

**Meet Alison Lloyd, author of the Letty books**

**Alison, how do you usually celebrate Christmas?**

I always go to church first. Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birth after all. Then my Mum and Dad, my sisters and all our families get together for a big meal. We all make part of lunch – there's ham, salads, pudding, and bonbons. Yes we wear the paper hats in the bonbons and tell the stupid jokes! And we do even more talking than eating.



**Tell us about your happiest Christmas memory.**

I am lucky to have so many good Christmas memories. Like the chocolates my dad buys each December, they're in all different flavours. One of the very best is singing carols. I love the holiness of Christmas night – the hushed darkness, the awe of God coming to his troubled world.

**What were the best and worst presents you received when you were a kid?**

The Christmas I was six I was supposed to get a little sister. She was due on Christmas Day, but she came late, in January! Instead I got a beautiful doll, for which my Mum had made a full set of bridal clothes, with a veil and everything. The worst present? There was one year when a particular person forgot to get me anything. That was pretty ordinary.

**We'd love you to finish these sentences for us:**

**If I were Santa Claus, I'd...** shave off the beard – I don't go for beards. And I'd give every child in the world a letter, telling them what is special and precious about them.

**If my Australian girl were alive today, I think the thing she'd like best about the Christmas holidays would be...** everybody getting together.