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age: 10
grade: 5th
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The Mysterious Gift

Winter break had just begun when I noticed something strange on my doorstep. It was a small, shiny box wrapped in silver paper, which shimmered even in the dim morning light. A little tag read, "To the one who believes in wonder." I hesitated before opening it. What I found inside was not what I expected.

It was a tiny, talking animal asking for help. "Hello, young adventurer," the white mouse squeaked. "I'm Snowy the mouse, and I have a message from Father Christmas, also known as Santa, he needs your help because the Grinch stole Santa's sleigh and without that he can't deliver presents to everybody, and Christmas will be ruined!" "Has Santa looked for the Grinch yet?" I asked. "Yes, but Santa looked everywhere, but the Grinch was never found." Snowy replied sadly.

"Why did Santa pick me to help?" I asked. "Because you are the chosen one." Snowy said. "Now touch the gift and you will find yourself in Winter Wonderland." Snowy said. I did as she said, and immediately found out that the box was a portkey, that transports you to Winter Wonderland.

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"Ahh!" I squealed as everything went past like a lilac blur. Then suddenly I landed right in the rosy pink snow. I got up and Snowy squeaked, "Welcome to the Winter Wonderland!" "Wow!" I said, speechless. "We need to find Pebbles the Polar bear, she will tell you what you need for finding the Grinch!" Snowy squeaked.

"Look!" I yelped. "Is that her?" "Yeah, I think so that is Pebbles." Snowy said, thoughtfully.

"Hi Snowy!" Pebbles said kindly. "Oh good, you brought the chosen one." "Hi." I said, timidly.

"My name is Alice." I said. "Quickly, we don't have much time before Santa wants to see us all." Snowy spoke up.

"You are right." Pebbles exclaimed. "Alice, use this Grinch tracker," Pebbles said, handing me a red and white compass. "When the Grinch is nearby, it will flash green and show you the way too." "Has Santa used one of these yet?" I asked. "No," Snowy said. "There is only one in all the land, and only the chosen one can use it." And with that we all went to the place where we had to meet Santa.

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I heard the sound of jingle bells, and I saw Santa! "Ho, Ho, Ho," he said kindly. "I am Alice," I said, and I have the Grinch tracker. I showed it to Santa and he just replied "Let's start searching now for my sleigh and the Grinch too!" He said.

We were walking and suddenly my tracker flashed a light green and then I got a great idea I said "Grinch is always with his dog, Max, so if we hear Max barking we will find the Grinch!" Everyone thought this was a great idea and we all listened for his bark. "Ruff" I followed the sound to a very grumpy Grinch saying "Quiet Max, Santa will hear you!" "I did indeed," Santa said and captured the Grinch and got the sleigh back.

"Well thanks for helping me Alice," Santa said. "Touch the gift and you will be home." Snowy said. I was dragged out of the world and in my cozy bed at 7:00am in the morning.