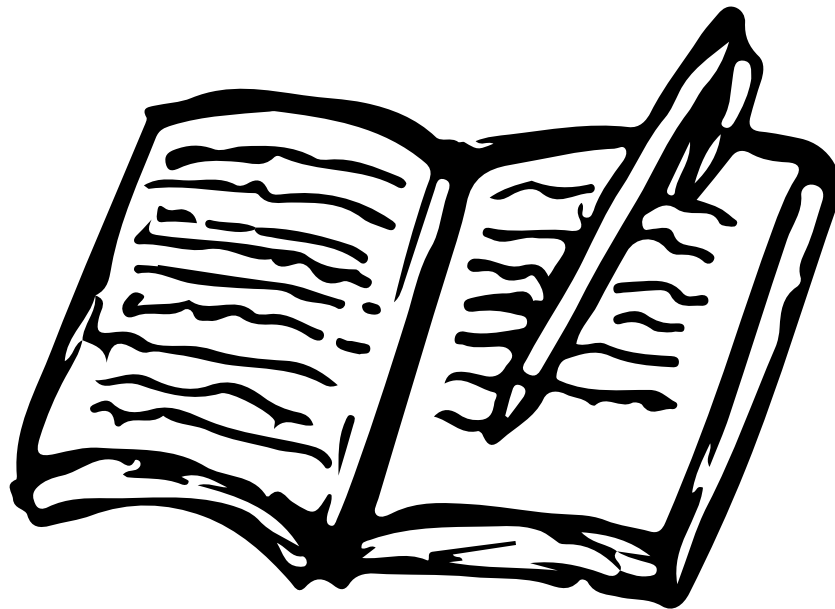




Teen Journal

Volume Two, December 2024

Holiday Memories



The second volume of the Otis Library Teen Journal (OLTJ) was written by middle school students in Norwich. Tweens and teens were encouraged to submit short stories, poems, songs, drawings, and other pieces of artwork.

Baking Cookies

Cream one cup butter, one cup sugar too,
Blend till smooth as Lenah would do.
An egg breaks in, Serena smiles wide,
Vanilla joins, one teaspoon beside.

Flour follows, two cups fair,
Salt and powder in the air.

Mix it gently, roll it right,
Shapes cut out with friends are always
right.

Bake three-fifty, wait a while,
Cookies baked with a laugh and a smile.

Golden-brown, a perfect sight,
Friendship baked in every bite.

by Jamie & Selena

La noche buena

Por: Antonela C. / Camila R. ;-

La nieve resplandece a la luz del sol
La navidad llega como un rayo de luz
Cuando menos te lo esperes Santa
aparece en tu puerta
Con una bolsa de regalos te
sorprenderá.
Los regalos debajo del árbol
aparecerán y con un pestañeo santa
se irá.
A la mañana siguiente le dirás a tus
padres y no te creerán.

Las campanas suenan la noche
buena llega
Con tu familia compartirás y te
divertirás
Villancicos cantarás alrededor del
árbol
Con una sonrisa tomando mi ponche
de huevo.

Mi hermana regresa llorando de
nuestro árbol de navidad
Porque no recibió regalo
Durante el año sus notas fueron
bajado
Como consecuencia se quedó sin
regalos.

conclusion... portate bien

Christmas Eve

By: Antonela C. / Camila R. ;-

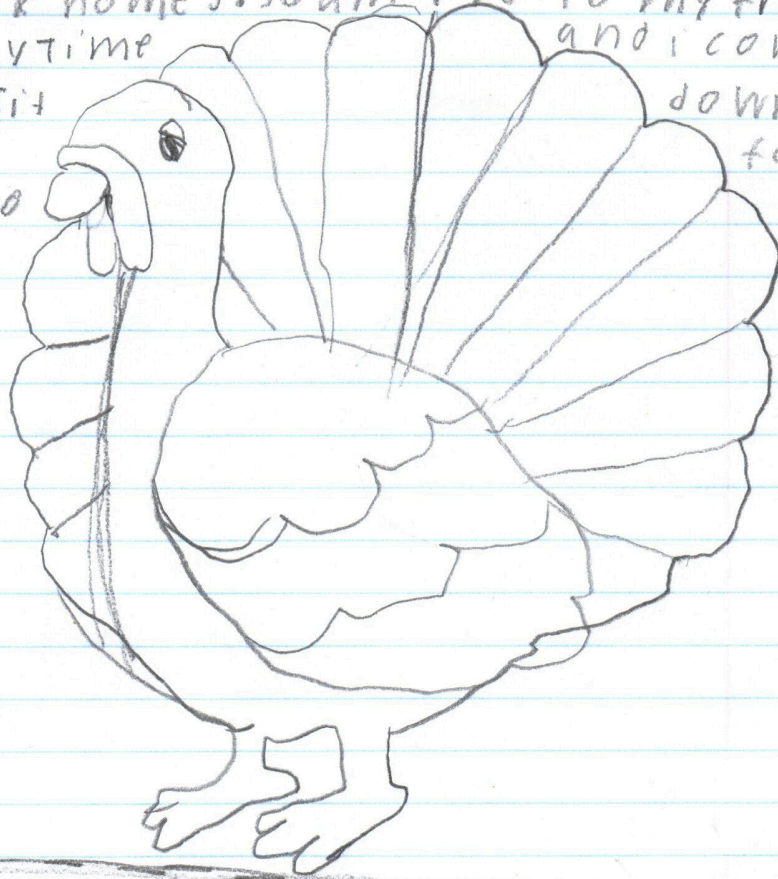
The snow sparkles in the sunlight
Christmas comes like a ray of light
When you least expect it, Santa
appears at your door
With a bag of gifts he will surprise
you.
The gifts under the tree will appear
and with a blink of an eye, Santa will
leave.
The next morning you will tell your parents and
they will not believe you.

The bells ring, Christmas Eve is here
With your family you will share and
have fun
You will sing Christmas carols around
the tree
With a smile drinking my eggnog.

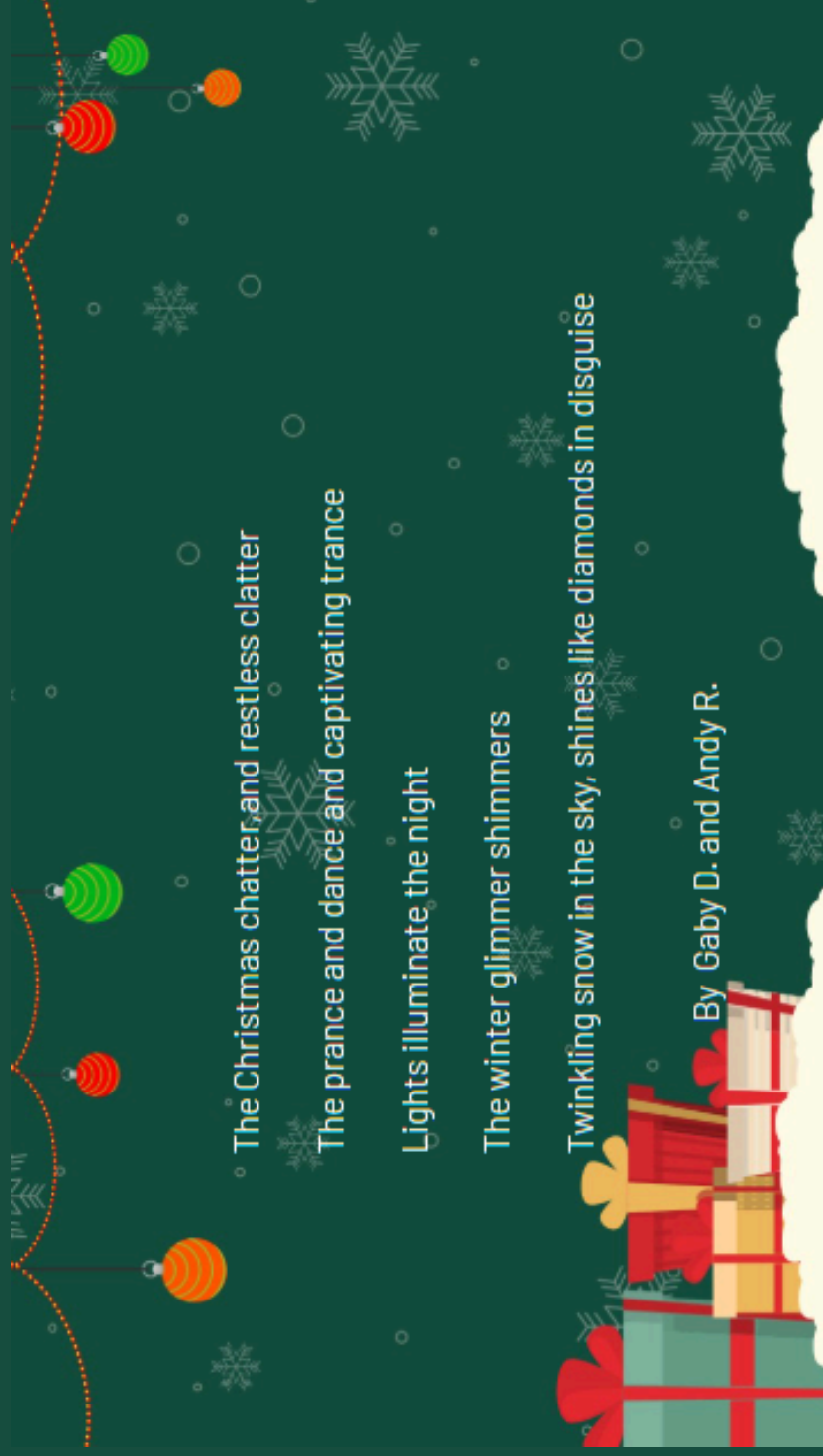
My sister comes crying from our
Christmas tree
Because she did not receive a gift
During the year her grades were
lowered
As a consequence she was left
without gifts.

Conclusion... behave well

i T was just normal morning i Wake up and
i go to The bathroom to brush my teeth and take
a shower. i T was 5am so we what to The Walmart
To get gravy also my thing for my mate man carry and
we come back home 5:30 am i go to my friend
house to past 6v time and i come back
at 2pm and sit down and
we eat are food
and then i go to my
room and normal
day in Thanks
That The end.



by Meriliano & Braylyn



◦ The Christmas chatter, and restless clatter

◦ The prance and dance and captivating trance

◦ Lights illuminate the night

◦ The winter glimmer shimmers

◦ Twinkling snow in the sky, shines like diamonds in disguise

By Gaby D. and Andy R.



* What good is the
warmth of summer
without the cold of
winter to give it
sweetness? *

by Holyvia T.



ALL THIS WHEN I WAS LITTLE

ELLISON R.

ONE DAY ON CHRISTMAS EVE WE HAD A FAMILY NIGHT
AND THEN WE WENT TO SLEEP AND I STAYED AWAKE AND
I WENT TO MY HOUSE STAIRS TO SEE SANTA. TO HEAR



SANTA AND IF WE DON'T HEAR ANYTHING I WENT BACK TO MY ROOM
AND EVERY 20 MIN I GO BACK TO THE STAIRS. I TRIED TO HEAR SANTA AND WHEN I
HEARD SANTA I WENT TO THE STAIRS AND THEN I SAW THE PRESENTS. THEN I GO CLOSE
TO THE PRESENTS. I LOOK AT THE PRESENTS TO SEE WHICH ONES ARE MINE. AND THEN I
TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT I ASKED FOR. THEN I WENT BACK TO MY ROOM AND I WENT
TO SLEEP. AND IN THE MORNING I GO TO MY SISTER'S ROOM TO WAKE HER UP. TO TELL
HER THAT THE PRESENTS ARE THERE. AND THEN I WENT WITH MY SISTER TO SEE ALL THE
PRESENTS SANTA BROUGHT. AND THEN MY SISTER AND I MADE A LOT OF NOISE TO WAKE
UP MY MOM AND MY DAD TO OPEN ALL THE PRESENTS. AND THEN ME AND MY SISTER
OPEN THE PRESENTS WITH MY MOM, MY DAD, AND MY SISTER. THEN MY MOM WENT BACK
TO SLEEP WHILE ME AND MY SISTER PLAYED WITH OUR TOYS. AND THINGS WE GOT FOR
CHRISTMAS.

I FEEL LIKE THAT DAY WAS THE BEST THEY EVER HAD AND MY WHOLE ENTIRE FAMILY HAD
FUN.



Just Love

Don't you just love the cold?

Or maybe even Christmas???

Or perhaps the feeling of the cold but soft touch of the snow on your bare skin???

Or maybe the warmth in your heart after seeing a loved one you haven't seen for so long.

Or the happiness of getting the present you wanted all year long.

By: Divine and Inasia



With You- Christmas Themed Poem

Mikaylah G-S

Part 1

*With you my love, the world could disappear,
Surrounded by only red and green,
At this time of year,
Sitting in a joyful scene,*

*Smiles everywhere as we give our gifts,
Much, much love in the air,
The christmas song drifts,
Sitting beside you as I show my care,*

*This time, I'm only focused on you while expressing my youth,
Watching closely as your hands unravels my present,
I wait expectantly, as you open my truth...*

Part 2

*I can feel your gaze from across the table,
As we eat, the intensity making my face feel the burns,
Now I want to know what you think - too bad I'm not able
I pretend that you're not looking at me, as my stomach twists and turns*

*We finish up, everyone in their own ruckus,
You pull me aside to our own quiet space,
Just me and you, only the two of us,
You look into my eyes, I just stand in place,*

*After my confession, I wonder if you're friend or foe,
You come closer and whisper something in my ear,
I look up, and we're right under the mistletoe...*

BY LOGAN W.

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

I REALIZED MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS SLEEPING IN THE BASEMENT, WHEN THERE WAS SCREAMING AND NOISES. WHEN I GOT DOWN THERE, I SAW THE FLOOR BLOOD RED AND THEN I SAW AND WHEN I DID I SCREAMED LIKE A BANSHEE. BUT THEN I WOKE UP AND NOTICED IT WAS JUST A DREAM. AFTER I WAS READY FOR SCHOOL, I SLEPT TO LATE SO I WALKED, BUT WHEN I GOT TO SCHOOL, THERE WASN'T ANYONE THERE. I TRIED TO LOOK AROUND FOR THE PRINCIPAL, BUT NO ONE WAS IN SIGHT. I WAS GOING TO TEXT MY MOM BUT I FORGOT MY PHONE AT HOME. I REALIZED THERE WAS A MOANING AND GROANING SOUND. WHEN THIS HAPPENED, I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST



MY HALLOWEEN RINGTONE, BUT I DON'T HAVE MY PHONE SO WHAT IS MAKING THAT SOUND? I LOOK BEHIND ME AND SEE ZOMBIES CHARGING TOWARDS ME. SO I STARTED TO SPRINT DOWN THE STREET QUICKER THAN QUICK, FASTER THAN FAST. I GO INSIDE MY HOUSE AND LOCK THE DOOR. I RUN UP TO MY BEDROOM AND SEE MY MOM

LAYING ON THE FLOOR WITH BLOOD SURROUNDING HER. I LET OUT A HOWLING PAIN SCREAM. MY HEART WAS BROKEN. MY FAVORITE PERSON WAS GONE. THEN I THOUGHT MY DAD WAS AT WORK AT THE NAVY BASE IN NEW LONDON, WHICH IS HEAVILY GUARDED WITH BARBED WIRE AND IS LOADED WITH WEAPONS AND ARMORY. SO I WASN'T REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM. I FOUGHT OFF 10 MORE ZOMBIES AND ENDED UP FINALLY GETTING TO THE BASEMENT DOOR. I OPEN IT, AND WHEN I DO, THE SANDERSON SISTERS COME OUT AND I THINK THIS ISN'T GOOD. SO THEY TRY TO CURSE ME BUT THEY DON'T DO ANYTHING MAINLY BECAUSE I HAVE WATCHED HOCUS POCUS 1&2, SO I KNOW WHAT TO DO. I SOMEHOW PUT THE BLACK CANDLE OUT IN 10 MINUTES SO I CAN FINALLY CHECK ON MY BROTHER NICHOLAS. IF HE ALSO HAD DIED WITH BLOOD SURROUNDING HIM I THINK I MIGHT DIE. THANKFULLY HE WAS ALIVE AND DIDN'T DIE. SO I PICKED HIM UP. I GRAB THE KEYS TO MY MOM'S CAR AND GET

IT IS LOCKED BUT I WAS ABLE TO UNLOCK IT WHEN MY DAD SAID
"LOGAN, I NEED YOU TO TAKE YOUR BROTHER TO YOUR SCHOOL AND FIGHT OFF WHAT
YOU SAW ON THE STREET. I HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON. I'LL TRY TO GET TO YOUR
SCHOOL WHENEVER I CAN. I LOVE YOU AND BE SAFE." I
THEN SAID

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN? ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU HAVE
TO STAY HERE AND ME AND NICHOLAS HAVE TO GO AND
SAVE THE WORLD BY OURSELVES? IF WE GO YOU'RE
COMING WITH US. PLEASE DON'T STAY HERE. COME WITH
US."

"LOGAN I CAN'T, I HAVE TO STAND DUTY AT THE BASE."

"THEN I'M STAYING TOO." AFTER A WHILE, I GO TO STH
SCHOOL AND START FIGHTING. I ME AND MY LITTLE BROTHER WERE PLAYING
AROUND A LITTLE BIT. AND THE ZOMBIE STARTLED US AND GOT READY TO START
THROWING CHAIRS AT THE ZOMBIE. THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, WHEN I DEFEATED THE
LAST ZOMBIE, I HEARD PEOPLE YELLING MY NAME. NO ONE ELSE WAS IN THE SCHOOL
BUT ME AND MY BROTHER. THEN I WOKE UP AND REALIZED IT WAS JUST A DREAM
INSIDE OF ANOTHER DREAM.

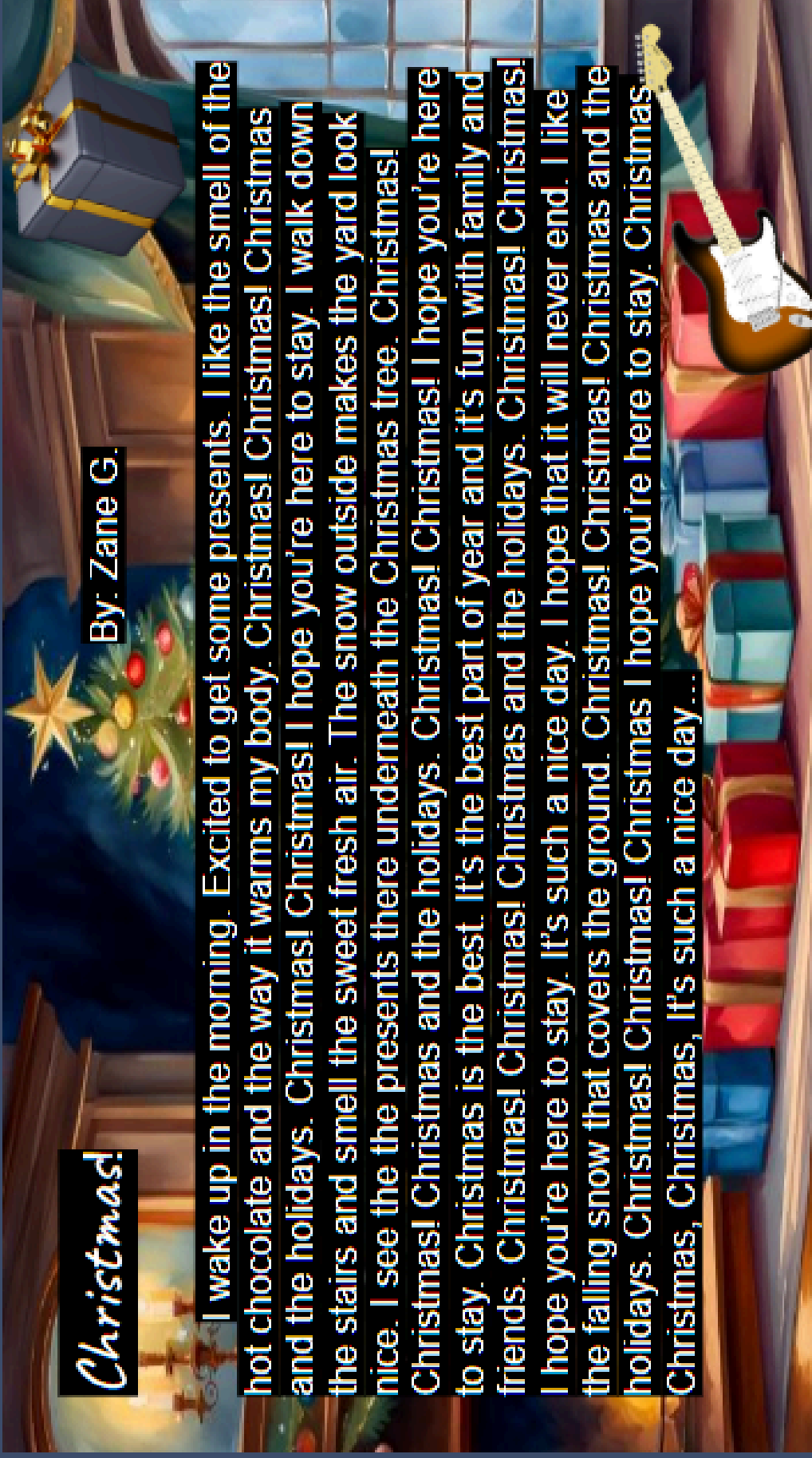
EVERYONE TURNED OUT TO BE OKAY. SARAH, NICHOLAS, MAMA, AND DAD. THE ZOMBIE
APOCALYPSE DREAM IS OVER.



Christmas!

By: Zane G.

I wake up in the morning. Excited to get some presents. I like the smell of the hot chocolate and the way it warms my body. Christmas! Christmas! Christmas and the holidays. Christmas! Christmas! I hope you're here to stay. I walk down the stairs and smell the sweet fresh air. The snow outside makes the yard look nice. I see the presents there underneath the Christmas tree. Christmas! Christmas! Christmas and the holidays. Christmas! Christmas! I hope you're here to stay. Christmas is the best. It's the best part of year and it's fun with family and friends. Christmas! Christmas! Christmas and the holidays. Christmas! Christmas! I hope you're here to stay. It's such a nice day. I hope that it will never end. I like the falling snow that covers the ground. Christmas! Christmas! Christmas and the holidays. Christmas! Christmas! Christmas I hope you're here to stay. Christmas! Christmas, Christmas, It's such a nice day...



Please enjoy this volume of the OLTJ!