

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# THE CHRISTMAS TREE



Every year when the month of December arrives, my family rushes to decorate the house with Christmas decorations. The most important decoration is the Christmas tree placed in front of the living room window that overlooks the street so that everyone can see it. Our tree is artificial, so we reuse it year after year, but in some houses, a real Christmas tree is used, like that of my friend Julian. A real Christmas tree requires more care than an artificial one but can look spectacular adorned with hundreds of shiny ribbons, bows, glitter stars, balls, candles, and cards of different colors and sizes.

As we get ready to decorate the tree, my little brothers and I get organized, choose what decorations we are going to hang, decide what order to hang things. My older brothers Julia and Norberto put the colored ribbons and sparkling tinsel around the branches of the tree



first. Then, my middle brothers Lucas and Santiago hang the balls, stars, and candles on each of the branches. Next, my brother Jaime and I hang the cards that our family members from Colombia send us with a string wrapping around the tree. The last thing we put on the Christmas tree is a big shining star on top of the fir tree.

After we finish decorating the tree, we call our parents to see what a great job we have done. After the applause and praise, everyone stands in front of the tree, smiles broadly, and we take a photo. That photo will be the one that we will send to the whole family afterward, wishing them a very merry Christmas.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

My parents have promised us that next year they will go to the store to buy some small colored lights that use electricity and illuminate the branches of the tree, giving it an even more spectacular appearance.



When we visit Chicago this year, we will buy a new ball for the tree and hang it along with the rest of the balls and ornaments purchased in the different places we visit.



If I think about it, it would feel strange to celebrate Christmas without having the tree decorated at home. Some countries in the world do not celebrate Christmas or put up a Christmas tree.

Looking at the beginning of Christmas, we learn that for the ancient Christians, the decorating of the tree symbolized a representation of the tree of life. They used a fir or pine tree from the conifer family, whose leaf is evergreen, which means that its leaves do not fall, and they keep that vivid and characteristic green color all year round.

The truth is that the exact moment in which they began to decorate these pines or firs for the Christmas season is unknown, but I heartily thank those who invented it and that this tradition will endure over time.

There is a tradition in some countries around the world that children only receive Christmas gifts under the tree if their behavior has been good all year. Since I have been so good this year, I am sure that I will have many gifts. What about you? Have you been good this year, too?

