

# The Merryvale Boys by Alice Hale Burnett

"Hooray!" shouted Reddy. "School is finished and there are no more lessons for two weeks!" He threw his cap into the air.

"Let's go home through the village, so that we can look into Daddy Williams' toy shop," suggested his friend Thomas Brown, better known as 'Toad', who ran up to join him.

"All right," agreed Reddy, "and I'll show you what I want for Christmas." They started down the street.

"It looks as though it might snow tonight," said Toad. "Don't you wish it would snow lots? Then we could get all the boys together and have a snowball fight."

"It's the best fun I know of, next to swimming in the creek," was the answer.

"Here we are," he cried a few minutes later and both boys stopped in front of a small shop window that looked very happy and colourful, with a wonderful display of Christmas toys.

"Do you see those skates hanging up by that sled? That's the kind I want," pointed out Reddy. "You screw them right into the heels of your shoes and they won't ever come off."

"They're nice," agreed Toad, "but look at that engine and train. It goes right through the tunnel and up over the bridge. I wonder how fast it can run."



1. Using the exact words from the text, complete these sentences:

For Christmas, Reddy would like \_\_\_\_\_

but Toad would like \_\_\_\_\_.



2. Find and copy **three** adjectives the author uses to describe the shop window.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



3. Why does Reddy throw his cap into the air at the beginning of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



4. What do you think Reddy and Toad will do next?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# The Merryvale Boys Answers

1. Using the exact words from the text, complete these sentences:

For Christmas, Reddy would like **(accept any of the following) skates / those skates hanging up by the sled**

but Toad would like **(accept any of the following) an engine and train / an engine and train that goes through the tunnel and up over the bridge.**

**Do NOT accept reworded answers, as the question specifically states 'using the exact words from the text'.**

2. Find and copy **three** adjectives the author uses to describe the shop window.  
**happy            colourful            small**

3. Why does Reddy throw his cap into the air at the beginning of the story?

**Accept any reasonable answers relating to Reddy's excitement in the first paragraph, e.g.**

- **He threw his cap because he was celebrating being off school.**
- **He threw his cap because he was excited.**
- **He threw his cap because he was giddy.**

4. What do you think Reddy and Toad will do next?

**Accept any sensible prediction relating to the themes discussed in the story, e.g.**

- **The children went into the shop to look at the toys.**
- **The boys wrote a Christmas list.**
- **Reddy and Toad finally went home through the village.**
- **They met a family member/another friend and showed them the toys.**