



Seasons: winter



This is Tom! He is already all kitted out to brave the cold! Every winter, Tom spends his Christmas holidays at his grandparents' house in the mountains. He loves the crunch of fresh snow under his boots. He loves looking out into the distance at the snowy peaks on the horizon, and most of all... having snowball fights!



The big day has arrived! That morning, Mum helped Tom pack his bags, and now they are loading the car. Right! Everything's in! Mum tells Tom all about the amazing holiday his grandparents have planned for him and how Granny and Grandpa can't wait to see him.



Sitting in the back of the car, Tom can already see the famous mountaintops with their eternally snow-capped peaks. He is already thinking about what he's going to do once he arrives! He knows that Granny and Grandpa will give him the warmest of welcomes, as they always do, and that they'll have lots of activities in store for him. Tom spends the rest of the journey thinking about all the happy memories of his winter holidays.



«We're here! « shouts Tom. He jumps out of the car and runs into Granny's arms. And Grandpa is treated to a enooooormous hug, too. Now it's time for Mum to leave. She still has some driving to do...



The next day, Granny tells Tom what they have planned. The first activity will be a walk through the forest of fir trees, to explore the surroundings and find decorations for the Christmas tree. Tom is ready: hat on, matching warm gloves, his trusty yellow boots, his padded coat... not to mention his favourite backpack - his faithful companion on all his adventures for years.



And off they go! Just as Tom hoped, he hears the snow crunching under his boots. Scritch – Crack – Scritch – Crack... at every step... He's in heaven! Huge snowflakes gently float down and decorate the trees. Tom doesn't even feel cold, he is so amazed by all this white.



Seasons: winter



After several minutes of admiring the forest and leaving their boot prints in the snow, Granny and Tom spot some pine cones! They're the perfect decorations for the tree, and a hundred percent natural too! Righty-ho! Into the basket they go... and into Tom's bag! There are so many of them! They're spoilt for choice!



Mission accomplished! Granny and Tom have found everything they were looking for! And there's plenty of time to carry on having fun... That's right, it's time for a snowball fight!!! Granny is well aware that it is Tom's favourite activity! She could hardly forget! Who is winning? No one knows! Who is having the most fun? No idea!



«Granny! Granny! How about we make a snowman?!» Tom asks, very excited about his own idea.
«Oh yes!» says Granny with a big smile.
She has lost count of the number of snowmen she has built in her life. They're different every time, unique, and she has enjoyed making each and every one!



This one took an hour! One very special hour of bonding between Tom and his Grandma.
They add the final touches to bring it to life and hey presto... A wide, cheery smile, cheeky little eyes, two sturdy branches for the arms, buttons for his coat, a twig for his nose and voilà!
He's perfect!
The day is fading, it's time to go home!
«Have a good evening, Mr Snowman! See you tomorrow!» Tom yells as he leaves.



Back at home, they use the decorations they found in the forest to create a magnificent tree! It's even better than in previous years! The shiny pine cones make all the difference.
«And the final touch...» announces Tom, placing the golden star at the top of the tree.
It's the same one each year, it belonged to Grandpa's mum.
Grandpa is proud of this tradition and tells Tom all about it every year. He also tells Tom about Father Christmas coming to visit while he is sleeping. And how tomorrow, he'll find exciting presents at the foot of the tree...



Grandpa was right, as always!
The presents are there!
Tom is happy, Granny and Grandpa too.
Tom is also relieved to see that Santa has decided he has been a good boy this year.

[How about you? Have you been good this year?]