

Meet Sofie Laguna, author of the Grace books, as she talks to us about Christmas

**Sofie, how do you usually spend Christmas?**

The past few Christmases I have spent with partner's family in Perth. In the morning we go to the beach because it's often very hot. Everyone in my family seems to live in different states so it's a challenge to organise a Christmas that everyone can get to, much as I would love to!

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

My happiest Christmas memories are when I was a child and we would go to my grandmother's big home in Sydney. All my uncles and aunts and cousins would be there. Everyone would make a present and write a poem, and I was always chosen to read out the poem. Then there was a feast and dancing and games. I loved Christmas and looked forward to it all year.

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

I was lucky to receive lots of presents at Christmas, but the ones I treasured were the ones that were made for me. My grandmother's crocheted scarves and my mother's clay money box shaped like a house (you put the coins down the chimney). My very favourite present was a puppet show. I would hide behind the brightly coloured wooden stand and make the puppets dace and sing with my hands. The worst present was when I was two years old – my father made me a wooden doll's house and all I did was scream because it didn't have a rabbit in it. I really wanted a rabbit. With soft white fur and blue eyes.

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

**If I were Santa Claus, I'd give every child in the world...** a magic poem that would help them whenever they read it. Each time they read the poem they would learn something new and whenever they had a problem or didn't understand something they could read the magic poem and know how to solve the problem. Nobody would have the same poem. The poem would be private – you only had to share it if you wanted to – and no matter how many times you read it you would always find something new and wonderful. It would never ever stop showing you things.

**If my Australian girl were alive today, the thing she'd like best about the Christmas holidays would be...** spending time with her family. She would enjoy the long, hot summers with her best friend. They would go bushwalking and horse riding along the beach.

