

NAME: _____

READING PART 7: CHRISTMAS GIFTS

You are going to read a magazine article about students who had different experiences buying and receiving Christmas presents. For questions 43-52, choose from the students (A-D). The students may be chosen more than once.

Which student mentions ...

- 43. struggling to pick a gift for someone really close? ____
- 44. highlighting the importance of being considerate when choosing a gift? ____
- 45. receiving a gift that had a surprising emotional effect? ____
- 46. feeling more stressed than expected when buying a present? ____
- 47. feeling unsure about how to show appreciation for a gift? ____
- 48. getting a thrill from catching someone off guard with a present? ____
- 49. feeling bad for not spending more on a present? ____
- 50. receiving a gift that helped improve a relationship? ____
- 51. not knowing what to buy for someone they don't know very well? ____
- 52. getting something unexpected that turned out to be more meaningful than expected? ____

Christmas Gifts: More Than Just Stuff

A Hannah Fisher

Christmas shopping is always a bit of a challenge for me, especially when it comes to choosing something for my sister. I know her so well, but that only makes it harder to find the perfect gift. Last year, I ended up giving her a beautifully wrapped box with a notebook inside – simple, but meaningful. To my surprise, she was so touched by the gesture that it made me realize the emotional value behind the gift is what really matters. It wasn't expensive, but it showed that I put thought into it, which made all the difference.

B Greg Stewart

Buying presents for my family can be a stressful task. My brother is always so particular, and it's difficult to figure out what he would actually like. One year, I thought I had hit the mark with a high tech gadget, but he didn't seem too thrilled. I later found out he had already bought the same one for himself! The gift was fine, but I felt embarrassed and a little guilty. Sometimes I think that the best way to give a present is by focusing less on the price tag and more on how thoughtful the gift is. The best gift I've ever given was a personalized book for my mom – it made her cry, but in a good way.

C Emily Zhang

For me, receiving gifts can sometimes feel awkward. I'm not one of those people who shows my emotions easily, so when someone gives me something thoughtful, I often don't know how to react. Last Christmas, a close friend gave me a handmade scarf, and I could tell she had spent a lot of time on it. I felt guilty that I hadn't spent as much time or effort on my gift for her. Still, I really appreciated her thoughtfulness, even if I didn't show it as much as I should have. Sometimes, it's hard to accept gifts without feeling a little uncomfortable, especially when they're so personal.

D Jack Thompson

I've always loved the excitement of Christmas, and giving presents is a big part of that. I'm a firm believer that gifts should reflect how much you care about someone, and it's always exciting to surprise a loved one with something they didn't expect. A few years ago, I managed to get my best friend a vintage watch he had been admiring for ages. His reaction was priceless! It made me feel incredibly happy to see him so genuinely surprised and appreciative. It wasn't cheap, but I felt it was the right thing for the occasion. That moment reminded me that the joy of giving far outweighs the stress of shopping.