

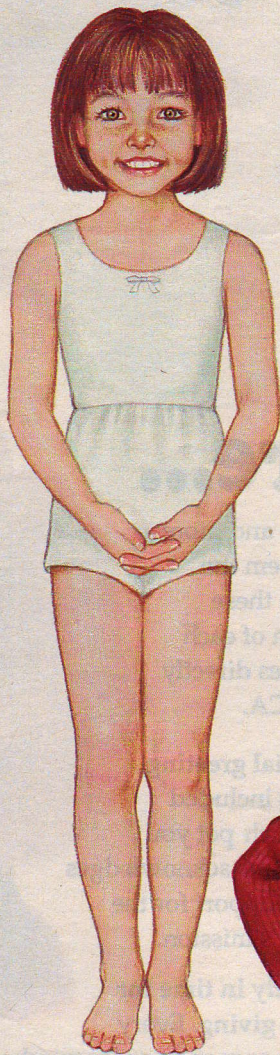
Betsy's Christmas adventure

See how a holiday car trip takes a surprising detour.

Every year we drive to my grandparents' house early in the morning on Christmas Eve. We usually get to their town by lunchtime—but not this year! That's because the roads were icy. My dad had to drive really slowly, but the weather got worse so we stopped at a restaurant.

Other cars had to stop too, so there were lots of people there. The waitresses were playing Christmas music and wearing Santa hats. There was a tiny Christmas tree on the counter, and a dog wearing a red sweater. I had hot chocolate and pumpkin pie, and then I played checkers with a waitress named Millie. Here was the thing I liked: Even though most everyone had somewhere else to go, they seemed happy because it was Christmas.

Later it stopped snowing, so we were able to leave. I said goodbye to everybody I met, and Millie gave me some puzzles to do in the car. I lay down in the backseat and started thinking about things like showing Grandma my new Christmas outfit, going sledding with my cousins and waking up the next morning to look in my stocking! Before I knew it, we were pulling into my grandparents' driveway. Their house was decorated with lights, and I could see their tree in the window. Everyone came running out. I was so happy to see them. ■



Before cutting Betsy out, paste the page onto sturdy oaktag.

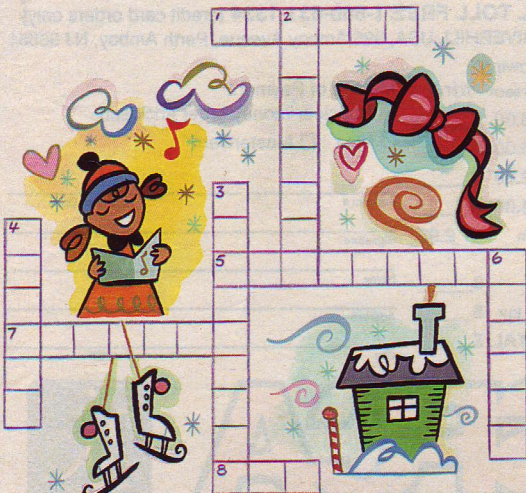
Help Betsy find her grandparents' house!



Comfortable clothes make a long drive easier.



At Grandma's house, Betsy puts on her new outfit.



Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Songs about Christmas
5. Where Santa lives
7. Santa gets into your house through this
8. The night before Christmas

Down

2. Hoofed helpers that pull the sleigh
3. A peppermint stick
4. Reindeer name that rhymes with Prancer
6. A special Christmas-time drink