

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.28

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ December 22nd, 2023



Kiwi Corner



As it is now December, I'd like to continue the tradition for the Kiwi Corner to write about Christmas. However, in the last edition of Kiwi Corner, I wrote about the "Bird of the Year" competition held in New Zealand. This made me think, "I wonder what animals are associated with Christmas." Therefore, for this month's Kiwi Corner, I'd like to introduce some **special Christmas animals** from around the world.

Firstly, there is the obvious **reindeer**. There is no animal more representative of Christmas than the trusty reindeer. The origin of the image of Santa's sleigh and his reindeer comes out of "The Night Before Christmas." It's commonly believed the first symbols of flying reindeer helping Saint Nicholas appear here.



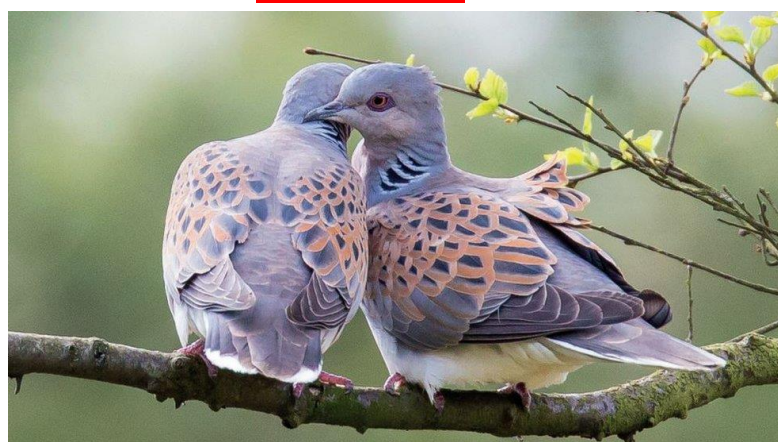
Santa having a jolly old time with his reindeer



A robin on a Christmas card

The next animal I'd like to introduce is a bird called the **robin**. Throughout the English winter, the robin is a treasure. Victorian-era postmen even had the nickname "robin," as they wore bright red jackets. The sight prompted a series of images of red-breasted birds delivering mail during the holidays. American robins are also familiar sights. The bird is famous for its cheery singing and brightly colored chest.

The next animal I'd like to introduce is another bird. This bird is called the **turtledove**. Many of you who read Kiwi Corner may have seen the movie "**Home Alone 2: Lost in New York**" which is from one of my favourite Christmas movie series. Turtledoves make an appearance in this movie. Turtledoves are vibrant animals with a charming call. Two turtledoves make for a perfect image as these birds form strong bonds. They're known for life-long relationships of love, devotion, and friendship.



Two turtledoves seen in the U.K.

As it is Christmas, I'd like to introduce a song from the movie I mentioned above. It's a short and sweet melody that brings up memories from my childhood. You can listen to it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0NCpe9O1RU>

Anyway, I'd like to wish all the readers of the Kiritaka English Journal the best of holidays and a very happy New Year. I hope you've enjoyed my articles this year, and I look forward to writing for you again in 2024!

(Liam Campbell)

Merry
Christmas!

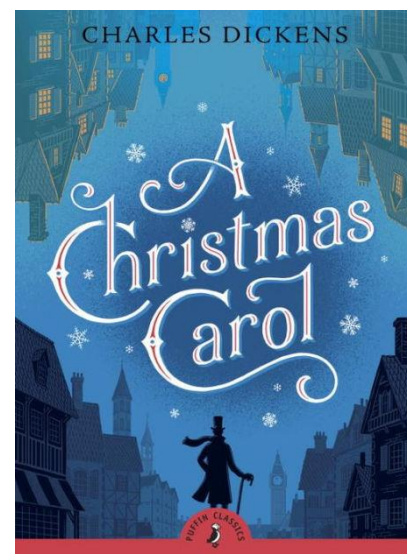
Lauren's Newsletter



Stories to Warm your Heart this Winter Season

Happy winter! I hope you are staying warm under your kotatus and enjoying the Christmas illuminations. This month, I would like to introduce two popular Christmas stories I heard many times as a child. Many Christmas stories recall tales of love, cheer, and celebration. However, not all of these tales have happy beginnings. As a fun twist, I would like to introduce two characters who want to take all the fun and cheer out of the Christmas season, and whose hearts are as cold as ice.

The first Christmas story I want to share is called "A Christmas Carol". It was originally a book written and published in 1843 by the famous author Charles Dickens. Over the years, it has been adapted into movies, children's books, ballets, and even a video game. The story is about a mean and lonely businessman named Ebenezer Scrooge. He causes trouble for everyone he meets, and his demeanor is as friendly as an angry polar bear. On the night of Christmas Eve, he is visited by three ghosts: one from the past, the present, and the future. By following these Christmas spirits, Scrooge is shown the consequences of his actions. Will the magic of Christmas be enough to save Scrooge from a horrible fate? Or will he continue his dastardly ways? You can listen to the story here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEIhYN_70EI



The cover of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens



The cover of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss

The second story I want to share is called "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". The first rendition of this story was written by Dr. Seuss and published in 1957. is a tale of a green creature who lives alone on a snowy hill outside of a town called Whoville. This creature, the Grinch, is bitter and hates everything about Christmas. As December 25th approaches, the townspeople of Whoville are preparing for a fun and happy Christmas Day. The Grinch doesn't like the idea of anyone enjoying Christmas, so he comes up with a plan. On the night before Christmas, he decides to disguise himself as Santa Claus and slinks down towards the sleeping town of Whoville. Moving in the shadows, he steals all of the Christmas gifts and decorations he can find, and goes to sleep proud of his work. Does he succeed in ruining Christmas? Or will he have a change of heart? You can listen to the story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVgHGodD5wY>

This winter break, take some time to grab a warm drink, find a comfortable place to relax, and give one of these stories a listen! I hope you have a great winter vacation and I will see you all in third term!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,
(Lauren Taylor)



To celebrate the holiday season, I would like to share one of my favorite Christmas songs about the Grinch himself. Please enjoy!