

Dr Can Do's Best Joke Ever





Dr. Can Do is in a grim spot. He has the best Christmas joke **ever**, and no one has got it yet. 'This time,' he says in the hot **summer** sun, 'I will tell my joke at Christmas **dinner**, and all will howl so hard their crowns drop off.' He stands on the sandy path and tests his joke. Set up. Wait. Punchline. He is an **expert**.

But **first**, the beach. Jill kicks off **her** boots at the edge of the sea. Minx splashes in and bobs in the **surf**. Dr. Can Do can not wait. 'Jill! Why does the sea wave?' Jill does not even **turn**. 'Because it can not shake hands!' Dr. Can Do yelps. That is his joke! Jill stole his punchline right out of his mouth.

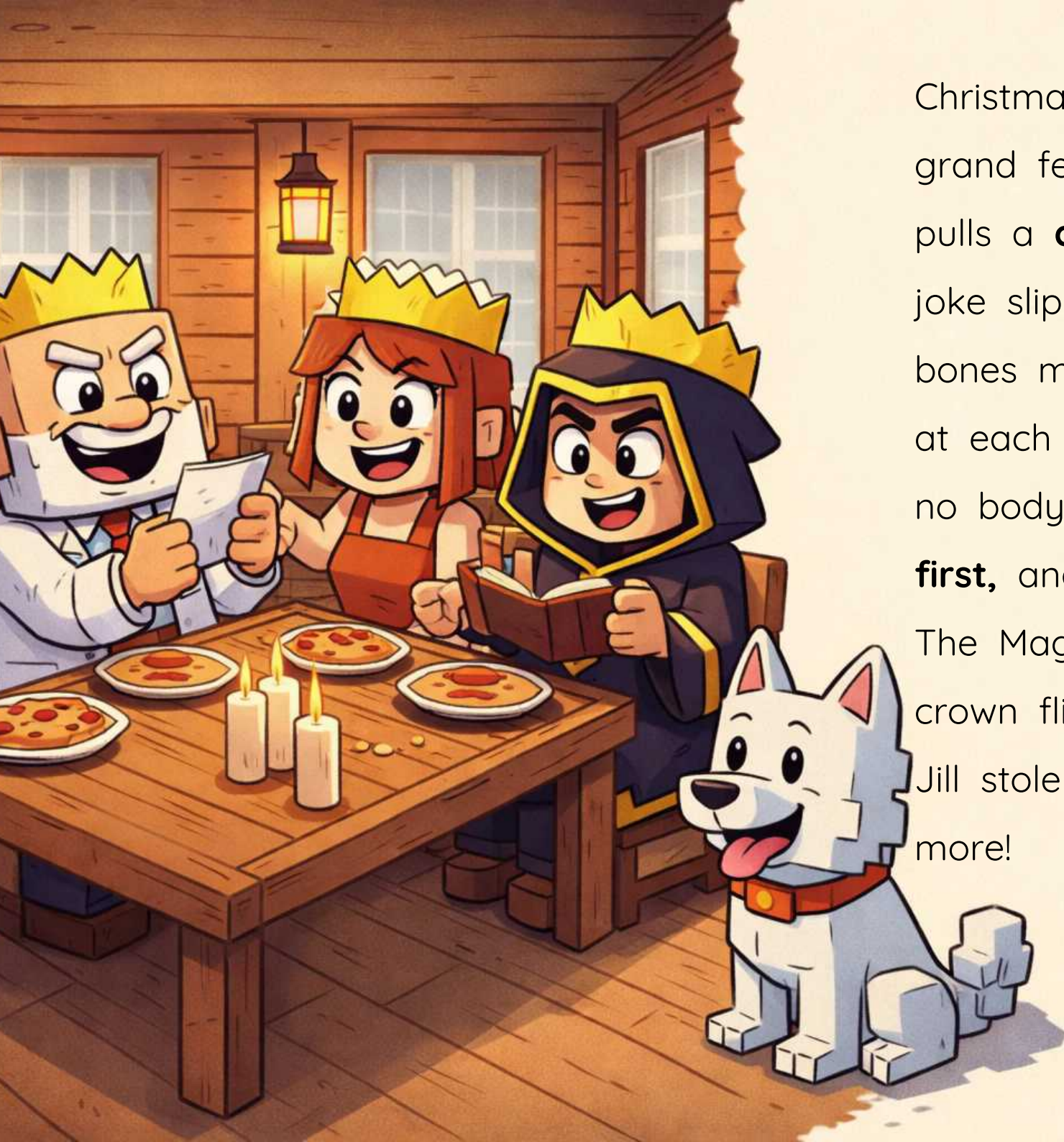




In town, a huge Christmas tree glows with lights. Big gifts sit **under** it. The Mage stands by Jill, looking smug. Dr. Can Do has one more go. 'What does a snowman munch?' The Mage does not look up from his book. 'Snow flakes. Ice cold snow flakes.' 'That was my joke!' yells Dr. Can Do. Jill snorts. The Mage just shrugs. A shrug in a hood is so rude.

The Mage sees a blue gift right at his feet. He smirks down at it. 'See?' he says. 'Good kids get gifts.' 'That was my joke!' says Dr. Can Do. 'Yes, but I did it **better,**' says the Mage, and he howls with glee. Dr. Can Do folds his arms. Fine. Just fine. He still has his best joke. He keeps it for Christmas **dinner,** and no one will steal that one. **Never!**





Christmas **dinner**. Crowns on. A grand feast is set. Dr. Can Do pulls a **cracker** and unfolds the joke slip. 'Why does the man of bones miss the feast?' He peers at each face. 'Because he has no body to go with!' Jill yells **first**, and all **burst** into howls. The Mage snorts so hard his crown flies off. Minx yelps too. Jill stole his punchline once more!

Jill is in bed, full of Christmas ham, with a smile in the warm glow of **her** bedroom. She has a think about **her** dad's face each time she beat him to the punchline. His mad act is **better** than any joke **ever**. Then she says low in the dark, 'Doc? Rap, rap.' No sound comes back. She drops off to sleep before he can speak. In the next room, Dr. Can Do grins. 'Who is there?' he says low. But the only sound is Minx, snoring on the rug.





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Dr Can Do has the best Christmas joke ever, but nobody's heard it. He practices his timing all summer, saving it for Christmas dinner, sure nobody can steal it this time. Will his punchline finally land? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 11: /er/ mixed), this book practices words like 'ever', 'dinner', 'first', 'burst', 'never'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

better, burst, cracker, dinner, ever, expert, first, her, never, peer, smirk, summer, surf, turn, under

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