

Polytrope Daily

JAN
23



HAPPY
NEW YEAR



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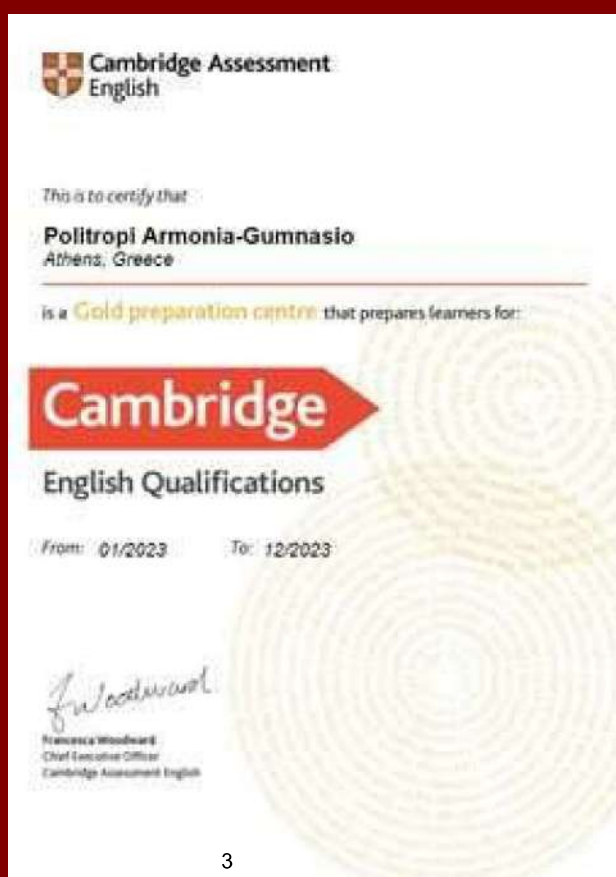
Editors' Note

The creation of this magazine would not be possible without the active participation of our students. They contributed by writing interesting articles on topics they are passionate about such as travelling, book/film reviews and many more. Our school always aims to instil in our students the curiosity to explore the unknown and meet new cultures and traditions through laying great emphasis on foreign language teaching and participating in examinations for English language certification.

We are thrilled to announce that the "Cambridge English Southern Europe" organisation awarded our school Politropi Armonia with an honorary distinction for many years of successful organisation of the language examinations for Cambridge English Qualifications.

The gold certificate awarded to prominent examination centers honors the strict organization that distinguishes our school, the continuous cooperation it maintains with the most recognized language certification organisations and the excellent preparation it provides to all its students, achieving very high scores in the most acknowledged foreign language certificates.

We sincerely thank the organization "Cambridge English Southern Europe" and the Hellenic-American Union for their exemplary cooperation and we continue our close collaboration with great passion and dedication.



For the past three months our students had been preparing fervently for their participation in the B2 and C2 level English language examinations. Thanks to the precious contribution of the Hellenic American Union our students were able to attend seminars on the format and requirements of each examination. These seminars provided the learners with invaluable information regarding the different skills and parts of the exam and helped them get prepared in the most effective way possible. In December 2022 our students participated in the English Language certification exams and our school's organisation as an examination centre was exceptional for yet one more time. We are looking forward to our student's results and wishing them the best of luck!



The teachers



Labrini Tsakireli
Evdorina Savva
Katerina Benetou



Georgia Psychogyiou
Maggie Arapian



Santa Claus is coming to Politropi!!
On the 23rd December our school hosted a fundraising Christmas bazaar where parents, teachers and students had the chance to buy handicrafts, Christmas decorations, souvenirs, sweets and even enjoy a cup of delicious hot chocolate!



Christmas Bazaar

Santa's little helpers,
our beloved students,
volunteered to help
and brighten this
event with their
positive energy and
welcoming smile.





3 CHRISTMAS FABLES FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

1)Ukraine: The fable of the Christmas spider.

In Ukraine it is a very popular fable. Indeed, it is a tradition, decorations in the form of a spider to be placed on the Christmas tree. According to the fable, a poor but hardworking widow lived in a small house with her children. One day, a pine seed fell next to the small house and took root in the soil. The widow's children took care of the tree, excited by the idea of having a Christmas tree in winter. The tree grew, but when the Christmas Eve came, they could not decorate it. Then the children sadly went to their beds and slept. The next morning, they woke up to find the tree covered with spider webs. When the sun's rays touched the tissues, they turned them into gold and silver. Since then, thanks to the gold and silver webs, they have never lived in poverty.



2)Spain: Olentzero, the Santa Claus of the Basques

There are many variations on the fables of Olentzero, the Basque Santa Claus. A popular fable says that when he was still a baby he was abandoned in the forest. A fairy found him, named him Olentzero, gave him strength and kindness and gave him to a couple to raise. He became kind and gentle. When he grew up, he worked as a charcoal burner and made wooden toys for all the children. He died giving his life to save some children from a burning house. Then the fairy brought him back to life and made him immortal to continue sharing gifts to children forever.

3)Central Europe: Krampus, Anti-Santa Claus.

Krampus is Anti-Santa Claus or Anti-Saint Nicholas. His fables are found in Central Europe and claim that he is in the company of Santa Claus to punish naughty children. Half goat half demon, Krampus comes out and sacks all the naughty children. You escape his clutches only if you offer him schnapps, his favorite drink.



*When did the Christmas trees
come in Greece?*

Before the Christmas tree, which first appeared in Greece in 1833, people were decorating their houses with little boats for Christmas.

However, from that day when the inhabitants queued to admire the Christmas tree, some time passed until it was established in every Greek house. Therefore, its characterization as a German custom is arbitrary, since the testimonies through handwritten texts, led to the conclusion that the existence of the tree as a festive symbol is lost in the depths of the centuries.

According to some researchers, the tradition of decorating trees or pieces of trees has existed in all religions since ancient times.

The Real Meaning of Christmas



Christmas is one of the most popular festivals in all over the world. Christmas is celebrated on the 25th December to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity. According to the historians, nobody knows the real birth date of Jesus Christ. Even in Bible, the exact day of Jesus's birth is not mentioned. The first year when Christmas was celebrated on 25th December was in 336 AD, when the Roman Empire was under the rule of Constantine.

Besides the fact that in Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, it also symbolizes the real meaning of spiritual life. According to Christianity, Christmas is not an annual commemorative celebration but a daily experience of Love. A Love that was manifested in the world on the day of the Birth of the God-man. Christianity argues that we truly celebrate Christmas, when we celebrate our own rebirth within Christ, a rebirth manifested through our practical love towards any fellow human being.

In my point of view, within this multidimensional festive spirit each of us experiences Christmas in a different way. For some of us, Christmas is the period to share moments and memories with our beloved. Memories that will be precious to us for a life.

For others is the time for a new beginning. It is time to reflect with gratitude on all the good things that the past year has brought us. It is time to forget the hurts of the past and start afresh. To set new goals, to look for the real needs of ourselves. For others, Christmas is about giving to those in need without asking for anything in return. To offer what we can. The act of giving is crucial and it is connected to the need to love and be loved. After all, this is the essence of Christmas, love.

Christmas is something deeper, more meaningful, an individual and inner experience, a heart- searching period, with different meaning for each of us. Christmas is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon.

The Legend of Santa



Christmas lead us to the dimension of myth and custom. Every year while we prepare the manger or decorate the Christmas tree, we go back down the paths of our memories, we rediscover the actions and gestures that we had acquired from our childhood, and they are renewed through the different stages and ages of our life, passing them down from generation to generation.

There are numerous of legends connected to Christmas. All these legends either convey a strong message or teach us an important lesson of life. Children especially, are benefitted through these tales. In our days, Christmas Santa is an international folklore figure, distributing gifts to children and adults who have been "good" during the year. He is a dominant figure in the celebration of Christmas and New Year. The well-known figure with the red uniform, the white beard, always smiling, with his sack full of gifts, on a sleigh pulled by reindeers, is today on a world scale the most beloved hero of children on holiday days, even in non-Christian countries.

The story behind Santa Claus travel us back to the third century during the time of St. Nikolas, a bishop who was born around 280 A.D. in Myra, in modern – day Turkey. St. Nicholas became the subject of many legends. One of the best-known St. Nicholas stories is the time he saved three poor sisters from being sold into slavery or prostitution by their father by providing them with a dowry so that they could be married.

By the time of the Renaissance, St. Nicholas was the most popular saint in Europe. The figure of Saint Nicholas was prevailing in many European countries. However, it was the Dutch who will build on Saint Nikolas the first stories that will lead to the legend of Santa Claus. Sinter Nicolaas, as he was called, was an honored figure every year on the great feast of December 6, with the faithful of the Netherlands believing that the Saint visited them on that cold December night. From those years, during the Middle Ages, children were leaving milk and cookies for the Saint, while they were putting straw in their traditional wooden Dutch shoes for his donkey.

The legend of St. Nikolas moved with the pilgrimage to America. Before became Known as New York, the city was controlled by the Dutch and was called New Amsterdam. In December of 1773 and December of 1774, it was reported that groups of Dutch families in New York gathered to honor the anniversary of Nicholas' death. The name, Santa Claus, was stated to evolve from Nick's Dutch nickname, Sinter Klaas, a shortened form of Sint Nikolaas, which is translated as the Dutch name for St. Nicholas.

Gift giving, a custom that was passed down from St. Nicholas's generosity in helping others has been a part of the Christmas tradition since the early 19th century. In the United States, stores advertised Christmas shopping in 1820, and by 1840, United States newspapers were carrying Christmas advertisements, featuring Santa Claus. In 1841, thousands of children visited a Philadelphia shop to see a life-size Santa Claus model. It was only a matter of time before stores began to attract children, and their parents, with the lure of a peek at a "live" Santa Claus.

The Salvation Army in the early 1890's started sending unemployed men in Santa suits to solicit donations for needy families to provide them with Christmas meals. But if there is one fairy-tale poem that shaped more than any other the story of Santa Claus as the world knows it today, it is Clement Clarke Moore's. He wanted to write a beautiful poem about him and his family. The poem was originally entitled "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas," more popularly known as "Twas The Night Before Christmas."

Moore's poem, is largely responsible for our modern image of Santa Claus as a "right jolly old elf" with a portly figure and the supernatural ability to ascend a chimney with a mere nod of his head! His poem helped popularize the now-familiar image of a Santa Claus who flew from house to house on Christmas Eve in "a miniature sleigh" led by eight flying reindeer to leave presents for deserving children. "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" created a new and immediately popular American icon.

Santa's images went through many transitions during the years. Santa wasn't always illustrated as a jolly soul with a red coat, rosy cheeks, big white beard, portly belly, and black boots. Prior to 1931, Santa was illustrated as a tall gaunt man or a spooky-looking elf. During one point in history, Santa's clothes varied from a bishop's robe to a Norse huntsman's animal skin clothes.

The creator of the modern image of Santa Claus is the great political cartoonist Thomas Nast, who, although was born in Germany, he is considered the "father" of the American cartoon. In 1863, Harper's Weekly magazine hired the 21-year-old cartoonist to create pictures of Santa Claus visiting American soldiers in the American Civil War. He drew on Moore's poem to create the first likeness that matches our modern image of Santa Claus. His cape even looked a lot like the US flag. «The sketch boosted the morale of soldiers and civilians because it showed that the spirit of Christmas was not lost in the Civil War», wrote the historian James Robertson.



Santa Claus in camp from Harper's Weekly January 3, 1863 cover. Illustrated by Thomas Nast. Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, 1929/The Metropolitan Museum of Art

His cartoon, which appeared in Harper's Weekly, depicted Santa as a rotund, cheerful man with a full, white beard, holding a sack laden with toys for lucky children. It is Nast who gave Santa his bright red suit trimmed with white fur, North Pole workshop, elves and his wife, Mrs. Claus. The venture was so successful that Nast continued drawing Santa the same way for 40 years. Over time, of course, the cape that looked like the American flag was replaced by a warm, crimson woolen uniform. It is said that in Greece, the image of Santa Claus started to become known in the 50s and 60s, from Greeks of Diaspora. The "westernized" Santa Claus began to enter in to urban families' houses with postcards and very soon took his place in our hearts and the Greek Christmas.

British Christmas Traditions

1. Christmas cards

The British Christmas tradition of sending cards dates back to 1843. At the time, a gentleman named Sir Henry Cole didn't have time to send personal messages, so he hired an artist called John Calcott Horsley to design him a card which he could send to lots of people, and that's how Christmas cards were born.

Today, over a BILLION cards are sent every year in Great Britain alone which is staggering. Yes, you read that right. Christmas cards are a serious business!



2. Christmas markets

I feel like Christmas markets have become more and more popular over the years. Originating in Germany, Dresden's Striezelmarkt was first held in 1434 and is considered the first genuine Christmas market.



Nowadays, you can find them in every major city and town all over the United Kingdom. The Birmingham Christmas Market is the largest Xmas market outside of Germany and many people consider this the best one to visit. London has a fair few too, especially at Winter Wonderland. From drinking gluhwein to eating a bratwurst, this is definitely more of a European Christmas tradition that's found a home in Britain.

Top 5 Christmas movies

5) *Home Alone 1*

Eight-year-old Kevin is staying alone in his house accidentally while his parents are flying to France. While his parents are searching how to come back, Kevin is trying to save his house by two not smart enough burglars.



4) *The Polar Express*

A boy, who questions the existence of Santa Claus, is getting on board on the magic Polar Express and he is travelling on Christmas eve to the North Pole, where he discovers the value of friendship.



3) *A Boy Called Christmas*

An ordinary young boy called Nikolas sets out on an adventure into the snowy north in search of his father who is on a quest to discover the fabled village of the elves. Taking with him a headstrong reindeer called Blitzen and a loyal pet mouse, Nikolas soon meets his destiny.



Top 5 Christmas movies

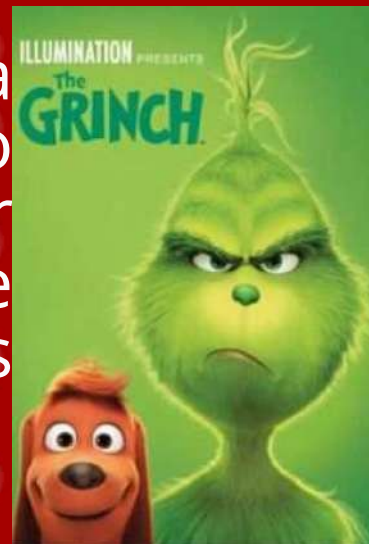
2) Home Alone 2: Lost In New York

After snarky youth Kevin McCallister loses track of his father at the airport, he mistakenly gets on a plane headed for New York City while the rest of the McCallisters fly to Florida. Now alone in the Big Apple, Kevin cons his way into a room at the Plaza Hotel and begins his usual antics. But when Kevin discovers that the Sticky Bandits are on the loose, he struggles to stop them from robbing an elderly man's toy store just before Christmas.



1) The Grinch

The movie is narrating the story of a grumpy cynical creature, who decides to steal Christmas, but after all he is stopped from the intervention of a girl's generous spirit.





WE PLAN
your
ADVENTURE
AND SHOW YOU THE WORLD

TOP 10 DESTINATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!

Time goes by fast, and you need to get organized. The weather is starting to show us its winter face and Christmas is getting closer and closer... Europe has put on its festive clothes and its biggest cities are waiting to host you to experience the most magical Christmas of your life. If you're looking forward to decorated neighborhoods, lights twinkling in the distance, the smell of sweets and a strong Christmas element, don't delay! The 10 European cities below are the ultimate Christmas destinations and offer you the best festive package that will make you spend the best Christmas of your life!

10)Vienna, Austria

It is one of the most popular cities for Christmas. Its imposing buildings and castles are decorated, and its spectacular Christmas markets take it to the next level. Vienna invites you for a walk to the Rathausplatz Town Hall square to take you on a journey to a Christmas of another era with handmade decorations, toys and of course Christmas. Vienna's Christmas market runs until late at night on New Year's Eve. For added sparkle, the park next to is transformed into a light extravaganza with thousands of lights and ornaments hanging from the trees, while the aroma of Christmas Glögg wine, served warm, invites you to try it!



9)Strasbourg, France

They don't call it the capital of Christmas for no reason. Strasbourg has one of the largest outdoor markets, which is more reminiscent of a Christmas village. With more than 300 stalls, this Christmas market has been organized every year since the 16th century without ever stopping! During your visit, don't forget to try the Bredle, a small traditional and different cake.



8)Prague, Czech

In Prague they know how to celebrate Christmas! It is a fairy-tale town, filled with lights, decorations and Christmas scenes. It has many open-air Christmas markets, mangers and of course all this to the background of Christmas tunes.



7)Lapland, Finland

In the frozen North of Europe is the village of Santa Claus. What's better than that? In the north of Finland, Lapland awaits you for a journey into the Christmas fairy tale. A destination that drives young and old alike crazy, it is undoubtedly an unforgettable experience, although the cost is a bit steep... like its cold!



6)Copenhagen, Denmark

With half a million lights and decorations in the city, it's no wonder you'll experience Christmas in Copenhagen. Europe's oldest theme park is the centerpiece of the festive days in the Danish capital, while Christmas markets tempt you to drop more cash to sample traditional Christmas cuisine and say yes to a handmade porcelain doll. Skating on the frozen lake is an unforgettable experience.



5)Bruges, Belgium

The beautiful, medieval city of Belgium awaits you for an idyllic holiday at Christmas. Its streets are lit up and the activities for young and old won't let you sit still for a moment. In the central square you will find a huge skating rink, an amusement park and stalls with handmade, mostly wooden, items. Impressive is the exhibition of ice sculptures that takes place every year, usually around the New Year, near the city.



4)Dresden, Germany

Germany may be famous for its Christmas markets, but one stands out for its glamour. Of course the reason for Dresden and its lucky visitors. At the beginning of December, a huge 4-ton Christmas cake, our well-known stollen, is created and distributed to the crowd. Very sweet Christmas in Dresden!



3)Rome, Italy

The eternal city is also ideal for Christmas. Rome awaits its Christmas travelers for a stroll in Piazza Navona, home to a large market, while in Piazza del Popolo, 100 fantastic scenes from the nativity story are set up. For many, the ultimate destination is St. Peter's Square in the Vatican and watching the midnight mass on Christmas Eve.



2)Amsterdam, Netherlands

If you can't wait until Christmas, then a stroll through the already festive Amsterdam will suffice. Christmas there starts much earlier, while the gift exchange takes place on December 5, the day Saint Nicholas is celebrated. Christmas lights, decorations, decorations, flea markets, amusement parks and skating rinks are just a few of the things you will find in the Dutch capital during the holidays.



1)Salzburg, Austria

The quaint, European city may have one of the smallest Christmas markets, but it's also one of the most historic. With 85 beautiful stalls you will feel more intimate compared to other big cities. The city puts on its festive gear and will become your favorite Christmas destination.



KYRIAKOS NTOUROS
KONSTANTINOS SKAMNIDIS



CHRISTMAS RECIPES

Authentic & Genuine
EAT LIKE A LOCAL

Bûche De Noël or Yule Log is a traditional French, Christmas cake, which is often served as a desert near Christmas. It comes from France but i people from Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, Vietnam, Lebanon, United States, United Kingdom, Portugal and Spain eat it at Christmas. The cake emerged in the 19th century, in France. The name bûche de Noël originally referred to the Yule log itself, and was transferred to the dessert after the custom had fallen out of popular use references to it as bûche de Noël or Yule Log, can be found from at least the Edwardian era.

It is traditionally made from a genoise, generally baked in a large, shallow Swiss roll pan, iced, rolled to form a cylinder, and iced again on the outside. The most common combination is basic yellow sponge cake and chocolate buttercream, though many variations that include chocolate cake, ganache, and icings flavored with espresso or liqueurs exist. They are often served with one end cut off and set atop the cake, or protruding from its side to resemble a chopped off branch. A bark-like texture is often produced by dragging a fork through the icing, and powdered sugar sprinkled to resemble snow. Other cake decorations may include actual tree branches, fresh berries, and mushrooms made of meringue or marzipan.

Here is one recipe for somebody to make:

-For the sponge cake

3 eggs
2 egg yolks
70 gr. granulated sugar
70 gr. wheat flour, sifted
20 gr. cocoa, sifted
orange zest, from 1 orange

-For the mousse filling

6 egg whites
1 pinch of salt
30 gr. granulated sugar
120 gr. blanket
20 gr. Butter

For the icing

300 gr. couverture white, finely
chopped
200 gr. cream 35%

-For serving

powdered sugar
100 gr. Forest fruit





-Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 200 ° C in the air.

Place greaseproof paper in a 25x35 pan.

In the bowl of the mixer with the wire, beat the egg yolks and sugar at high speed for 6-7 minutes until they are well foamed.

Add the sifted flour, sifted cocoa and zest.

Mix lightly with the help of a plastic spatula, trying not to lose too much volume from our mixture.

Pour the mixture into the pan and bake for 10 minutes until it puffs up and when pierced with a knife, it comes out clean.

Remove from the oven and leave to cool well on a wire rack.

For the mousse:

Beat the egg whites together with 1 pinch of salt with the wire of the mixer until they become foamy and add the granulated sugar little by little.

Once it is fluffy and glossy, taste a little of the meringue to see if the granulated sugar has completely dissolved.

If it has not dissolved, continue beating for a while longer.

Place the chocolate and butter in a bowl and melt it in the microwave for 30 seconds.

Set aside a little and then mix well until the mixture is homogeneous.

Transfer the chocolate to a large bowl, take 1/3 of the meringue, add it to the chocolate and mix lightly with a plastic spatula until the mixture is homogeneous.

Add the rest of the meringue in 2 parts to the mixture, mixing very lightly each time until it is completely homogenized.

Transfer the mousse to the fridge to freeze.

For the icing:

Place the white couverture in a medium bowl.

Heat the cream in a saucepan and remove before it starts to boil.

Pour it into the chocolate and let it stand for 1 minute so that the chocolate softens.

Next, stir the mixture with a plastic spatula to homogenize it.

Place in the refrigerator for at least 8 hours to freeze well.

For the setup:

Remove the greaseproof paper from the sponge and transfer it to the workbench with the long side towards us.

Spread the mousse mixture evenly and roll carefully.

Take the ganache out of the fridge, beat it in the bowl of the mixer until foamy and then spread it with a spatula all over the surface and on the sides of the roll.

Finally, place the berries on top, sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve.

DIPLES- Greece

For the dough:

500 gr. flour, sifted

8 gr. sugar

5 eggs

2-3 tbsp. water

1/2 tsp. salt

Sunflower oil, for frying

For the syrup:

500 ml of water

500 gr. granulated sugar

300 gr. honey

Juice from one lemon

For serving:

130 gr. walnuts, crushed



- 1) Sift the flour with the baking powder into a bowl and set aside.
- 2) Using a hand mixer or stand mixer, beat the egg yolks and whole egg on high speed until the eggs are thick and smooth and the color is light yellow about 4 to 5 minutes.
- 3) Combine the melted butter, orange juice, and brandy. With the mixer running, add to the egg mixture until incorporated.
- 4) Add the flour in 1/2 cup increments until the dough comes together and doesn't stick to the sides of the bowl. If you have a dough hook for your mixer, you can attach it and knead the dough with the machine. If not, turn the dough out on to a lightly floured surface and knead by hand. Continue kneading the dough until it has a smooth and elastic texture, about 5 to 8 minutes.
- 5) Separate the dough into four pieces and rest it on the counter covered with plastic wrap for about half an hour.
- 6) After the dough has rested, roll out each section into rectangles about the size of a sheet pan. The dough should be very thin about 1/16th of an inch thick or about the thickness of a piece of cardboard.
- 7) Using a knife or rolling cutter, cut the dough into sheets that are about 5 inches wide and about 10 inches long. Lay the cut pieces on a tray separated by waxed paper sheets to prevent them from sticking together.
- 8) To fry, you will need a pan with a wide bottom and a depth of about 4 to 5 inches. The oil will need to be poured to about 3 inches in depth.
- 9) Heat the oil or vegetable shortening until shimmering but not smoking hot. If the oil is too hot your diples will get too dark and will cook too quickly, making it difficult to roll them.
- 10) Place a dough sheet in the hot oil. Using 2 large cooking forks, hold the furthest way from you and roll the sheet away from you. You can pierce the sheet with the fork or simply place the edge between the tines of the fork.
- 11) To make the syrup: Combine the honey and the water and heat gently on the stovetop or in the microwave. Place the diples on a serving platter and drizzle with the syrup. Sprinkle with ground walnuts and ground cinnamon. To keep the diples crisp, do not add the syrup until just before you are ready to serve.
- 12) Enjoy!

KANELBULLAR- Sweden

The story behind Kanelbullar:

Kanelbullar is a sweet roll commonly served in Northern Europe, but it has its roots in Sweden. Since 1999, October 4 has been promoted as Kanelbullens dag. Swedish kanelbulle dough typically also contains cardamom (powder or buds), giving it a distinctive flavour. Swedish people usually eat them at the fika's time. Fika is a social phenomenon in Sweden. At any time of the day Swedish do fika. Fika is the moment when you drink your coffee and eat the Kanelbullar.

Ingredients:

250 gr. butter
6 large eggs
100 gr. milk
1 tbsp salt
(25 buns)
35 g yeast
100 g sugar
300 ml milk 1 egg
120 g butter
1 tsp salt
750 g ground cardamom

Filling: 100 g butter 50 g sugar 2 tbs. cinnamon



Preparation

Crumble the yeast in a bowl and stir in a few tablespoons of milk. Melt the butter and pour the milk on it. Add the rest of the ingredients and knead the dough in a dough mixer for 10-15 minutes. Let the dough rise while covered at room temperature for 30 minutes. Roll out the dough so it is about 3 mm thick and 30 cm wide. Spread the room-temperature butter on top. Make a mixture of sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle it over the dough. Roll the dough the long way and cut the roll into about 25 slices. Place them with the cut edge upward in paper moulds. Place on a baking sheet and let rise under a towel for about 60 minutes or until the buns have doubled in size. Roll the dough the long way and cut the roll into about 25 slices. Place them with the cut edge upward in paper moulds. Place on a baking sheet and let rise under a towel for about 60 minutes or until the buns have doubled in size. Beat together the egg and water, brush the mixture over.

PANETTONE – Italy

The well-known favourite panettone is a cake with dried candied fruits. It is the classic Italian Christmas bun that also serves as king pie. It is a Milanese dessert that varies in taste between bread and bun. An early version of his origin has Sister Ugeta, a nun and cook at a convent, giving food to the poor and homeless. But once by good fortune, he had a few ingredients and wanted to make a sweet to distribute to the poor. Instead of making bread, he put eggs, sugar, raisins and chopped dried fruits and made a sweet, which to this day gives joy to people on holiday days.

Ingredients

250 gr. butter
6 large eggs
100 gr. milk
1 tbsp salt
700 gr. flour for a bun
2 cubes of fresh yeast (50g) or 2 sachets of dry yeast
140 gr. sugar
2 vanilla pods or 1 tbsp liquid vanilla or 1 vanilla pod
100 gr. dried grapes
100 gr. condita (chopped glazed fruit)
50 gr. black rum or cognac
Zest of 1 orange or lemon
A little butter for the bowl

Preparation

First put the flour, yeast, sugar, and vanilla in the mixing bowl. We mix them. Separate the butter, melt the 150 gr., and let it become lukewarm. Cut the rest of the butter into pieces and let it soften. Heat the 50-gr. alcohol and add the raisins and the glazed fruit. Cover them and let the fruit absorb the alcohol. We keep them aside for later. Put all the wet ingredients, eggs, melted butter, milk, and salt in a bowl and beat them with a whisk. Add them to the flour. Knead for 7-8' until the mixture becomes elastic and very soft, like chewing gum. With the mixer running, pour in the pieces of soft butter that we kept at the beginning. Let the mixture work in the mixer until it absorbs all the butter, for about 1'. Put the soft panettone dough in a large, buttered bowl, cover it and leave it in a warm oven or near the radiator for about 1 hour to double in size. Put the dough back in the mixer and add the fruit. We work for 2-3' at medium speed. Dip your hands in melted butter and pour the dough onto the counter to deflate. With quick movements we fold the dough. Equalize in two. We work for 2-3' at medium speed. the counter to deflate. With quick movements we fold the dough. Equalize in two We work for 2-3' at medium speed. We work for 2-3' at medium speed. the counter to deflate. With quick movements we fold the dough. Equalize in two We work for 2-3' at medium speed. Dip your hands in melted butter and pour the dough onto the counter to deflate. With quick movements we fold the dough. Equalize in two small well-buttered disposable paper forms for panettone 15x13cm. or in a large panettone pan. The dough should cover 1/3 of the dish. Let it double again for about 1.30 hours in a switched off oven. Brush the surface gently with egg white. Then we turn the oven to 170 oC in the air and heat it very well. The dough should cover 1/3 of the dish. Let it double again for about 1.30 hours in a switched off oven. Brush the surface gently with egg white. Then we turn the oven to 170 oC in the air and heat it very well. Then we turn the oven to 170 oC in the air and heat it very well. As soon as the lamp reaches 170oC and reaches the desired temperature, bake the 2 panettones without opening and closing the oven and bake the panettones for about 40', until they overflow from the mold and their surface is well browned. As soon as we take them out of the oven, brush them with fresh butter to keep them soft. Ideally, to dry and cool properly, we should hang them upside down.



TORTELL RE REIS – Spain

In Catalonia, the ring-shaped cake is prepared and eaten on Epiphany, the day of the Three Kings. The tortell de Reis is filled with almond paste or whipped cream and a pumpkin jam, cabell d'angel, and decorated with caramelized fruit, nuts, and sugar glaze. A golden cardboard crown is placed in the center. The cake hides two surprises: a cookie and the effigy of one of the Three Wizards. As tradition goes, whoever finds the Wizard is crowned. As for the one who finds the cookie, he pays for next year's cake!

Ingredients

1/2 cup sugar
zest of one lemon
zest of one orange
2 1/2 teaspoons active dry yeast
2/3 cup milk
1/2 cup unsalted, softened butter
3 eggs
3 tablespoons orange flower water
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
olive oil for brushing a rimmed baking sheet
1 dried lima bean
1 tiny ceramic king figurine
1/2 cup candied fruits finely chopped (optional)
sugar to sprinkle on top
choose your filling: marzipan, cabell d'àngel (angel's hair jam), whipped cream, chocolate truffle, jam, meringue, or custard

Preparation

In a food processor or blender, combine 1/2 cup sugar and both citrus zests and process on high speed until fine. Set aside. In a large bowl, dissolve the yeast in warm not hot! milk and let stand for about 5 minutes, or until foamy. To the yeast mixture, add the sugar-zest mixture, softened butter, two eggs, orange flower water and salt. Stir with a wooden spoon until all ingredients are well mixed. Add half the flour to the bowl and mix with your hands until well blended. Add the remaining flour and continue mixing until fully incorporated. Knead the dough in the bowl for a few minutes until it is smooth, flexible, and no longer sticky. Cover the bowl with a damp kitchen towel and let the dough rest in a warm spot until it has roughly doubled in size (about one hour). Preheat the oven to its lowest setting and brush a rimmed baking sheet with olive oil. Punch down the dough. On a floured work surface, using your palms, roll the dough back and forth until it forms a log about 30 inches long and 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Place it on the prepared baking sheet and bring the ends together to form a circle with a hole in the center, forming a "crown." Tuck the bean and the king figurine into the dough and be careful that they're not near one another. Turn off the oven. Fill an ovenproof bowl with water and place it at the rear of the oven. Place the baking sheet with the dough crown in the warm oven. Let the dough rise for about one hour, or until it's nearly doubled in size. Remove the dough from the oven and preheat to 205°C (400°F). Beat the remaining egg in a small bowl and then brush it onto the dough. Scatter the candied fruits evenly over the top and sprinkle evenly with sugar. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden. When done, transfer to a wire rack and let cool on the pan. Carefully slice the cake in half crosswise. Spread the bottom layer with the filling of your choice and then gently add the top layer of the cake. Serve and enjoy!



Guy Fawkes Night

Guy Fawkes Night or Bonfire night take place every 5th of November and involves fireworks and bonfire displays. That night serves as a Protestant replacement of the All Hallows Eve or commonly known as Halloween. But how did it all start, and which are the traditions and the customs of that particular night of the year?

In 1605, the Gunpowder plot took place and it aimed at the assassination of King James I and the destruction of the House of Lords (Palace of Westminster) with the explosion of over 36 barrels of gunpowder. One of the perpetrators, Guy Fawkes was arrested while placing the barrels with the gunpowder and was later executed together with the others 26 person that helped him. On the aftermath, a year later the citizens of London lighted up bonfires in order to celebrate the failure of the assassination attempt of their king.

Until today, on the 5th of November fireworks and bonfires are common throughout Britain, in public places or in private gardens. Children make models of Guy Fawkes, which are burned on the fire. The guy is made of old clothes, and the clothes are filled with newspaper. People spend the night around the bonfires and their food consists of potatoes filled with butter and cheese, toffee apples, which are apples on a stick covered in sweet toffee, and in the north of England there is a special type of cake called parkin. Toasting marshmallows on the bonfire is also popular. During the night it is very common to wear a costume and especially the famous Guy Fawkes masks and doing trick or treats.

Guy Fawkes night is for sure one of the most famous celebrations in England and plays an important role in the religious tradition of the English.



IOANNIS TAMPOUREAS

Halloween

Halloween is a celebration observed in many countries on the 31st of October, the eve of Western Christian feast of All Saints Day. It begins the observance of "Allhallowtide" the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs and all the faithful departed.

One theory supports that many Halloween traditions were influenced by Celtic harvest festival, particularly the Gaelic festival Samhain in ancient Britain and Ireland. There was a belief that during this festival, the souls of the people who had died, return to visit their homes. So, people set bonfires on hilltops to scare all the evil spirits and sometimes wore masks or costumes (witches, demons, fairies) to avoid being recognized by the ghosts.

Celebrated in Ireland and Scotland for centuries, Irish and Scottish immigrants took many Halloween customs to North America in the 19th century, and then through American influence Halloween had spread to other countries by the late 20th and early 21st century.

STAMATIS MAGKANIOTIS



Scary and Unknown Facts about Halloween

Halloween is known to be one of the most exciting times of the year for most of the American, Canadian and British children and we all know why. Kids wait patiently till the 31st October comes, so as to get treats. But, do they know the background of Halloween?

First of all, Halloween as a lot of us already know, is similar to "the day of the dead", which is celebrated every single year in Mexico. Halloween is over 6000 years old and it didn't start with pumpkins, but with turnips, since Irish villagers would burn candles inside hollowed-out turnips in order to scare away the evil spirits. Nowadays, 99% of all pumpkins sold are used as Jack o' Lanterns on Halloween, and instead of trick or treating, great fun was had, by doing silly jokes I'm going to talk about after. Did you know that in the original tradition, you originally had to dance to receive a treat? What's more, if you see a spider during Halloween, you should take comfort, in the fact that a dead loved one is watching you.

Let's now talk about the silly jokes. These jokes were mainly done by little kids, who were throwing cabbages on the balconies of citizens, but after these "jokes" got really serious, they got banned. Luckily for us, the name of "Cabbage Night" didn't stick around too long, and instead of cabbages getting thrown at American's and British's windows, all they have to worry about this year, is a hoard of sugared-up children ravenous for candy.

In conclusion, we can all see how terrifying background Halloween has, but at the same time how much people love it! In Greece, we can say that we have a celebration similar to Halloween called: Apokries, which in other word is the Carnival!



STAMATIS VALLIANATOS

THE BLOODY WIFE



One day, specifically a rainy and dark night, as a little boy called Jason was watching a movie, something scary happened! He was home alone because his parents were away for work! It was Halloween and he was afraid because he was hearing strange noises and he was sure that somebody was in the house!

Suddenly, all the doors in the house slammed and the little boy heard a voice calling his name. He searched the whole house, believing that he would find the voice that called him, but as he was looking for her, there was a power cut and he felt something touching his hair, as if caressing it! Jason phoned his mother right away, but she did not answer this call !

He lit a candle and went to the kitchen in order to call his parents, but nobody answered. He even called the police, but it was like somebody did not want the boy to ask for help! Suddenly someone stabbed the boy in the ribs and he left the house!

Since then, the police is looking for that guy, because a lot of deaths occurred in this area and he is maybe responsible for all of these!

HARA SELOULI
ATHINA VOUTIRA

THE DIARY

It was Sunday night. Violette was running back home in angry tears. She had gone to a party. She had a bad feeling about the party but still went. On her way to the party, she was feeling like she was being followed. She kept turning around but the only thing she could see was an empty road.

During the party, she was feeling sick, so she went to the bathroom. After three minutes, she felt like someone was watching her again. Then she heard some noises, someone was repeatedly banging the door loudly. She felt goosebumps all over her body, so she went to tell the others. Nobody believed her and they all started laughing and calling her an attention seeker. She left the party crying. Violette was running back home in angry tears. Suddenly she stopped when she heard somebody screaming her name. She saw Freddy, her best friend since elementary school. He offered to walk her home. When they arrived, Freddy asked Violette if she could give him a cup of water. She went to the kitchen, but Freddy didn't follow. She was confused when she saw all the knives hanging on the wall with blood on them. She thought it was her siblings messing around with her. She ignored it and grabbed a cup to give it to Freddy. Freddy was gone... She wasn't in a good mood, so she went to her room and shut the door. She started writing her diary...

"Dear diary, this is Freddy..."

The next day everything was fine and when she came back from school, she started writing her diary again.

"Dear diary,

This is Freddy. Today I am planning on killing Violette."

After two hours her parents came back from work. "Violette, have you cleaned your room?" Nobody responded... "VIOLETTE!" The mom angrily went to her room and was traumatized by what she saw. Tears were running down the mom's cheeks. She grabbed the diary from Violette's hands. She read the first two lines and that was enough to understand what was happening. Freddy never existed. Violette was writing as Freddy. Violette killed herself.



British Civitation

TRAVEL



Did you know?

● **Did you know that London features an overwhelming number of 9 Airports! Yes, you heard that right!**

1. London Heathrow (LHR)

London Heathrow Airport is the Largest Airport in the UK and one of the largest in Europe! It is the base of British Airways, which is the Flag Carrier of the UK. It is served by almost 100 airlines (98 to be exact)!

2. London Gatwick (LGW)

London Gatwick is the second largest airport in the area of London. It is the base of several airlines such as British Airways, EasyJet and Wizz Air. During 2021 Gatwick handled 6,2 million passengers and 11,6K tonnes of freight.

3. London City Airport (LCY)

London City Airport is known as the most spectacular airport in the area. It is built in the heart of London and has one of the most breathtaking landings. The airport's runway (just 1500m. long) is built in the embankment of the river Thames. Aircrafts that are landing there are passing just over the skyscrapers in the City of London and must make a 6-degree approach which is twice as steep as in a normal airport.

4. London Stansted (STN)

London Stansted International Airport is the service airbase of the well-known low-cost Airline, Ryanair. It is known for its bad accommodations and extreme distances from the City Center. This airport was chosen from low-cost airlines due to its low fares for flying from there.

5. London Luton (LTN)

It has been ranked UK's Worst airport for 5 years in a row, so when people hear about that, they try to avoid it in any way possible. London Luton is the most hated airport in London. It is served by EasyJet & Wizz Air. Low variety of shops and long queues have given it its rank.

6. London Southend (SEN)

It is a small airport which is located near the sea and approximately 70 km away from the city of London. It is served by only one airline, the low-cost carrier EasyJet and flights to a very limited range of destinations.

7. Farnborough Airport (FAB)

It is mainly used by executive/business jets and small general aviation airplanes. Every year it hosts the Farnborough International Airshow, which is one of the largest air shows of aerospace in the world.

8. Blackbushe Airport (BBS)

Blackbushe Airport is a relatively small airport which is used by small single-engine general aviation planes. Nothing important to know about that airport.

9. London Biggin Hill Airport (BQH)

Biggin Hill Airport was and still is mainly used by the Royal Air Force (RAF). The airport was used mainly during World War 2, and today it is used by business jets only.

THE CONCORDE



The Concorde is the second fastest Supersonic Passenger Airliner in the world, after the Soviet Built TU-144 by Tupolev. It was built by Aerospatiale - BAC, a combination of French and British planemakers. It was the only Supersonic Airliner that made it in the market and was flown by 2 airlines: British Airways and Air France. It could do the Distance London Heathrow - John. F. Kennedy International Airport (New York) in just 3 hours! An impressive amount of time, considering that with a normal jetliner it took about 7 hours. The start of the end of Concorde's era began in 2001 when a fatal crash occurred near Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, marking the first crash of Concorde's blank fatal accidents list for more than 20 years. Following economical insufficiency due to the grounding of the type, the last flight of the jetliner took off on 26 of November 2003.

Ready For Zurich?



Zurich is a beautiful city located in Switzerland that is known for its stunning natural surroundings and rich cultural history. The city is situated on the banks of the Limmat River, which runs through the heart of the city, and is surrounded by the Alps, giving it a breathtaking view.

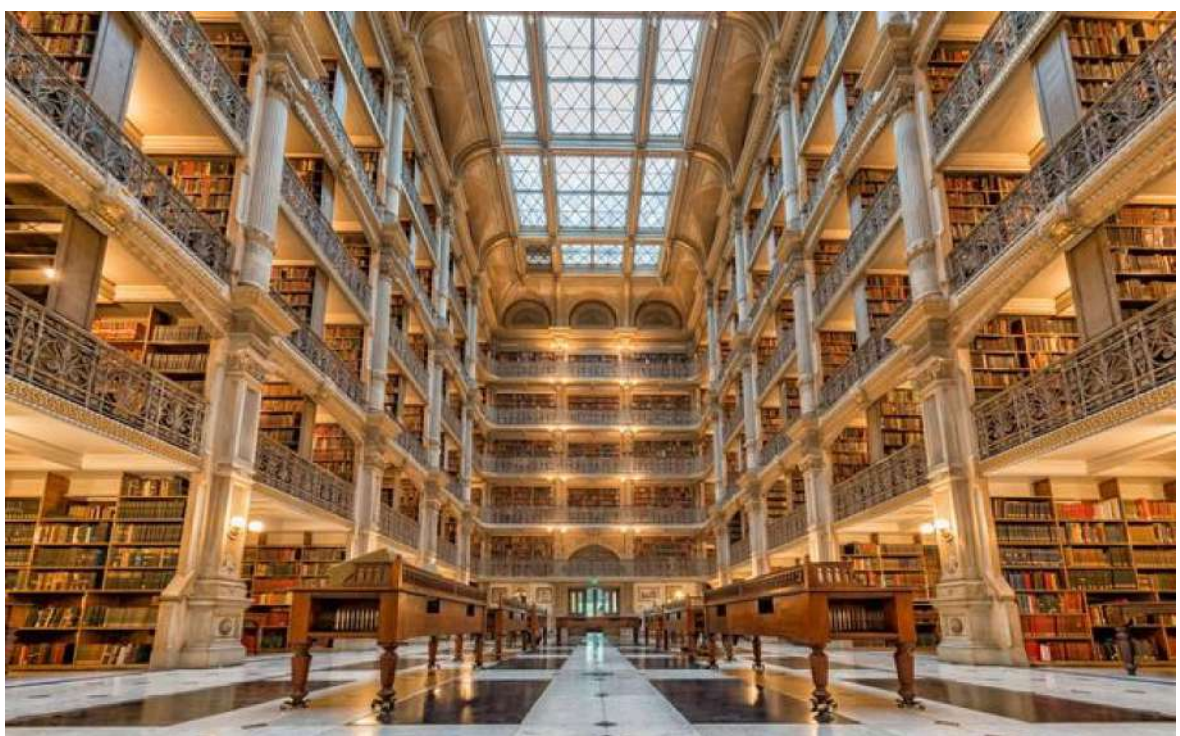
One of the standout features of Zurich is its old town, which is filled with historic buildings and narrow streets that are home to a variety of restaurants, bars, and shops. The Old Town is a great place to explore.

If you're interested in culture, Zurich has plenty to offer, with numerous museums and galleries to visit. The Swiss National Museum is worth visiting, as it offers a comprehensive overview of the country's history and cultural heritage. The Kunsthaus Zurich is also worth a visit, as it houses one of the largest art collections in Europe, with works by artists such as Monet, Van Gogh, and more artists.



The city is also home to a number of parks and green fields, which are perfect for many people. People like doing picnic on sunny days. The most famous of these is the Lindenhof, which offers stunning views over the city and the surrounding mountains.

Concluding, Zurich is a fantastic destination for travelers who are looking to experience the beauty of Switzerland while also visiting the city's rich cultural history buildings. Whether you're interested in exploring the city's museums and galleries or enjoying a variety of outdoor activities, Zurich is the right place for you!

BOOK REVIEWS



#THRONE OF GLASS



The Throne of Glass series is a book series consisting of 8 books and is written by the American Sarah J Maas. The first book named after the series, was released for the first time in august 2012 and instantly became a massive success, causing it to enter the list of The New York Times Best Sellers.




In the first book, we follow Celeana, a former assassin currently serving her sentence in the kings labour camp, Endovier. Though, her life is about to take a sudden turn when she catches the attention of the captain of the royal guard, as a candidate for the kings Royal Champion, due to her managing to overcome any expectations and survive a year in the camp.

During her training for the faceoff with the other candidates, she finds a dark secret lingering on the castle, which will force her to take a decision and devote herself to revealing the kings plot.

The book is a young adult fantasy novel, with a well-balanced share of romance and action. Additionally, the characters are extremely well developed, each with a different personality and cause for serving the king.

Furthermore, the way Maas, describes the stunning scenery and surroundings creates crystal clear representations of the pictures to the reader.

Concluding, I would highly recommend this book series to anyone looking for a good read over the holidays, due to how easy the plot is to follow and of course, because you will undoubtedly get hooked up!



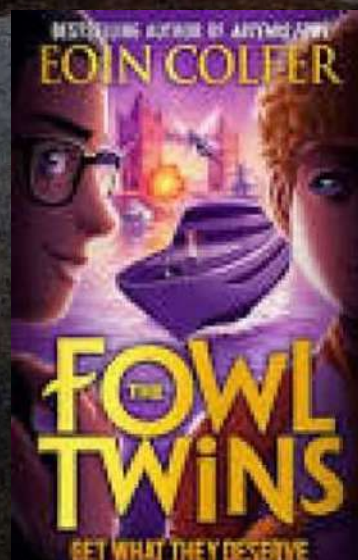
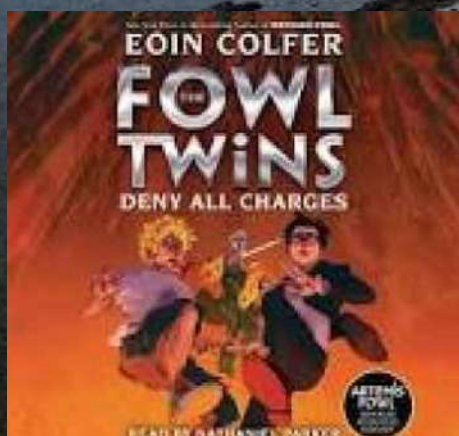
THE FOWL TWINS

The following presentation is about the book series named after the main protagonist "Artemis Fowl". The first book was published in 2001 by Eoin Colfer. Following its massive success, came : "The Arctic Incident, The Time Paradox, The Atlantis Complex" and finally "The Last Guardian". The first cycle of this book series was so successful and impactful that the author decided to continue the story on 2019, after a 5year hiatus, and released: "The Fowl Twins Deny All Charges" and "Get What They Deserve". The series is currently worked as ongoing.

In the timespan the first cycle covers, we follow Artemis through countless adventures with his main ally and fow, a tribe of magical elven like creatures living deep underground, banished by humans long ago. After thorough research he conceives a masterplan unlike any other, to take hostage a female reconnaissance division officer of Leprecom and force them to pay a huge ransom in priceless elven gold, marking the start of their relationship.

In 2001, an announcement was made about a screen adaptation. In 2003 the screenplay had finalized, and the casting started. After long lasting radio silence, on 2017 Disney announced the movie was to be aired on the 9th of August 2019. The date was moved back to 12th of June 2020 due to the outraging pandemic and was characterized as a bad adaptation.

Artemis Fowl is a teen fantasy sci-fi novel series for anyone looking for a good read. That is of course if they are not discouraged by the overwhelming amount of novel available in the series.



TIME FOR FUN!



riddles

1. What has many teeth, but can't bite?
2. What is cut on a table, but is never eaten?
3. What has words, but never speaks?
4. What runs all around a backyard, yet never moves?
5. What can travel all around the world without leaving its corner?
6. What has a thumb and four fingers, but is not a hand?
7. What has a head and a tail but no body?
8. Where does one wall meet the other wall?
9. What building has the most stories?
10. What tastes better than it smells?

1. She sells seashells by the seashore
2. How can a clam cram in a clean cream can?
3. I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream
4. I saw Susie sitting in a shoeshine shop
5. Susie works in a shoeshine shop. Where she shines she sits, and where she sits she shines
6. Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he?
7. Can you can a can as a canner can can a can?
8. I have got a date at a quarter to eight; I'll see you at the gate, so don't be late
9. You know New York, you need New York, you know you need unique New York
10. I saw a kitten eating chicken in the kitchen
11. If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?
12. I thought I thought of thinking of thanking you

TONGUE TWISTERS! SAY THEM AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN!

Answers to the riddles:
 1. a comb
 2. a deck of cards
 3. a book
 4. a fence
 5. a stamp
 6. a glove
 7. a corn
 8. on the corner
 9. the library
 10. your tongue

Moments






πολύτροπη