Christmas Books Quiz

Set by Noreen Marshall

1. ‘Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves’ is a story once popular in Christmas pantomime. From which collection of ancient stories does it come, and which Dance character was referred to as belonging to the world of that book?

2. Which 17th century naval administrator wrote his first diary entry on New Year’s Day 1660 (1659 in the Old Style of reckoning)?

3. Who was transported by Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen, and when did he come to visit?

4. Which Dickensian character spent part of one Christmas afternoon sliding on a frozen pond (a thing he had not done for thirty years), and fell through into the water, leaving only his hat, gloves and handkerchief visible as they floated?

5. In 1845 Heinrich Hoffman wrote Struwwelpeter (Shock-Headed Peter) as a Christmas present for his three-year-old son. What were Peter’s bad habits?

6. In several volumes of Dance, Widmerpool is referred to as ‘the Frog Footman’. In which Victorian book did the Frog Footman originally appear?

7. Which book character arrives as a new boy at Rugby School wearing the wrong kind of headgear?

8. “It was a Turkey! He could never have stood upon his legs, that bird. He would have snapped ’em short off in a minute, like sticks of sealing wax.” Which Dickensian character bought this remarkable bird one Christmas morning?

9. Which four New England sisters are asked by their mother to give up their breakfast to a poor family on Christmas morning?

10. Which two sisters at boarding school in New Hampshire open a box of Christmas presents from their family which begins with a layer of jumbles, ginger snaps, crullers and plum cake?

11. Which Provost of Eton College had a Christmas Eve custom of reading aloud to friends his own ghost stories, among them ‘The Mezzotint’ and ‘Oh, Whistle, and I’ll Come to You, my Lad’?

12. Which character in Terry Pratchett’s Discworld has a spin-off cookery book which gives recipes for ‘Sticky Toffee Rat onna Stick’, ‘Knuckle Sandwich’ and ‘Quattro Rodenti Pizza’?
13. In *The Valley of Bones*, Gwatkin talks to Jenkins about a well-worn book he has with him: ‘I don’t expect you remember,’ he said, ‘but there’s a story in that book about a Roman centurion … I sometimes read it again’. What was the book?

14. In which book do Rat and Mole give a feast to the field-mice who come carol-singing?

15. Which detective is marooned in the snow bound Fens at New Year, in a village where the church bells caused the death of a man?

16. Which boy detective’s adventures included *Cigars of the Pharaoh*, *The Blue Lotus* and *The Crab with the Golden Claws*?

17. In which book of poems would you find Macavity, the Mystery Cat? Or Bustopher Jones, The Cat about Town (a member of a club called The Tomb, which inspired the naming of The Tombs restaurant in Georgetown)?

18. “Luke hit Micah in the stomach, Harkaway pushed Ezra into the fire, Mrs Doom flung the bound volume of *The Milk Producers’ Weekly Bulletin and Cowkeepers’ Guide* at the struggling mass, and Christmas dinner collapsed into indescribable confusion”. Which fictional family is celebrating the season in its habitual way?

19. Who wrote and illustrated the book *Popcorn: the Story of a Nonsense Horse*?

20. Where do Bottersnikes and Gumbles live?

21. “Of course there were sweets … and troops of bright tin soldiers who, if they would not fight, could always run. And Snakes-and-Families and Happy Ladders. And Easy Hobbi-Games for Little Engineers, complete with instructions. Oh, easy for Leonardo!” Can you name the Welsh poet who is describing his childhood memories of Christmas presents?

22. In which land, ruled by the White Witch, is it “always Winter, but never Christmas”?

23. “Presents poured in at intervals throughout the day, but the only one I can remember is a life-sized dachshund on wheels. Great-Uncle Algy gave it to Tommy, who at once broke into such howls of terror that it was quickly handed on to me …” from *Christmas with the Savages* by Mary Clive, a novel based on her own childhood memories. What relation was the author to Lady Violet Powell?

24. Which boy wizard’s Christmas presents in his first term at Hogwarts include a 50 pence piece and his late father’s invisibility cloak?

25. “Little Quentin had drawn flowers all up the walls and was watering them from the big, brown, nursery teapot. Anthony was filling up the nursery inkwells with runny red jam. Nicolas had collected up all the Little Ones’ dolls and was lining them up for execution. Sophie was shampooing Henrietta’s hair with glue.” Which magical nanny comes to look after these naughty children?
Christmas Prize Competition

An Anthony Powell Limerick

This year’s creative challenge is to write a Limerick based around any of Anthony Powell’s works.

Maximum three entries per person.

The prize is a year’s membership of the Society or Society merchandise to the same value (please state your preference).

Entries by post, fax or email, with your name & address should be sent to:

Prize Competition, Anthony Powell Society
76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford, UB6 0JW, UK
Fax: +44 (0)20 8020 1483  Email: comp@anthonypowell.org

by the closing date of 31 January 2014.

The winning entry will be the one which most amuses the Hon. Archivist.

The winner will be announced in the Spring 2013 Newsletter.

Competition Conditions. The judges’ decision is final and binding. Entry is open to Anthony Powell Society members and non-members. No purchase necessary. Entries must be original and the work of the person submitting them. Maximum three entries per person. No cash alternative. No correspondence will be entered into. The Anthony Powell Society reserves the right to publish the entries but otherwise copyright remains with the author.
2013 Christmas Crossword
Set by Julian Miller

Answers to the quizzes and crossword will be printed in the Spring Newsletter.

Across
1. Using metal rest to cross brook. (8)
6. Make use of tool to access swag. (4)
8. Hot and cold? Chum returns small token of approval. (8)
9. Private Austen character almost over the top. (6)
10. In galloped large colonel. (6)
11. Returning, the French doctor stands by border next to quarry director. (8)
12. Colonel extremely furious to receive instruction. (6)
15. Young ADC, fresh-faced like an apple. (8)
16. Company time given in confidence by ambitious charmer. (8)
19. No points? Fifty-fifty for young scriptwriter. (6)
21. Raised up flower to be potent. (8)
22. Sailor appeared by sculpture of queen. (6)
24. Italian liqueur found in English road by way of French station somehow. (6)
25. Could same inter the Lord? (8)
26. American composer arrives half way through. (4)
27. Last vexations puts in peril. (9)

Down
1. Master from art school. (5)
2. Supplementary clause with dead letter was a puzzler. (7)
3. Psychiatrist treated Lear and daughter. (5)
4. Tea for film-maker Fritz, who takes up Marienbad, say. (7)
5. Corporal, don’t put a foot wrong! (9)
6. Could MP learn to fish in Thames? (7)
7. Type of figure can go a lot, perhaps. (9)
13. Writer might be novel to Mr Powell? (9)
14. Fowl somehow consumed by snake. Sign of winter? (9)
18. Bristol landlady hosts aristocratic family. (7)
20. Six sections towards end of holy work can be seen. (7)
22. Jockey with fibre enough. (5)
23. Such as 18 family! (8)

Answers to 16 clues refer to names, fictional or real, that appear in Dance. Hilary Spurling’s Handbook to the characters is recommended.