



# SPOOKLEY AND MISTLETOE'S WINTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION TOOLKIT



## EDUCATORS, PARENTS, AND CAREGIVERS

Use this toolkit, along with the book *Mistletoe and the Christmas Kittens* by Joe Troiano and the movie *Spookley and the Christmas Kittens*, to help your young ones understand the power of unselfish acts of kindness.

# Let's Talk

Read *Mistletoe and the Christmas Kittens* by Joe Troiano or listen to it on Spookley's YouTube Channel. Discuss its themes.

QUESTIONS	KEY THEMES AND OBJECTIVES
What did the other cats at the barn do when they saw Mistletoe? Why?	They ran away because he looked different. <i>Guide children to avoid judging someone based on how they look.</i>
What did Mistletoe do when he saw their reaction?	He spent his life hiding. <i>Use empathy to help children realize how they would feel if they were left out.</i>
Why did Mistletoe care so much about the three kittens?	He identified with their situation: being without a home. <i>Help children see that they can help others even if they themselves are in a difficult situation. In fact, generosity may bring a reward of its own!</i>
Why did Mistletoe hide when he heard the children coming?	He thought the children would judge him, as the other cats did when he was a kitten. <i>Lead children to recognize that other peoples' behavior does not represent the feelings of all.</i>

## Ideas for teamwork

- Mistletoe had never met the kittens before, but he marched all night through a snowstorm to find a home for them. Has a stranger ever done something nice for you?
- Mistletoe spent his life hiding because he thought his strange colors would make people scared or angry. Do you think he was right to hide?
- There are many chances for you to help people in your community or family, in your town, school, or at home. Think of three things you can do all by yourself to make someone's day better.
- Thinking of the needs of others more than your own is called being **selfless**. Mistletoe was **selfless** when he brought the kittens to the farmhouse even though he was freezing and tired. Can you think of another story you know where a character was selfless? What happened to them?

# Storytelling

The note on Mistletoe's box says "it is better to give than it is to receive." Tell or write a true story about a time you gave a gift.

Your story should answer these questions:

- Why were you giving a gift?
  - Who did you give a gift to?
  - What did they do when they received your gift?
  - How did you feel when you gave the gift?
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**Now fill in the blanks to create a funny story about a time you gave a gift.**

Today was \_\_\_\_\_ Day!  
noun

I gave a gift to my \_\_\_\_\_ .  
noun

It was a \_\_\_\_\_ . I chose it because it was \_\_\_\_\_ .  
noun adjective

When they opened it they \_\_\_\_\_ because they were so \_\_\_\_\_ .  
verb adjective

It made me feel \_\_\_\_\_ . Next year I will give them a \_\_\_\_\_ .  
adjective noun

**Noun:** person, place, thing, or animal  
*examples: unicorn, pizza, rock*

**Adjective:** describes a noun  
*examples: funny, smelly, hot*

**Verb:** an action  
*examples: run, cry, throw*

# Rhyme Time!

The book *Mistletoe and the Christmas Kittens* rhymes. Can you complete these rhyming sentences? Circle the right word.

Mistletoe was born on Christmas day  
and when the other kittens saw him they all ran \_\_\_\_\_.

**fast      away      play**

His first Christmas wasn't merry. It wasn't jolly or bright.  
It was a sad and lonely, silent \_\_\_\_\_.

**night      morning      kite**

He found three kittens lost in the snow.  
They were cold and afraid, with no place to \_\_\_\_\_.

**glow      run      go**

Mistletoe knew what it felt like to be lost and alone,  
He knew these kittens needed a \_\_\_\_\_.

**stone      fish      home**

He marched and marched till his paws were sore.  
Then he thought about the kittens and marched some \_\_\_\_\_!

**more      pour      store**

He looked in the box... there was nothing inside.  
He heard footsteps behind him. He had to \_\_\_\_\_.

**run      dance      hide**

They hugged him, and kissed him, and shouted with glee,  
"You're the best Christmas present under the \_\_\_\_\_!"

**bed      tree      box**

# Gift Giving

Gifts aren't always things we can see or touch. Mistletoe gives the kittens a home by marching through a snowstorm to bring them to safety. His hard work was a gift. Draw or write a list of other gifts that you can't buy at a store.

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# Traditions

There are many holidays celebrated in the winter, each with its own traditions. One of the traditions at Christmas is decorating a tree. Make this tree extra special for our friends at Holiday Hill Farm!



# Word Search

find the words from the story of *Mistletoe and the Christmas Kittens*.



Mistletoe

Snow

Home

Kittens

Gift

Cold

Christmas

Family

Hide





MISTLETOE



Every Day is a Holiday™



SCAT



SCRAM



SHOO



Every Day is a Holiday™



# JACK SCARECROW™



Every Day is a Holiday™



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