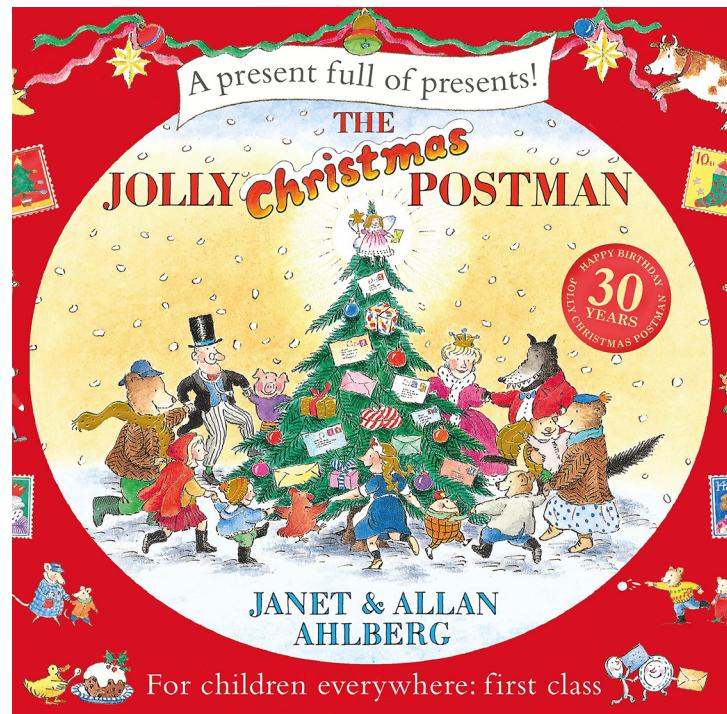


To celebrate 20 years of Artsmark, CILIP has teamed up with Arts Council England to create the Greenaway Greats reading scheme!

# The Jolly Christmas Postman

**Written by Allan Ahlberg and  
illustrated by Janet Ahlberg**

**The Jolly Christmas Postman** is by author and illustrator husband and wife team Allan and Janet Ahlberg. Allan wrote the book and Janet illustrated it. The book focuses on the adventures of the titular Jolly Postman. On Christmas Eve after snow has fallen, he sets off to make deliveries. The book uses form in a clever way and contains many cards, letters and exciting elements to discover. The book won the Kate Greenaway medal in 1991.



## Discussion Points

- **The Jolly Christmas Postman** is based around Christmas, what other festivals do people in your school celebrate? See whether you can find out what time of year these take place in, how they are celebrated and any special foods or traditions the festivals involve.
- Who would you most like to receive a card from and why? This could be from someone living or from some in history.

- **Simple Simon's Complete Book of Knowledge** includes some famous phrases like 'A little knowledge is a dangerous thing' and 'which side my bread is buttered.' Collect some phrases that your teachers, librarians or family use. What do they mean?
- What food or drink featured in the book would you most like to try and why?



# Activity Ideas



- Make and write a Christmas card to send to your own favourite fictional character. What will your message in the card to them be and why? Alternatively, you might like to send this to somebody who helps you, who would that be?
- The book includes a handy **Wolf Spotter's Guide** create your own spotter's guide for a villain from a favourite fairytale or fable.
- Using objects around you, dress up as one of the characters in the book and have your friends guess who you have chosen to be.
- Find some counters and dice and play the game. Why not create your own board game based on a fairy tale or nursery rhyme?

# Further Reading



If you have enjoyed reading **The Jolly Postman** why not try

**Each Peach Pear Plum** this is also by Allan and Janet Ahlberg and also won the Kate Greenaway medal. It won in 1978, How many characters do you recognise in the book?

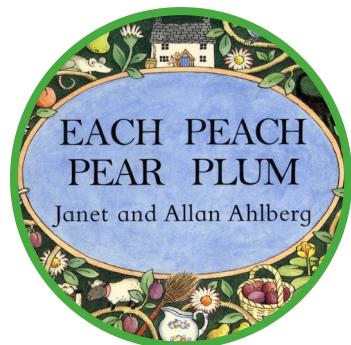
**The adventure of the Dish and the Spoon** by Mini Grey is another Greenaway Greats title. The book looks at what happens to the famous nursery rhyme duo of Dish and Spoon after they run away together.

**Yes You Can, Cow** by Rashmi Sirdeshpande and illustrated by Rikin Parekh is another funny take on the nursery rhyme Hey Diddle Diddle which is about being brave enough to give things a go.

**Meerkat Mail** by Emily Gravett tells the story of Sunny Meerkat who lives in the Kalahari Desert and who takes a trip to visit his cousins, sending postcards along the way.

# Illustrator biography

Janet Ahlberg was born in Yorkshire and grew up in Leicester. Janet met her husband and author collaborator at teacher training college. As well as winning two Kate Greenaway medals, Janet was commended for **Burglar Bill**, **The Baby's Catalogue** and **The Jolly Postman**.



EACH PEACH  
PEAR PLUM  
Janet and Allan Ahlberg

Artsmark is celebrating the vital role reading and libraries play in the creative lives of children throughout their education. To find out more, and to start your Artsmark journey today go to [artsmark.org.uk](http://artsmark.org.uk)



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#GreenawayGreats #Artsmark20