

What Do You Wish For?

By Jane Godwin & Illustrated by Anna Walker

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**Picture Book of
the Month**

All the children in the street are writing down a special Christmas wish. But what is Ruby's wish? What does she wish for at Christmas time? Ruby thinks of all the things that make Christmas special . . .

From this much-loved creative partnership comes a sparkling and beautiful story, full of the wonder of Christmas, the magic of wishing, and the timeless dreams of a child.



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, Penguin Books. A full version will be available from the Penguin Teachers' Academy.

Themes:

- Celebrating Importance of Family
- Community
- Excitement
- Creativity

Discussion Points:

Reading the blurb and exploring the cover –

- Ask students to predict what they think this book might be about. For older students, perhaps discuss the recognition of symbols used in the illustrations that denote what event might be being celebrated.
- Look at the cover illustrations. Which character do we think might be Ruby?
- There are wishes written on small cards in the endpapers. Read these aloud to the class and ask them to raise their hand if they have ever made the same wish.
- Where do we think Ruby lives?
- What season is portrayed in the illustrations?
- “Ruby felt as if her whole self was filled up with wishing”. What do we think this means? There are a lot of animals and birds in *What Do You Wish For?* Do you think animals and birds make wishes? What do you think animals and birds might wish for?
- Think about a special occasion that makes you happy. What is your favourite thing about this special occasion? What do you love most about Christmas?
- Who do you celebrate Christmas and special occasions with?
- Looking at the table set for Christmas celebration – what things can you name? Which of the food/decorations do you have at your Christmas celebrations?

Activities:

- Be sure to look out for the little reindeer that appears in many of the illustrations. How many times can we spot him?

Make a Wish Activity -

- Ask your students to choose a coloured sheet of paper.
- Ask students to think about the wish they would like to make and then have them write their wish onto the paper.
- Students might like to decorate their wish with collage, beads, wool, glitter, recycled materials and various colours.
- Perhaps you can stick the wishes to the wall in the shape of a tree or better still, bring a real potted tree into the classroom or library.