

# CHRISTMAS

## LITERACY SET FOR OLDER KIDS

INFERENCE:

### The SNOW MAIDEN


A Russian Legend

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A long time ago, there lived a peasant named Ivan and his wife, Maria. Although they loved each other very much, they were unhappy because they had no children. Their greatest desire in life was to have a son or daughter they could laugh with and play with. One winter day, they noticed children playing in the snow and building a snowman, so they decided to make one too.

As they were starting to make the snowman, Maria said to Ivan, "Since we have no children of our own, let's make a snow girl!" Ivan agreed, and they made a pretty little maiden out of snow. They rolled the snow into dainty little hands and feet, gave the Snow Maiden little eyes, a tiny nose and mouth and two long braids. When they were done, they looked at the Snow Maiden and thought they had never seen such a pretty little girl.

Ivan said, "Little Snow Maiden, speak to me," and Maria exclaimed, "Yes, come to life so you can play like the other children!" Immediately, they noticed that the Snow Maiden's eyes began to flutter and her cheeks turned pink. Soon standing before them was a real girl with blue eyes and golden hair. At first they just stared at the Snow Maiden and were too shocked to speak but finally Ivan asked, "Where did you come from and who are you?" "I have come from the land of winter, from the land of snow and ice and cold," the child replied. "I am your daughter, your very own little girl!" As she ran to the couple and called them much.



COMPARE AND CONTRAST:

### La Befana and Babushka


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

La Befana  
*Legend from Italy*

Long ago there was an old woman who lived alone. She once had a husband and infant child, but sadly, they both passed away due to illness, leaving the woman heartbroken. Although the woman was not wealthy, she did treasure a few items – a small doll that belonged to her daughter and a scrap of wool from her wedding dress. She kept these treasures locked up in a chest.

Every night the woman would gaze at the stars, searching for the special star that was rumored to signal the birth of a new king. One cold night, about 2,000 years ago, the woman met some visitors who told her that they had seen the star and were on their way to Bethlehem. Excitedly, they asked her to join them but she looked at their fine clothes and feared she would not fit in among such wealthy people and she decided not to go.


A shepherd came to her house and he too told her that he was on his way to Bethlehem. She decided that she would leave in the morning to see the new king. All she could give was the doll and the scrap of wool. Tears welled in her eyes as she thought that



TEXT EVIDENCE:

### Reindeer/Caribou

Ever wondered what the difference is between reindeer and caribou? They're actually the same animal but are called different names in different places. In Europe, they're called reindeer and in America, they're called caribou.



Caribou are members of the deer family and live in the northern areas of Europe, North America, Asia, and Greenland. Caribou are nomadic animals and are constantly moving in search of food. When snow begins to

SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

Find the synonym for the underlined word.

The children were shocked when they saw the new puppy playing under the Christmas tree on Christmas morning.

SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

Find the antonym for the underlined word.

Our friends had a wonderful time celebrating Hanukah.

Holly Jolly Homophones

Which homophone would fit in this sentence?

When my mom baked cookies, the smell of cinnamon filled the \_\_\_\_\_.

A. heir  
B. air



4TH – 5TH GRADES  
THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR

# 7 PASSAGES

## ALIGNED TO KEY READING STANDARDS

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A Russian Legend

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As they were starting to make the snowman, Maria said to Ivan, "Since we have no children of our own, let's make a snowman." Ivan agreed, and they made a pretty little maiden of snow. Her hands and feet, gave the Snow Maiden little eyes, and when they were done, they looked at the Snow Maiden and thought she was so pretty.

Ivan said, "Little Snow Maiden, speak to me like the other children!" Immediately, they noticed her cheeks turned pink. Soon standing before them, the first they just stared at the Snow Maiden and wondered how she did you come from and who are you?" "I have come from the ice and cold," the child replied. "I am your daughter and hugged them, all three of them wept tears of joy and told their neighbors in nearby huts to tell them they were singing and dancing.

All winter the Snow Maiden played with them and was always happy, sweet and good natured. Ivan and Maria were so happy when the first signs of spring appeared, and the Snow Maiden was no longer as lively as usual. She even seemed to be sad in her eyes and told them that she had to go home. Both begged her to stay and they were so sad that they shut the door to the hut to stop the Snow Maiden. When she held her little girl, the child started to melt. She had a white fur cap and white fur coat. Where the water went, it was a pool of water.

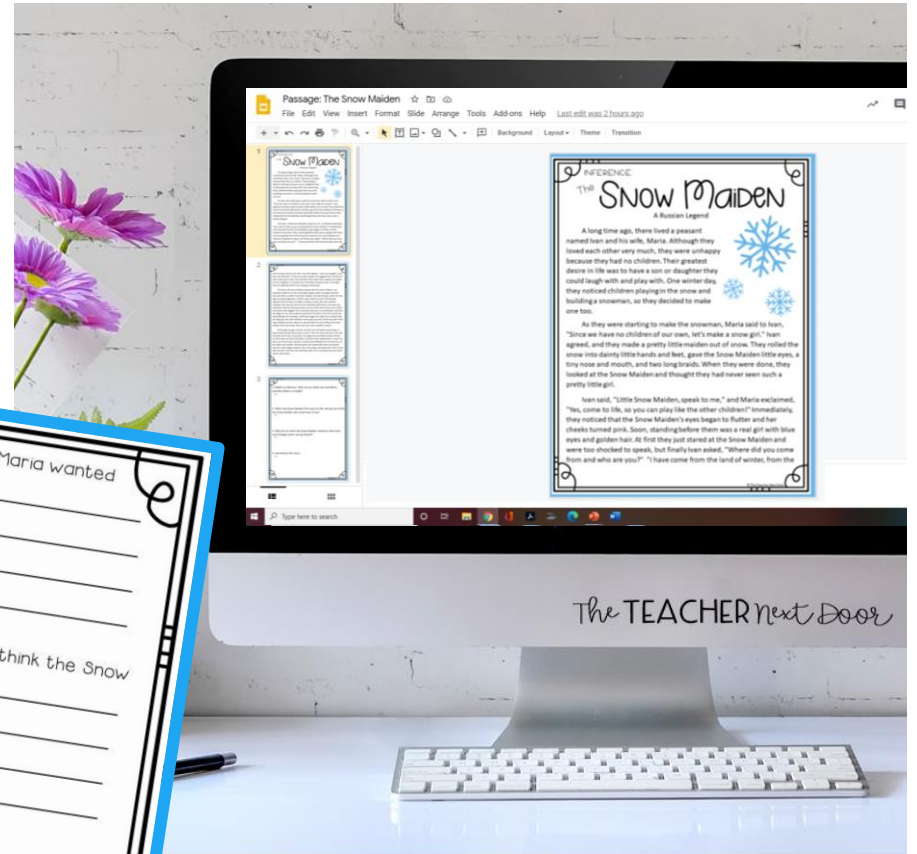
All through spring, summer and fall, the Snow Maiden was so much. Then the first snow fell in the country and the Snow Maiden heard a knock on their door and then they opened the door and the Snow Maiden came in. She stayed with them and played with them in the land of snow. This time Ivan and Maria were so happy.

1. Make an inference. Why do you think Ivan and Maria wanted children so badly? \_\_\_\_\_

2. When the Snow Maiden first came to life, why do you think the Snow Maiden also cried tears of joy? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think the Snow Maiden started to feel tired and unhappy when spring started? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Summarize this story: \_\_\_\_\_



**Perfect for:**

- Whole Class Teaching
- Independent Work
- Centers or Partners

# INCLUDES A DIGITAL FORMAT

**Google Slides™ for:**

- **Passages**
- **Poetry**
- **Writing Activities**

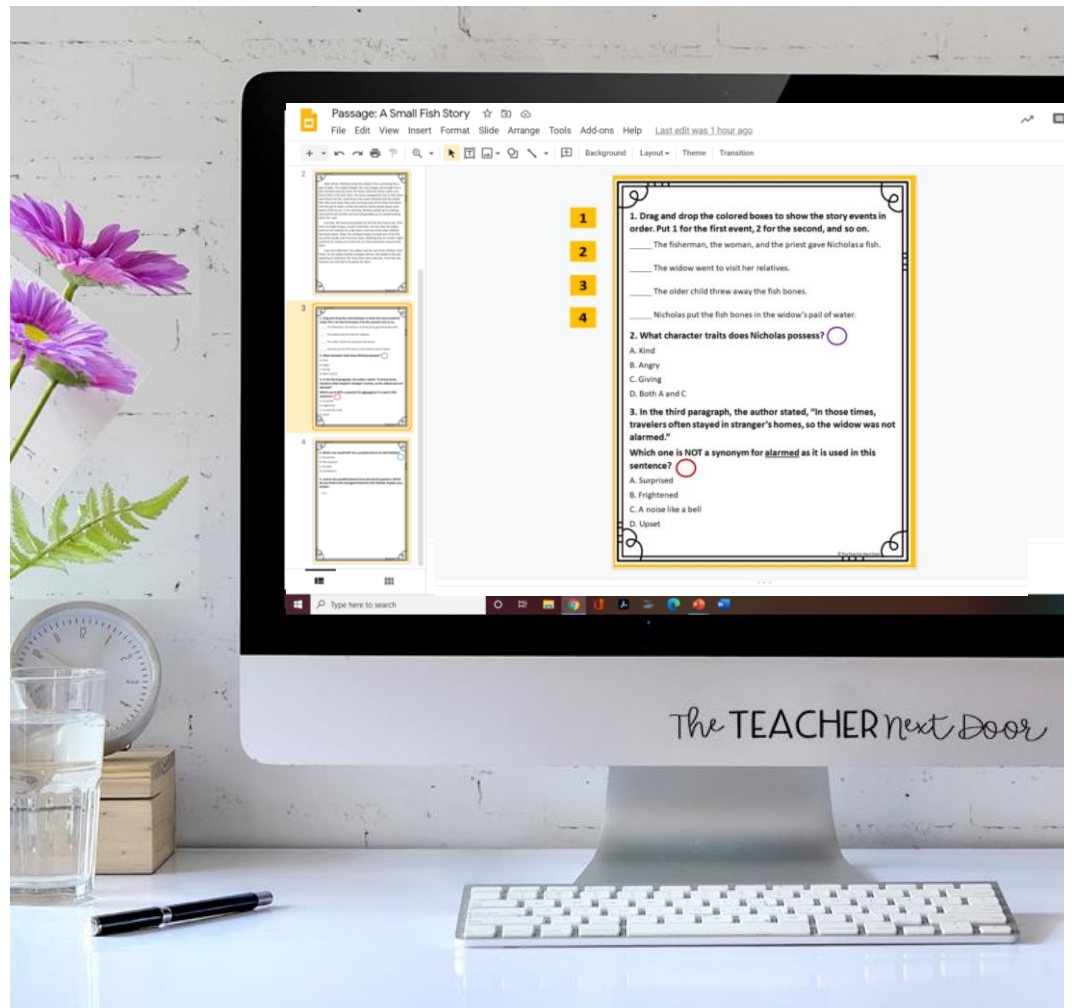
**Google Forms™ for:**

- **Task Cards**

**\*\*\*CAN ALSO BE USED ON OTHER PLATFORMS**

**WORKS WELL FOR:**

- **Independent Work**
- **Literacy Centers**

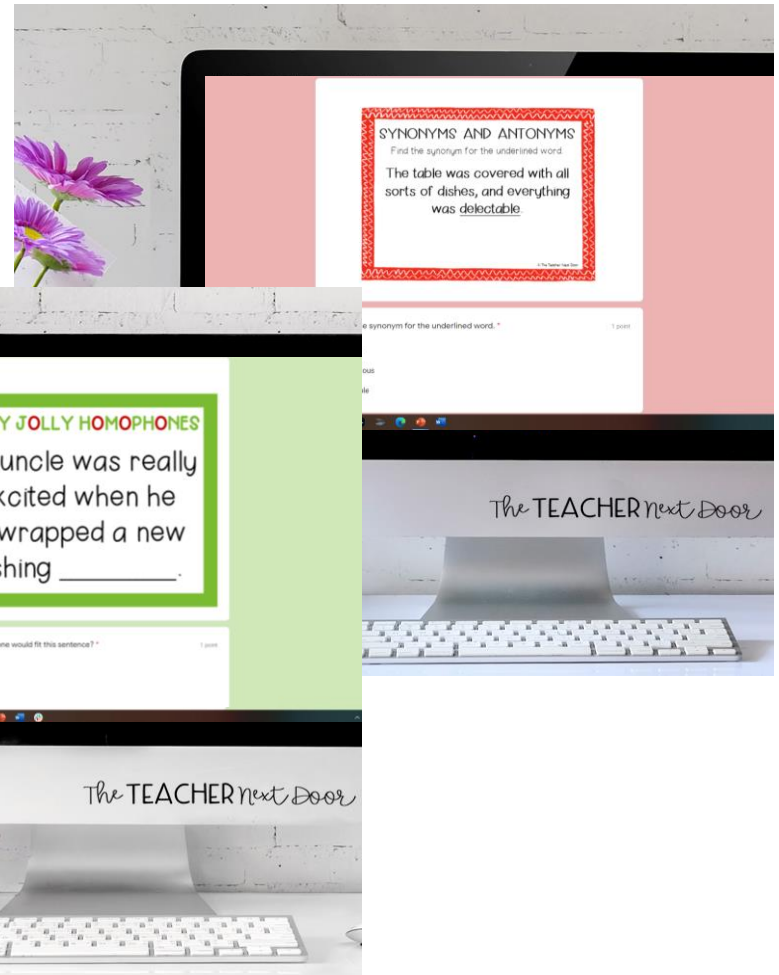
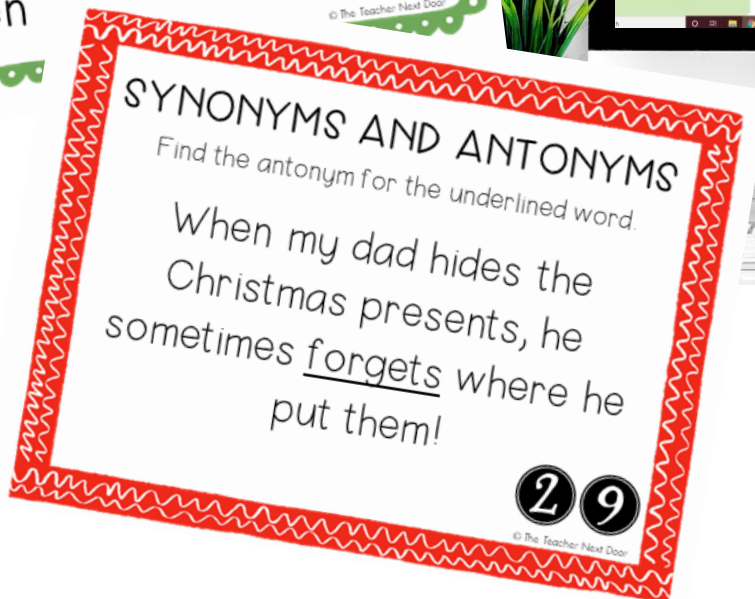
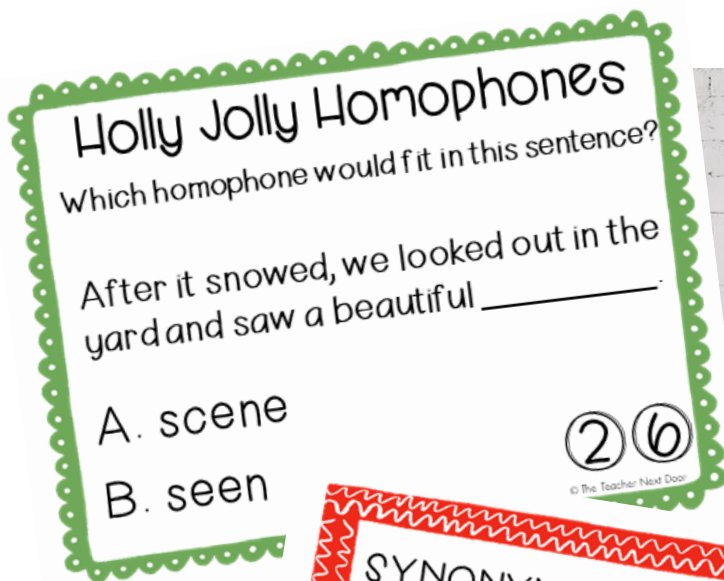


**NO PREP Digital!**

**THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR**

# TWO SETS OF 32 TASK CARDS

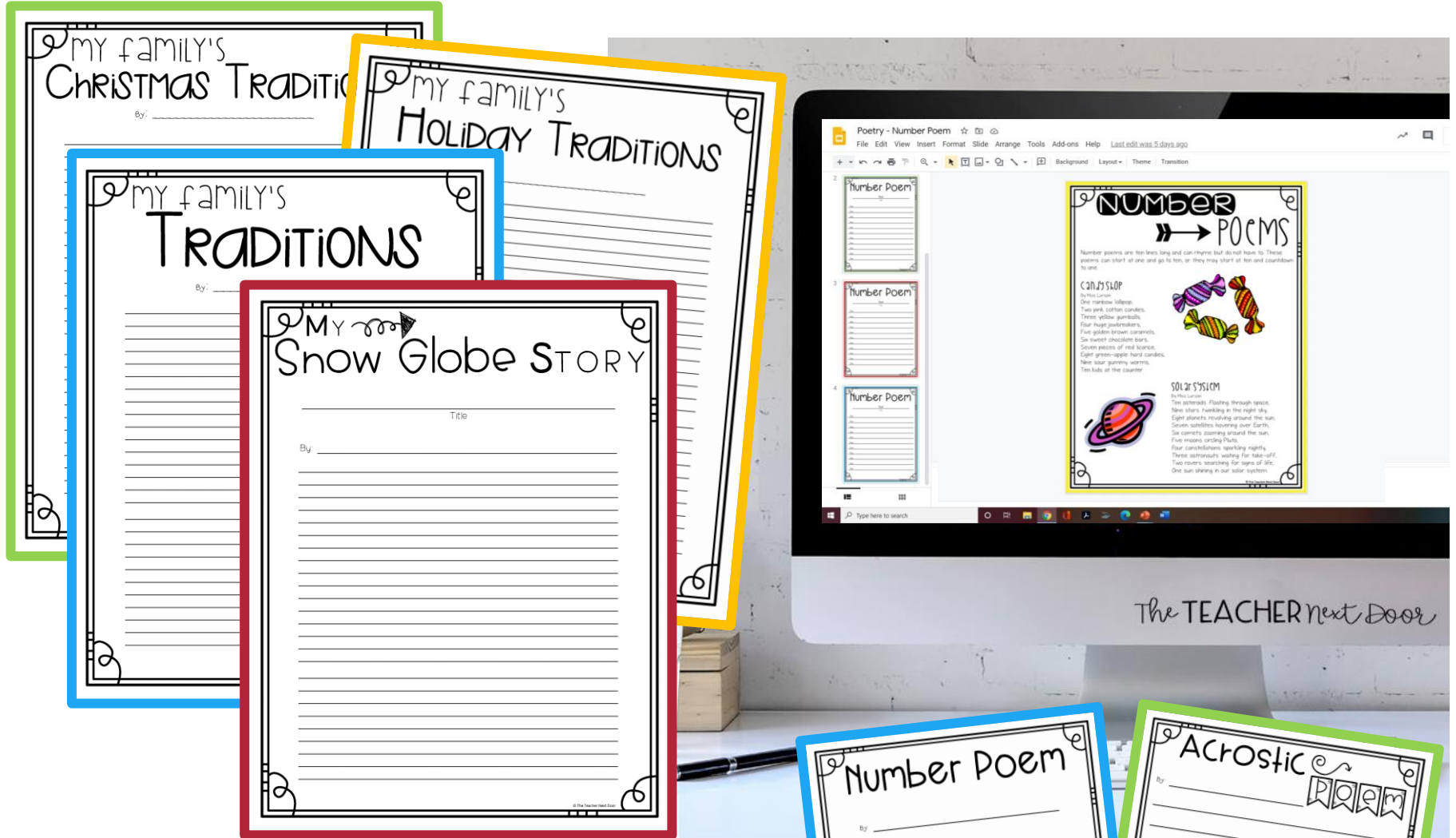
- **Holly Jolly Homophones**
- **Synonyms and Antonyms**



**Can be used for:**

- **Exit Slips**
- **Whole Class Games**
- **Literacy Centers**

# WRITING ACTIVITIES AND POETRY



**Can be used for:**

- **Whole Class Lessons**
- **Small Groups/Partners**
- **Independent Work**

# Looking for MORE Holiday Resources?

CLICK [HERE](#) to take a look!

**HOLIDAYS**  
**AROUND THE WORLD**

**COMPLETE UNIT**  
**UPPER ELEMENTARY**

**21**  
**COUNTRIES**

This Holidays Around the World for Older Kids features 21 Countries and their celebrations of Christmas as well as other holidays such as Hanukkah, Diwali, Ramadan, Kwanzaa, and St. Lucia's!