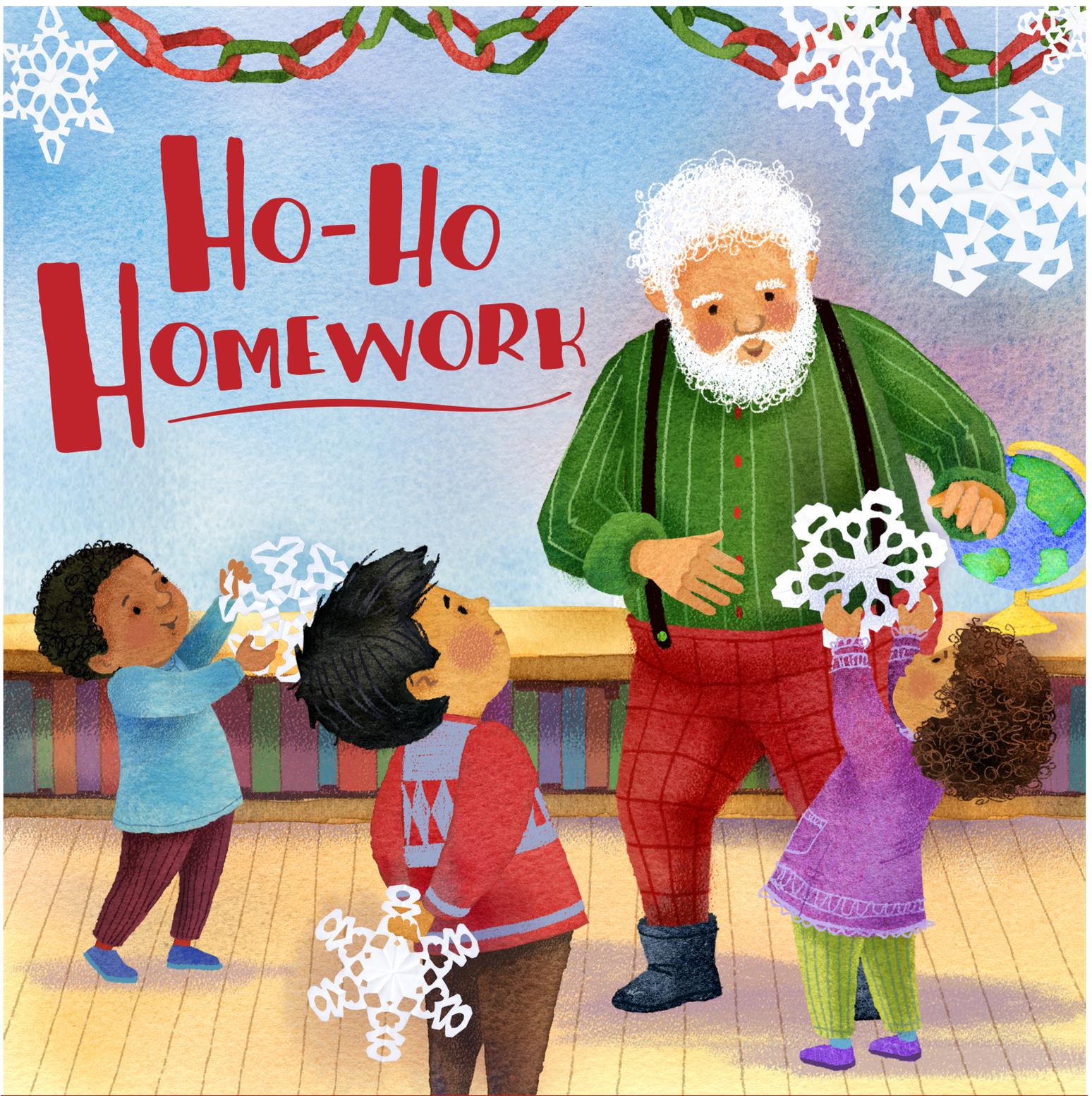


# Ho-Ho Homework



## STORY HOUR & EVENT KIT

featuring the picture book by Mylisa Larsen &  
illustrated by Taia Morley (HarperCollins)

# HO-HO HOMEWORK, STORY HOUR AND EVENT KIT

## ABOUT THE KIT

This holiday story hour kit was designed for librarians, booksellers, educators, and families to celebrate the Christmas season with craft, music, and random acts of kindness. Best for ages 4-8.



It's almost Christmas, and Jack's classroom has a new substitute teacher. With his long, white beard and a laugh that sounds like "Ho, ho, ho," some of the kids are convinced Mr. Clausen might be Mr. Claus. Jack remains skeptical but joins in the classroom holiday preparation. Like Mr. Clausen, you can help children celebrate the season with:

- Snowflake Wish Activity
- Paper Chain Activity
- Jingle Bell Shuffle
- Send a Greeting Card
- Reindeer Cookie Decoration
- Guide to Make Homemade Gifts & Other Acts of Kindness

## ABOUT THE BOOK

### HO HO HOMEWORK

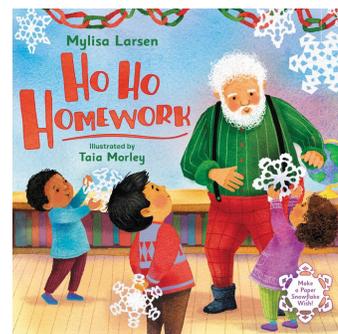
By Mylisa Larsen

Illustrated by Taia Morley

Published by HarperCollins Children's Books

ISBN-9780062796882

Age Range: 4 - 10 Years



It's almost Christmas, and Jack's classroom has a new substitute teacher. There's something funny about Mr. Clausen—he seems awfully familiar....Is it his long, white beard? Is it the way his laugh sounds a lot like "Ho, ho, ho"? Or maybe it's his snack of milk and cookies—reindeer-shaped cookies! Jack's classmates are convinced they know who Mr. Clausen really is, but Jack's not so sure...

Filled with beautiful pictures, humor, and lots of holiday cheer, this story captures all of the magic and mystery that children experience during the Christmas season. In the story, Mr. Clausen teaches Jack and his classmates how to make paper snowflake wishes—and the end of the book shows you how to make your very own!

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Mylisa Larsen grew up on a farm but always wanted to explore. She's lived in nine states and two countries and enjoys traveling. For now she's settled in upstate New York, where she lives with her family. Visit her at [mylisalarsen.com](http://mylisalarsen.com).

Taia Morley has worked as a toy and game designer for several toy companies and is also an illustrator whose work appears in children's books and magazines. When she isn't working, she might be riding a bike, sketching or procrastinating. She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. Visit her at [taiamorley.com](http://taiamorley.com).

# HO-HO HOMEWORK, STORY HOUR AND EVENT KIT

## PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

“...It is never confirmed whether Mr. Clausen is Santa. However, the journey to finding out is a lighthearted exercise in hope and belief in the impossible as Jack wakes up to snow on Christmas morning. The illustrations are bright. The colorful winter apparel, classroom decorated with red and green paper chains, and cozy sweaters will kindle the holiday spirit. After the story, helpful instructions (complete with diagrams) prompt readers to make their own paper snowflakes. A cheerful diversion perfect for most picture book holiday collections.”

—*School Library Journal*

“...Larsen nimbly balances Jack’s stubborn skepticism (“So he likes sleds.... Everybody likes sleds”) with his friends’ well-founded suspicions about the identity of their teacher who—in a fetching finale that involves a homework assignment and a sudden snowfall—makes a believer out of Jack. Bold watercolor and digital pictures by Morley may help do the same for young listeners.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

## PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES

You will, of course, create your own grand event or story hour activity! Following are simply suggested ways to prepare for an event or classroom experience.

- Locate a copy of the picture book **HO HO HOMEWORK** by Mylisa Larsen and illustrated by Taia Morley (HarperCollins Children’s Books)



## SHARING THE EVENT

- If this event is for the public, print out the event poster (page \*), add your date, time, and location, and duplicate it to advertise the event. If you prefer to adapt the poster in your design software, you can find a JPEG of the poster design on [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com). Simply search for “ho ho” at [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com) and navigate to the kit listing. The font on the poster is Blueshift Stick.
- If you list your events in print or online, here is some text that may assist you:

Join us as we read from **HO HO HOMEWORK**, a holiday picture book by Mylisa Larsen and illustrated by Taia Morley (HarperCollins). In the story, Jack’s classroom has a new substitute teacher. With his white beard and a laugh that sounds like “Ho, ho, ho,” some of the kids are convinced Mr. Clausen might be Mr. Claus. Jack remains skeptical but joins in the classroom holiday preparation. Like Jack and his classmates we will be making wishes on snowflakes and thinking of ways to offer kindness to neighbors. All welcome, but best for ages 4-8.

# HO-HO HOMEWORK, STORY HOUR AND EVENT KIT

## EVENT ACTIVITIES

This kit may have more activities than you have time for. Consider printing the additional activities for students and families to take home.

### Decorating and Gifting: Paper Chains Activity

Taia Morley's illustrated paper chains frame many of the pages in this read aloud. With a simple weave, loop, and affix, you can make a craft that transforms a space or makes a sweet gift. Consider teaching your readers how to make paper chains or even decorating your own space with this template. The Make Homemade Gifts & Other Acts of Kindness sheet (page 12) suggests making paper chains for neighbors. While paper chains can be made with so many materials, we made a template to allow readers to choose their own colors and to allow the links in the chain to deliver key messages from the book.

- Print the Paper Chain Activity (page 5). The more copies you print, the longer the paper chains can be.
- Prepare crayons, marker, or colored pencils, tape or glue, and kid-safe scissors for readers.

### Crafting and Wishing: Snowflake Wishes Activity

There is nothing more seasonal than making paper snowflakes. In the book, the children's "ho ho homework" is to compose a wish and write it on their snowflake. This activity invites children to make a wish for their classroom or the world. The Make Homemade Gifts & Other Acts of Kindness sheet (page 12) invites readers to share that wish-making with neighbors, families, and friends. The creators and readers across the country will be sharing their snowflake wishes online using the hashtag #SnowflakesWish. Readers' privacy will, of course, always be protected.

- Print Snowflake Wishes Activity cutting instructions and template (pages 6 & 7) for each reader.
- Prepare pencils, rulers, and kid-safe scissors for readers.



### Singing and Dancing: Jungle Bell Shuffle Activity

The Jingle Bell Shuffle is any dance you make up to the song Jingle Bells. We have, however, made some suggested dance moves for guided play.

- Print a Jingle Bell Shuffle Activity (page 8) for each reader.
- Gather music-makers like bells and shakers.

### Making and Giving: Make Homemade Gifts & Other Acts of Kindness

Not everyone in your community celebrates Christmas or believes in Mr. Claus (or Mr. Clausen), but the end of the year is a great time for making gifts or surprising others with random acts of kindness. Use this guide to brainstorm activities to do as a group. No time for gift making? Consider sending this non-denominational sheet home with readers.

- Print the Make Homemade Gifts & Other Acts of Kindness sheet (page 12) for each reader.

# HO-HO HOMEWORK, STORY HOUR AND EVENT KIT

## EVENT ACTIVITIES (continued)

### Writing & Surprising: Send a Greeting Card

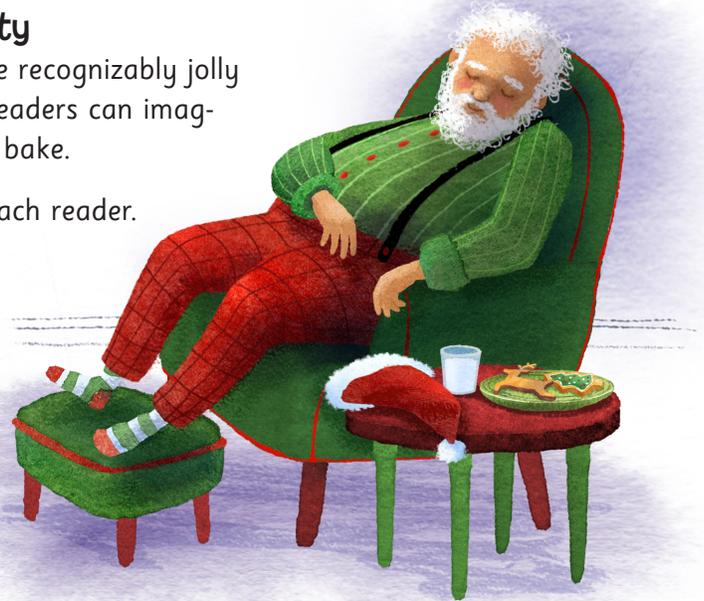
There are two greeting card templates for your readers to send end of year wishes to friends, families, and neighbors. One template features illustrator Taia Morley's art and the other can feature your readers' art.

- Print the Send a Greeting Card templates (page 9 & 10) to accompany any gifts you and your readers might make.
- Prepare crafting supplies for readers.

### Dream & Decorate: Reindeer Cookie Activity

One piece of evidence that Mr. Clausen is someone recognizably jolly is his love of reindeer cookies. With this activity, readers can imagine the ingredients and decorations for a delicious bake.

- Print a Reindeer Cookie Activity (page 11) for each reader.
- Prepare crafting supplies for readers.
- Cut out all the cookies and display them on a platter. Share them with the book's creators with the hashtag #HoHoHomework.



## SHARING STORY TIME

We are always eager to see your events. Feel free to share any photos or comments with the creators with #HoHoHomework. Readers' wishes can be shared with #SnowflakeWish.

The creators can be found here:

Instagram: @taiamorley, @harperkids, @curiouscitybooks

Twitter: @taiamorley, @harpercollins, @TheCuriousCity

## OTHER RESOURCES

Enjoyed using this kit? Visit [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com) for other story hour kits, event kits, treasure hunts, book club guides, book giveaways, and more ways to engage in children's literature with play, conversation, and social action.



# PAPER CHAIN ACTIVITY

As Jack says in the picture book **HO-HO HOMEWORK** (HarperCollins), paper chains can make any room "pretty cheerful." How can you make a room cheerful?

## How to Make a Paper Chain

1. Color the paper strips below in any colors you find cheerful.
2. Cut out each strip. Be sure to get a grown-up to help you with the scissors.
3. Make the strip into a circle and glue it closed.
4. Take the next strip and put it through the center of the first circle. Make a circle of this new strip and glue it closed. You have made your first link in your paper chain!
4. Repeat until you have used up your strips. Need more strips? Visit [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com) and search "ho ho" for a copy of this activity sheet or grab paper from the recycling bin. Ask your whole family or classroom to join in to create a longer and longer chain.

 cut along the solid lines to make paper chain strips

What's your wish for your classroom or the world?

Have you ever danced the Jingle Bell Shuffle? Make it up!

Who do you feel connected to like a paper chain?

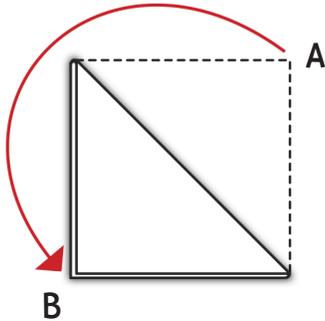
Can you make paper chains as a gift for someone?

For a paper chain story, read **HO HO HOMEWORK** (HarperCollins).

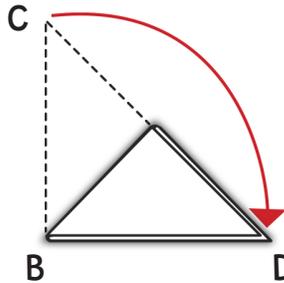
What's your wish for your friends and family?

# SNOWFLAKE WISHES ACTIVITY

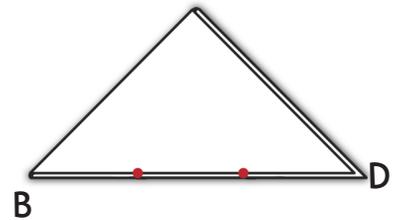
Do you have a wish for your classroom or for the world? Like the kids in the picture book *HO-HO HOMEWORK* (HarperCollins), you can make a wish upon a snowflake. Cut out your unique snowflake, write your big wish on it, and hang it to make the season bright!



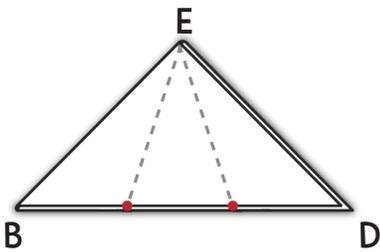
1. Begin with a square piece of paper. Fold the paper diagonally, bringing the corner A to corner B.



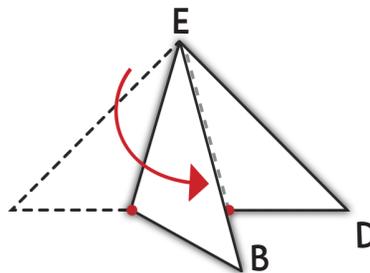
2. Fold corner C to corner D.



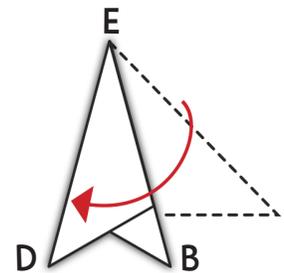
3. Make two marks on the long side of your folded triangle so the long side is marked into equal thirds.



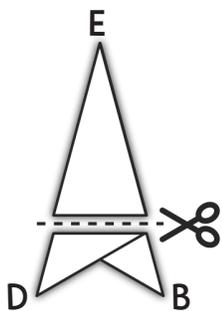
4. Draw two light lines from the top point (E) of the triangle to the marks on the long side of your triangle.



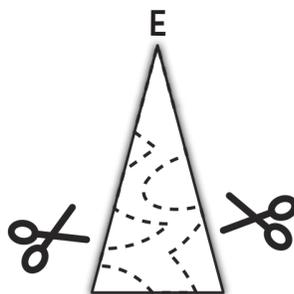
5. Fold the left side of the triangle over along the right line.



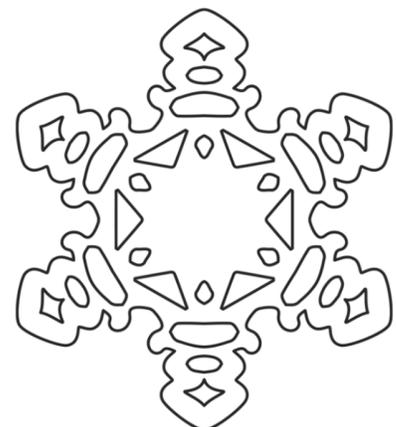
6. Fold the right side over along the other line.



7. Cut off the bottom.



8. Make cuts on all three sides of the triangle. But don't cut the tip of the triangle so you'll have room to write your wish!



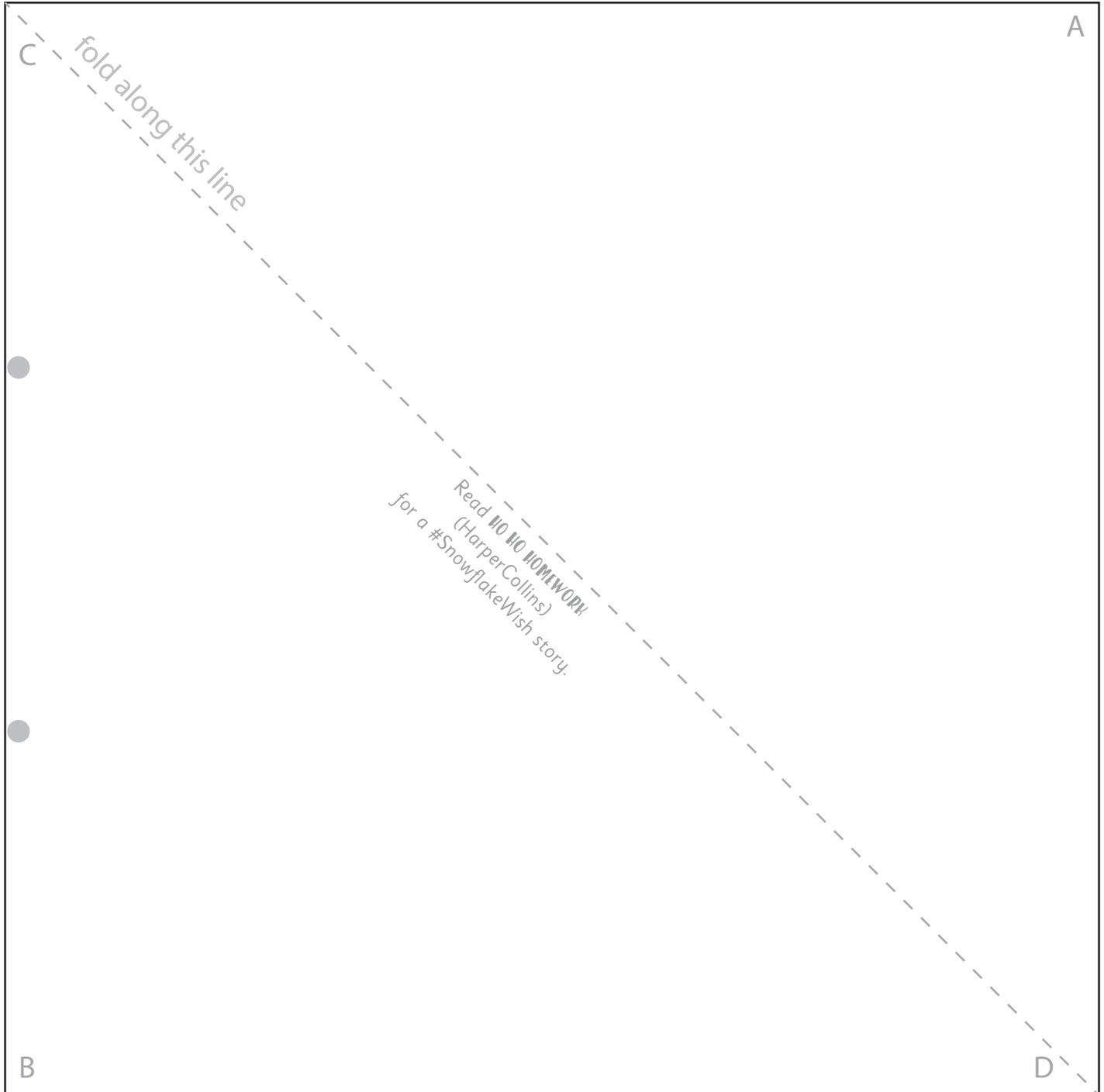
9. Carefully unfold your snowflake and now write your wish!

# SNOWFLAKE WISHES TEMPLATE

Use this template and follow the snowflake wishes cutting instructions for making a snowflake wish.



 cut along the solid lines



# JINGLE BELL SHUFFLE ACTIVITY

The Jingle Bell Shuffle is any dance you make up to the song Jingle Bells. According to Jack in the picture book **HO-HO HOMEWORK** (HarperCollins), the dance can make you merry. Try it! For those who like guided play, we have made some suggested dance moves. Do you have any bells or shakers to add to the dance?

While we include the lyrics to Jingle Bells\*, it is fun (and easier for little ones) to replace all the lyrics with, "Ho".

## Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow  
In a one-horse open sleigh  
O'er the fields we go  
Laughing all the way

Tap or shuffle each foot two times  
Tap or shuffle each foot three times  
Spin  
Throw up arms

Bells on bob tail ring  
Making spirits bright  
What fun it is to ride and sing  
A sleighing song tonight!

Tap or shuffle each foot two times  
Tap or shuffle each foot three times  
Spin  
Throw up arms

Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way.  
Oh! what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh.  
Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way;  
Oh! what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh.

Tap or shuffle each foot two times  
Clap your hands or shake your instrument in rhythm  
Spin  
Throw up arms  
Tap or shuffle each foot two times  
Clap your hands or shake your instrument in rhythm  
Spin  
Throw up arms



\*This song was written by James Lord Pierpont in 1857 and is now the public domain. Thanks, Jim!

# SEND A GREETING CARD

Cut along the solid lines and fold along the dashed lines to make a cheerful greeting card for friends and family!

Want to include a Homemade Gift or Other Act of Kindness with this card? Search "ho ho" on CuriousCityDPW.com for a sheet of ideas.

 cut along the solid lines, fold along dashed lines



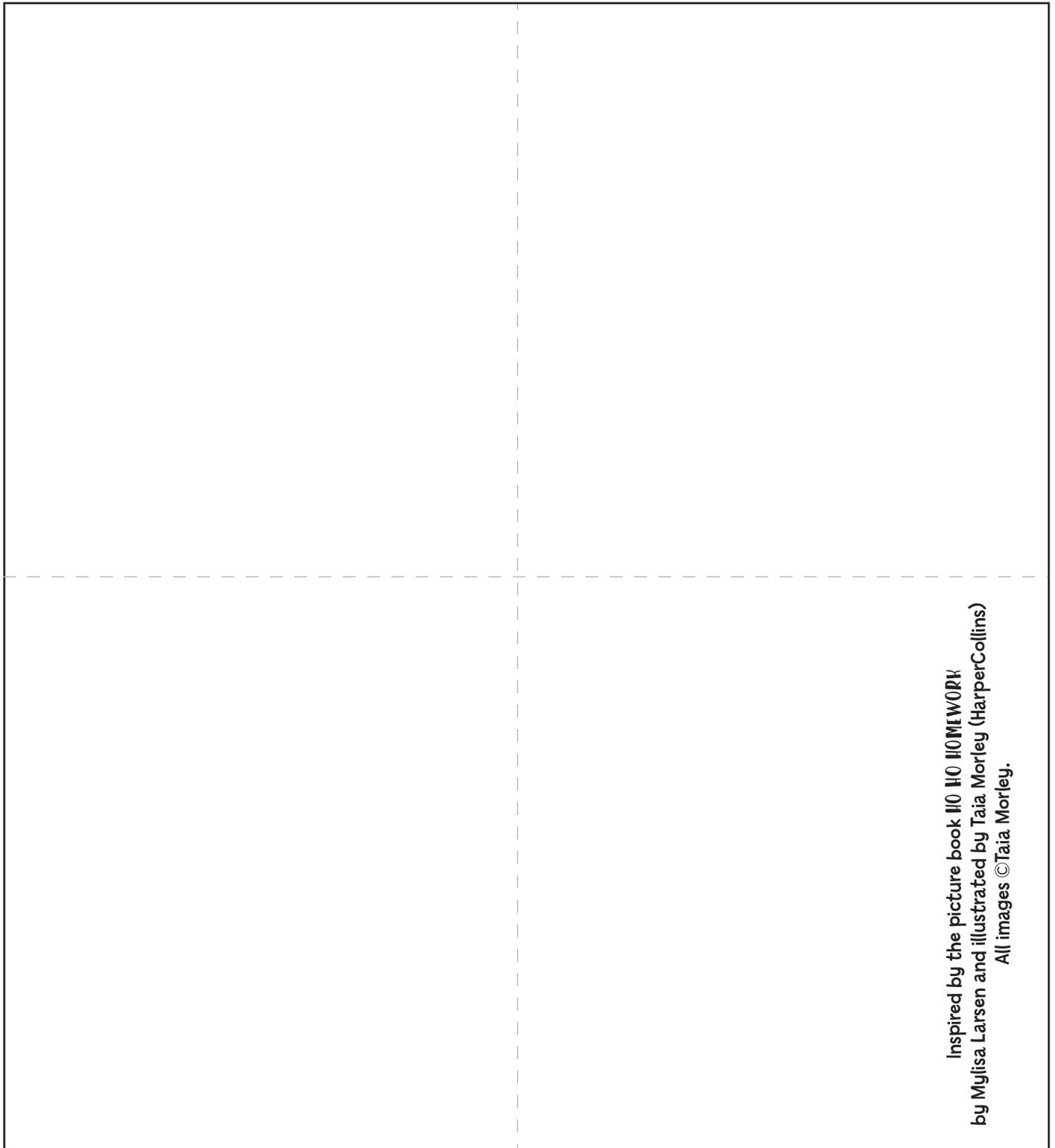
Created for the picture book **HO HO HOMEWORK**  
by Mylisa Larsen and illustrated by Taia Morley (HarperCollins)  
All images ©Taia Morley.

# SEND A GREETING CARD

Like illustrator Taia Morley, we know you are a great artist. Make some cards with your own art as well!

Want to include a Homemade Gift or Other Act of Kindness with this card? Search "ho ho" on CuriousCityDPW.com for a sheet of ideas.

 cut along the solid lines, fold along dashed lines



Inspired by the picture book **HO HO HOMEWORK**  
by Mylisa Larsen and illustrated by Taia Morley (HarperCollins)  
All images ©Taia Morley.

# REINDEER COOKIE ACTIVITY

Mr. Clausen snacks on reindeer cookies in the picture book **HO HO HOMEWORK** (HarperCollins).

What ingredients would put in your reindeer cookies? Make a list of things to bake into your cookies and color them in to show us what they look like. Who would you share them with?

**Ingredients:**

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# HOMEMADE GIFTS & OTHER ACTS OF KINDNESS

When Jack's wish comes true in the picture book **HO-HO HOMEWORK** (HarperCollins), his whole neighborhood is merry. How can you make your neighborhood more merry? Here are some ideas to surprise your family, friends, or neighbors. Remember that not everyone in your neighborhood or classroom celebrates Christmas, but the end of the year is a great time for making gifts or surprising others with random acts of kindness.

Look for free printable cards to accompany your acts and gifts of kindness by searching "ho ho" at [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com).



## Make a Snowflake Wish

Give a wish! Using the Snowflake Wish activity sheet found by searching "ho ho" on [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com), make a snowflake. Leave it folded up and slip it into one of the printable cards found on the same page. Tell the recipient to write a wish on the snowflake and hang it up to help it come true.

## Paper Chains

Give some cheer! Using the Paper Chain activity sheet found by searching "ho ho" on [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com) or paper from your recycling bin, make a chain. Write cheery, funny, or welcoming things on the paper strips. Put the chain in a bag with one of the printable cards. Hang the bag on a neighbor's or family member's doorknob.

## Hot Chocolate Mix

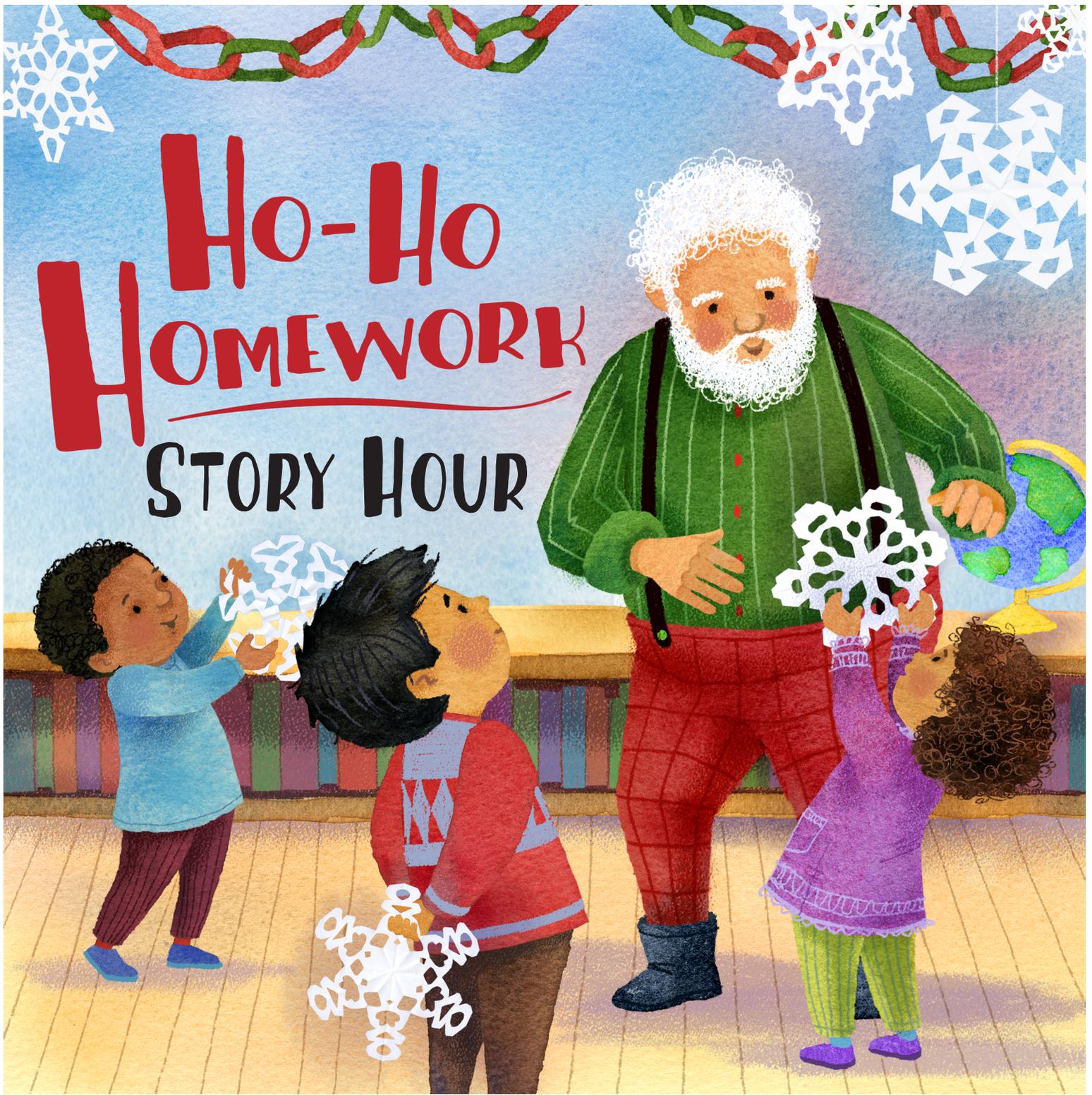
Start saving jars from your recycling bin and clean them well. Gather the ingredients to make hot chocolate mix. We like some of the recipes found at <http://bit.ly/HoHoChocolate>. Decorate the jars and deliver them to friends and neighbors with a printable card.

## Make Drawings or Cards

Do you have a wish for the neighborhood or the world? Write it down and draw a picture of it. Copy it for everyone in your neighborhood. Take a picture of it and have someone in your family share it with those too far away for a personal delivery.

## Other Acts of Kindness

There are so many ways to say you care about your family, friends, classmates, and neighbors without spending money. Look at the list at <http://bit.ly/HoHoKindness> and see if you come up with any ideas.



Featuring the picture book by Mylisa Larsen and illustrated by Taia Morley (HarperCollins)