamont Books Standing Order

October 2012

Teacher Notes and Activities

Queen Victoria's Christmas

By Jackie French & illustrated by Bruce Whatley

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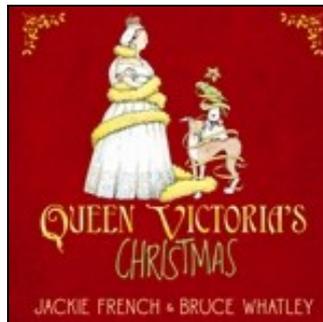
\$24.99

Something strange is happening at the palace and the dogs can't work it out!

The cooks are busy and mysterious parcels are arriving. Are royal visitors coming to visit?

And most curious of all... what is that tree doing in Prince Albert's study?

From the creators of the delightful *Queen Victoria's Underpants*, comes the story of the first 'traditional' Christmas, complete with a Christmas tree and presents for the family, as seen from the point of view of Queen Victoria's dogs.



Themes:

- Christmas traditions
- Royalty

Discussion Points:

- What is a 'tradition' and how does one start?
- What Christmas traditions does your family have? What is your favourite?
- Are they the same traditions that many others are familiar with and are mentioned in the story, or are they unique to your family? Discuss
- What does the Christmas Tree symbolise to you?
- How have Christmas traditions changed over the years and does the part of the world that you live in impact on how you celebrate Christmas? Explain.
- When else might we have 'traditions' that we follow?

Activities:

- Read the Author's Note at the back of the book. Take a closer look into the origins of the Christmas traditions mentioned here and others that you know about. Write your own brief summary or note of your findings and share this with the class.
- Make your own Christmas Tree with/for your class, including all the decorations to go on it.
- Choose a King or Queen from the past and study the influence or impact that they have had on things today, for example what we call things or how we celebrate events.
- The story is seen through the eyes of Queen Victoria's dogs. In groups, come up with a list of other things that humans do or have that animals might see as strange.