A CHRISTMAS PASS-THE-GIFT STORY

Christmas with the Hartley family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2026

Wrapped with love by the cousins

Gather 'round, everyone, and hold your gift **RIGHT** in front of you. This is the story of Christmas with the Hartley family, and it's about to go **LEFT** and **RIGHT** and **LEFT** again.

All **RIGHT**, let's start **RIGHT** at the very beginning, and no one gets **LEFT** out. Where does everyone get together for Christmas? Grandma June's farmhouse. The one with the creaky porch swing.

Hold on to your gift, because there's plenty **LEFT** to tell, and it picks up **RIGHT** here. Who's hosting this year? Uncle Pete. Chili on the stove by noon.

Look **LEFT**, then look **RIGHT**, then look **LEFT** again, and see who already knows this one. What dish always shows up? Green bean casserole. Extra crispy onions on top.

Time to march on to the next one: **LEFT**, **RIGHT**, **LEFT**, **RIGHT**. What dessert disappears first? Peppermint bark.

Now, **RIGHT** back to where we **LEFT** off. What's the one tradition nobody skips? Matching pajamas. Even the dog wears them.

That's **RIGHT**, there's still more, and there's no time **LEFT** to waste. Who always gets there first? Aunt Carol. Two hours early, with a pie.

Keep everything moving, **LEFT** and **RIGHT** and **RIGHT** again, because here comes another one. What game always comes out after dinner? Charades.

Raise a cheer if you guessed the last one **RIGHT**. If you were **LEFT** guessing, here's another chance. What was the big news this year? Maddie got her driver's license.

We're **RIGHT** in the thick of it now. Stay sharp, and don't get **LEFT** behind. Who's in charge of the music? Cousin Ben. **RIGHT** from the kitchen speaker.

And now, **RIGHT** before the end, there's just one more **LEFT**. Who makes the cocoa? Grandpa Joe. With a mountain of marshmallows.

SAMPLE

STORY (CONTINUED)

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For good luck: **LEFT**. That's the story of Christmas with the Hartley family, and there's only one thing **LEFT** to say. Merry Christmas, everyone! The gift in your hands **RIGHT** now is yours to keep.

The End

SAMPLE

HOST SHEET

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HOW TO PLAY

1. Everyone sits in a circle holding the wrapped gift they brought.
2. Read the story aloud. Every time you read LEFT, everyone passes what they're holding to the person on their left. Every time you read RIGHT, they pass it to the person on their right.
3. When the story ends, everyone keeps what's in their hands.

THIS STORY

16 LEFTs and 17 RIGHTs, 33 passes in all. There's one more RIGHT than LEFT, so every gift ends one seat to the right of where it started, and nobody ends up with the one they started with, however many people play.

TIPS

- Read the words in bold capitals a little louder, and give everyone a moment to pass.
- Pause after each question so the room can call out a guess, then read the answer.
- Only the words in bold capitals count. A word that only sounds like one, such as "write", doesn't.

Start reading at the first line of the story, under the title.

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