

Meet Gabrielle Wang, author of the Poppy books, and hear about her Christmas

How do you usually spend Christmas, Gabi?

With my brothers and sister and their children. This year it will be at my place because I have a new puppy who will need to sleep a lot. We often mix Chinese food with Western food but we always have plum pudding. Yum!

Tell us about your happiest Christmas memory.

Finding sixpences and threepences in the Christmas plum pudding. Before Australia changed to decimal currency in 1963, we had pounds, shillings and pence. Because these coins were made of silver, it was safe to boil them in the plum pudding. I didn't like plum pudding when I was young but I loved finding the money. It was like Poppy finding gold in old Murray Cod.

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

When I was 10, I got my first pair of jodhpurs and riding boots. I wore them around the house for days even though I wasn't going to riding camp for weeks. I can't think of a bad present.

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

If I were Santa Claus, I'd give every child in the world... loving parents, good food and safe shelter.

If my Australian girl were alive today, I think the thing she'd like best about the Christmas holidays would be... spending it with her brother Gus, their father, and faithful Fisher dog.

