



Welcome to a Season of Stories at the White House!

This year's holiday theme combines the wonder of the season with the magic of those classic children's stories that have captured our hearts and shaped American culture. Just like the holidays, great stories have a way of bringing families together. On winter nights, children enjoy curling up with a loved one for cocoa and a story. And parents beam with excitement when their children unwrap a new book which just happens to be one of their childhood favorites.

Since stories bring us together, we've brought some favorite children's storybook characters to the White House to celebrate the holidays. Our thanks to the Executive Residence staff members who recreated the characters. And special thanks to the authors and illustrators who have given us the stories we celebrate.

Happy Holidays and happy reading to all!

Ben Bond

Laura Bush





EAST WING

Ready To Read

In the sleigh in the East Wing you will find many of your favorite children's books. And throughout the White House, you will find story book characters spreading holiday cheer, including Curious George, Nancy Drew, and Stuart Little.

On the easel is a painting of the Diplomatic Reception Room by artist Barbara Ernst Prey which graces the cover of this year's holiday card. The Diplomatic Reception Room is used to welcome distinguished visitors, and more than sixty years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt recorded his radio "fireside chats" here. Doesn't it look like an inviting place to read?

GROUND FLOOR CORRIDOR

Curiously Fun

The familiar faces of Curious George and his “man with the yellow hat” await you in the east hallway. Created by H.A. and Margret Rey, George’s antics have entertained readers for more than sixty years. Who can forget when he made boats out of the newspapers he was supposed to deliver, or when an ostrich swallowed his bugle?

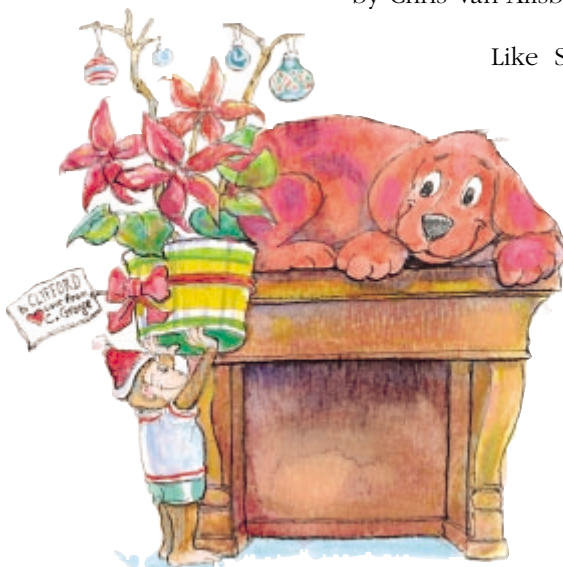
Don’t be surprised if you find our dogs Spot and Barney visiting with Clifford the Big Red Dog. Clifford is so big that when he runs after cars, he catches them in his mouth! Emily Elizabeth, from the stories by Norman Bridwell, is here to make sure Clifford behaves.



FOYER AND CROSS HALL

Sweets, Santa, and Seuss

You can’t miss the ten-foot tall Nutcrackers from E.T.A. Hoffman’s classic tale. They welcome you to a candy land that looks good enough to eat. But don’t try! Santa Claus from *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg, is watching to make sure you’re good.



Like Spot and Barney, our cat Willie also has a best friend in the White House—the Cat in the Hat from Dr. Seuss. Willie especially likes how Seuss’s sly cat changes a boring, rainy afternoon into a messy adventure.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff are just as sly as the Cat in the Hat as they try to trick the troll into letting them cross his bridge. Maybe we can outsmart him, too, and sneak into the State Dining Room.

STATE DINING ROOM

Gingerbread Galore

Wouldn't it be great to live in a house made of gingerbread? You might never come out! But then you'd miss the gingerbread replica of the White House. Created by White House pastry chefs, the house is more than three feet tall and six feet wide—and completely edible! Around the gingerbread house, you will find more of your favorite characters made of marzipan, including James and the Giant Peach, the Three Little Pigs, and the Very Hungry Caterpillar. Through an open window, you can even see the room from *Goodnight Moon*.

Don't be surprised if Alice, the Mad Hatter, and the Queen of Hearts invite you to join them at the dining table for a cup of tea. These characters from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* will want you to stay and chat, but Rabbit will remind you, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!" So hurry to the next room . . .



RED ROOM

Holiday Traditions

The Red Room is perfectly decorated for the holidays in dazzling shades of red. Cheerful red poinsettias brighten the north wall. A cranberry topiary sits on an antique marble-top table. The mantle is draped with a garland made of favorite holiday treats, including red candy apples and popcorn balls.

BLUE ROOM

Pages from the Past

We always try to find the biggest and most beautiful tree for the official White House Christmas tree. This year's Fraser fir is eighteen feet tall! We had to move the chandelier in the Blue Room just to make room. The tree was presented by Jim and Diane Chapman and their children, Daniel, David, Julia, Laura, and Rachel, of Silent Night Evergreens in Wisconsin.

Like many families, we decorate our tree with ornaments passed down by our parents and grandparents. These ornaments, first used by Barbara Bush in 1989, are on loan from the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University. Look closely and you will find Rumpelstiltskin, Little Red Riding Hood, and "Some Pig", Wilbur from *Charlotte's Web*. Under the tree, Santa has delivered piles of books because he knows that a good book is the perfect gift for readers of all ages.





GREEN ROOM

Dreaming of Sugarplums

Topiaries made of sugarplums, gumdrops, and rock candies adorn the festive Green Room. The historic portrait of Benjamin Franklin by David Martin compliments the antique furnishings from the early 1800s.

EAST ROOM

And they lived happily ever after. . .

Like sugarplums and gingerbread, no season of stories would be complete without Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy, and Marmee are together again, sharing stories near the fireplace. This family is inseparable, just like best friends Frog and Toad.

Arnold Lobel's little pals are riding their bicycle on the northeast mantel and celebrating the holidays together.

On the next mantle, Harry Potter and his owl, Hedwig, keep a close eye on Frog and Toad. We hope Harry doesn't turn Frog into a prince! Even Muggles will enjoy the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry from J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

Franklin Dixon's Hardy Boys and Carolyn Keene's Nancy Drew sleuth for a clue in the opposite corner. Maybe they will find the secret of the old clock somewhere in the White House.

Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* inspires the centerpiece of the dessert table in the East Room. White House pastry chefs used fifty pounds of chocolate, ten pounds of bubblegum, and ten pounds of lollipops to build Willy Wonka's factory and bubblegum machine. The sugar replicas of Willie Wonka, Violet Beauregarde, and two Oompa-Loompas are Whipple-Scrumptious!

The traditional crèche has been displayed in the East Room for more than thirty years. Made in Italy in the 18th century, the figures representing the Christmas story are made of carved wood and terra cotta.

We hope you have enjoyed seeing your favorite storybook characters and perhaps meeting some new ones in our Season of Stories. May your holiday season be full of family, friendship, and favorite stories!



WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER

This holiday season, characters from *Stuart Little* by E.B. White and *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown are waiting to welcome you to The White House Visitor Center. The center, located at the southeast corner of 15th and E Streets N.W., is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.



IN APPRECIATION

The White House is grateful to illustrator Steven Kellogg of New York for creating the artwork for this program. Mr. Kellogg has written and illustrated numerous children's books, including Pinkerton, Behave! and The Island of the Skog.