

It is Christmas in London. But Alex Crossley is not happy. His dad's arm is broken, and his parents haven't got much money. How can the family have a good Christmas?

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	CEFR level	Story word count	Headwords
S	Pre-A1	400–600	350
1	A1	1,000–1,600	550
2	A1+	3,000–5,000	700
3	A2	7,000–10,000	1,000
4	A2+	11,000–14,000	1,200
5	B1	15,000–18,000	1,600
6	B1+	18,000–22,000	2,000
7	B2	22,000–26,000	2,500

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A Christmas in LONDON



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People in the story



Sara Crossley



Carrie Crossley



Alex Crossley



Mr and Mrs Crossley



Justin Roberts



Maria García

New words



Christmas pudding



present



Santa Claus



scooter



skateboard



turkey

Note about the story

In December, people enjoy Christmas in many countries in the world. Christmas is about a man and woman, Joseph and Mary, and the **birth*** of a son, Jesus Christ, in Bethlehem, on 25th December (Christmas Day). Jesus Christ is very important for **Christian** people.

There are many **traditions** at Christmas. Often, children and young people have **Advent calendars**. Every day, they open an Advent calendar door, and they get more **excited**. They also put Christmas **stockings** by the fire. There is an important story at Christmas. Early on Christmas Day, Santa Claus comes with his **reindeer** and puts lots of small presents in the stockings. Santa Claus is not **real** of course, but very young children do not know this.

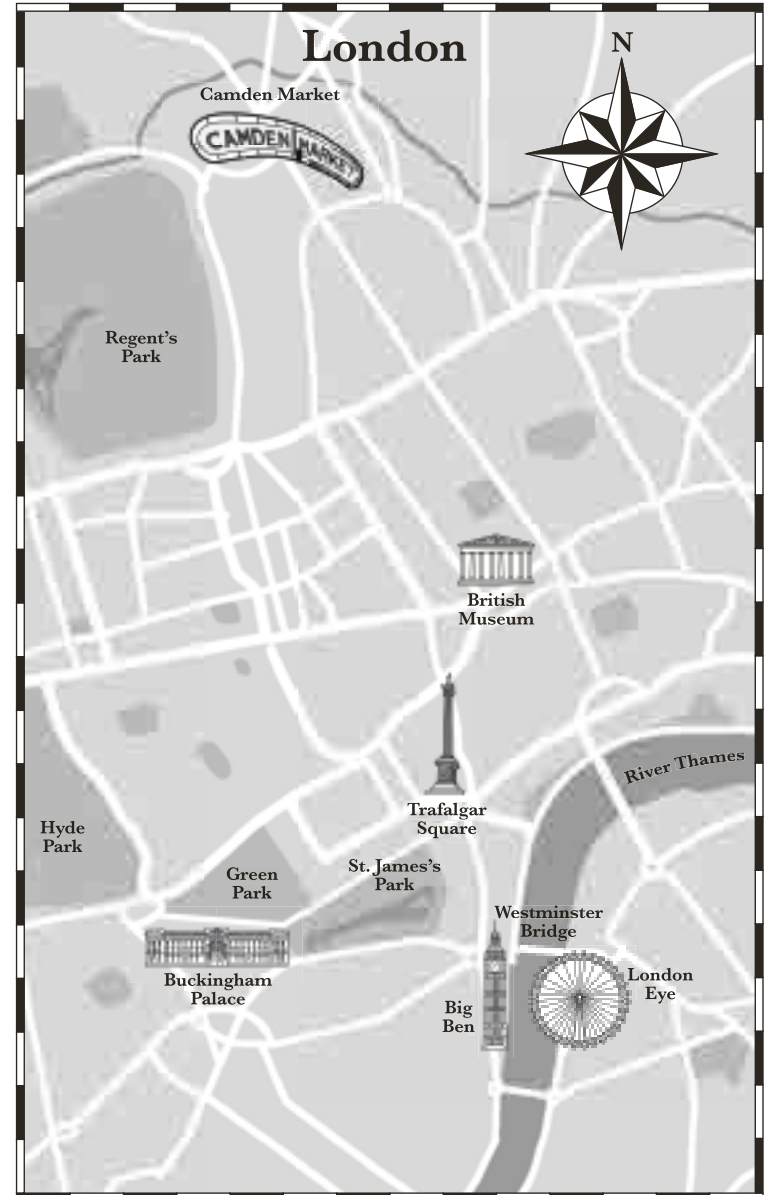
On Christmas Day, families come together. They open presents and eat a big lunch or dinner. They usually eat turkey and Christmas pudding. Christmas pudding has lots of fruit and sugar in it. For some people, Christmas is their favourite time of year!

Before-reading questions

- 1 What do you know about Christmas?
- 2 Christmas is a Christian festival. Do you have festivals in your country? What do you do in those festivals?
- 3 Look at the map on page 11. What do you know about London? Can you see any famous places on the map?

*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 60–61.

Places in the story



CHAPTER ONE

The first door



Sara and her little sister, Carrie, are very **excited**.

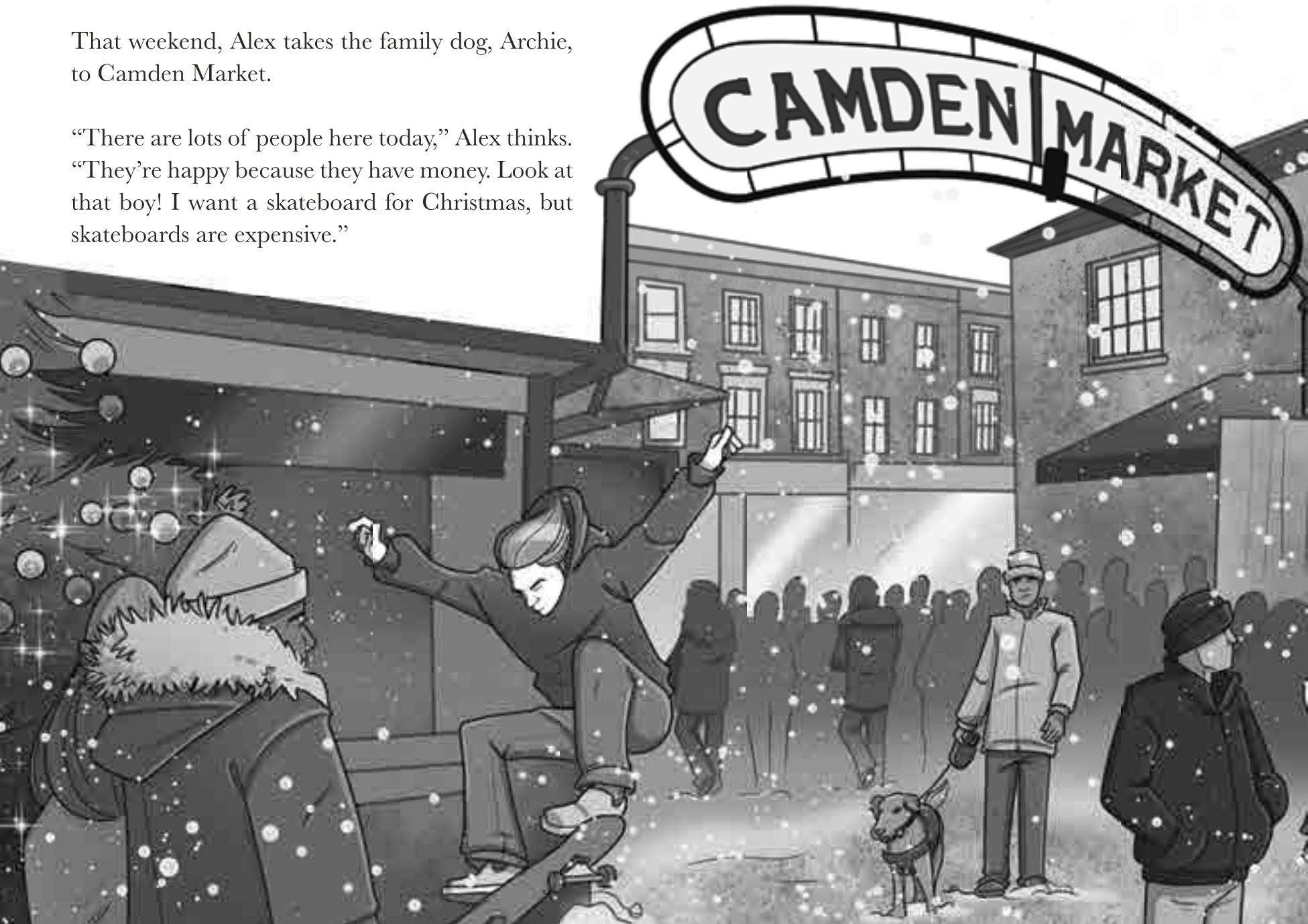
“It’s the 1st of December!” says Sara. “We can open the first door of our **Advent calendars**!”

“Ooh **wonderful**! Chocolate! And there’s a picture of Joseph and Mary!” says Carrie. “I love Advent calendars.”

“But Advent calendars are expensive,” says Alex. He is Carrie and Sara’s big brother. “And Mum and Dad are **poor** because Dad’s arm is **broken**. He can’t paint walls and **decorate** houses now.”

That weekend, Alex takes the family dog, Archie, to Camden Market.

“There are lots of people here today,” Alex thinks. “They’re happy because they have money. Look at that boy! I want a skateboard for Christmas, but skateboards are expensive.”



CHAPTER TWO

Presents



“It’s the 10th of December,” says Sara. “There are only fifteen more days – then it’s Christmas!”

“What presents do you want for Christmas, children?” asks Mum.

“I want a doll’s house!” says Carrie.

“I want a scooter!” says Sara.

“I don’t want a present,” says Alex. “Dad can’t work. Presents are expensive.”

“Your mother works at the hospital,” says Dad. “Yes, we don’t have much money now. But we have a warm house and clothes and food.”



Now Alex and his friend Justin are at school. They are waiting for their next lesson.

“What do you want for Christmas?” asks Alex.

“I want a bike, a new phone, some **video games** and money,” says Justin. “What do you want?”

“I want a skateboard,” says Alex.

