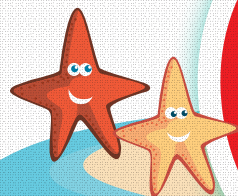


MONDAY
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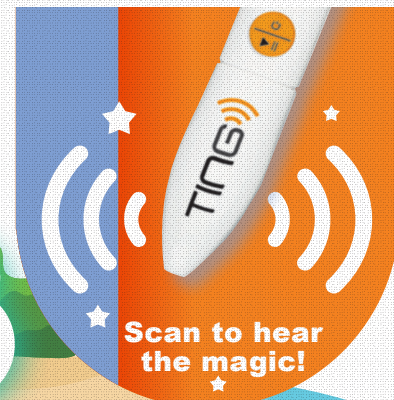


Goodies

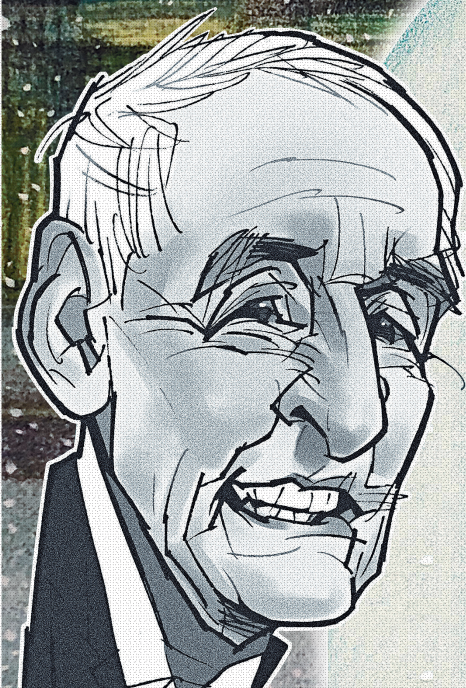
Merry
Christmas



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Classic stories for Christmas



CHRISTMAS time means reading stories that match the season. None are more famous than Raymond Briggs' books, including *The Snowman* and *The Bear*. The former is so famous it has been adapted into different types of media, such as stage plays and movies.





Images of a snowy world



RAYMOND Briggs' *The Snowman* has been a **bestseller** ever since it was first published in 1978. The book is over 40 years old now, but its popularity **endures** as it is a timeless classic. Briggs tells the story without using any words. In other words, it is a 'wordless book' – the pictures provide all the details a reader needs to understand the story. The boy and the snowman in the story do not talk, and no writing is used to explain anything. Still, we are able to see the sweet love between them, and shed tears at their separation.



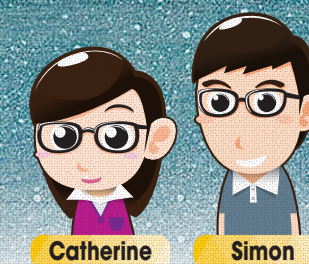
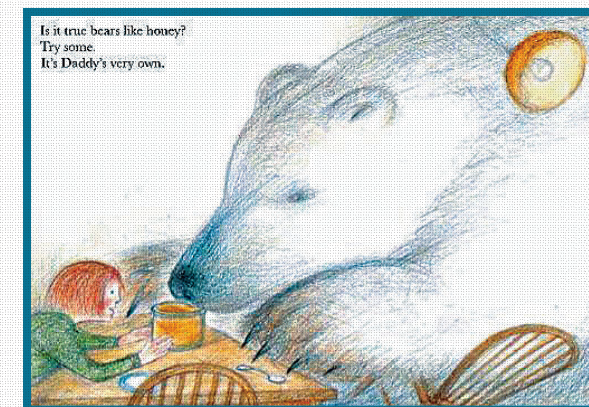
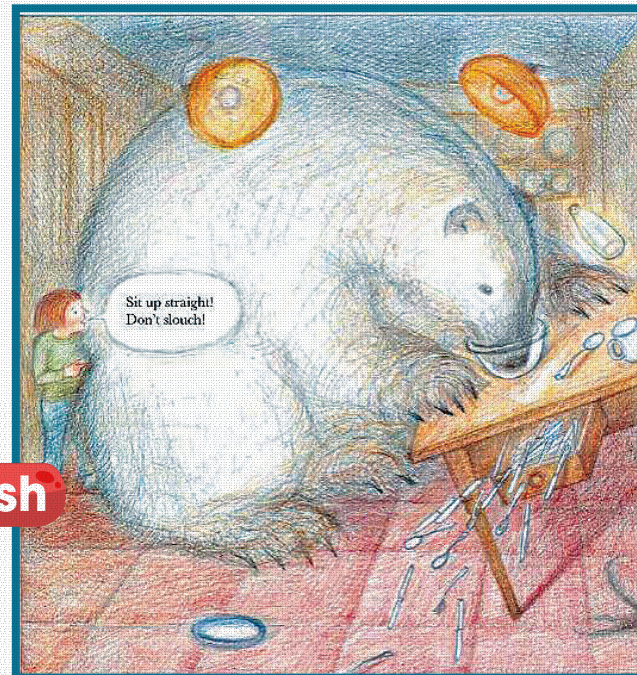
A screen classic

THANKS to its popularity, an animated film based on *The Snowman* was released in 1982. It is still shown at Christmastime every year in the UK. It has a **memorable** song, *Walking in the Air*, which plays when the snowman and the boy fly to the North Pole, while swooping over the seas and gliding above the tops of the houses.



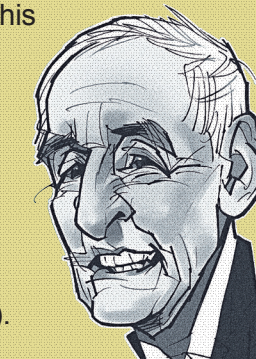
An only child's only wish

BESIDES *The Snowman*, *The Bear* (1994) is another Raymond Briggs classic that is worth reading. Like *The Snowman*, Briggs used pencil crayons to create the drawings. This time, however, the story has words; it is like a short **graphic novel**. The main character of *The Bear* is Tilly, an **only child** in her family. The author is also an only child, so he knows exactly what lonely children wish for – a friend they can be around with ... someone with whom they can hug, shout, laugh and cry.



Who is Raymond Briggs?

HE was born in London in 1934. He turned 85 years old this year! He first became well-known when he illustrated the book *The Mother Goose Treasury* (1966). This book won him an important medal called the Kate Greenaway medal! Briggs does the illustrations for all his books. Besides *The Snowman* and *The Bear*, he also wrote *Father Christmas* (1973) and *Fungus the Bogeyman* (1977).



Father Christmas

CAN you imagine how **hardworking** Santa Claus is? Every year, on the 24th of December, he needs to deliver presents to every child in the world. While he is normally portrayed as a happy man, Briggs' version of Father Christmas does not smile much in this book; in fact, he is **grumpy** and complains **relentlessly** because Christmas gives him too much to do and to be worried about. He is not the typical Father Christmas seen in advertising, but his temper makes him more realistic.

