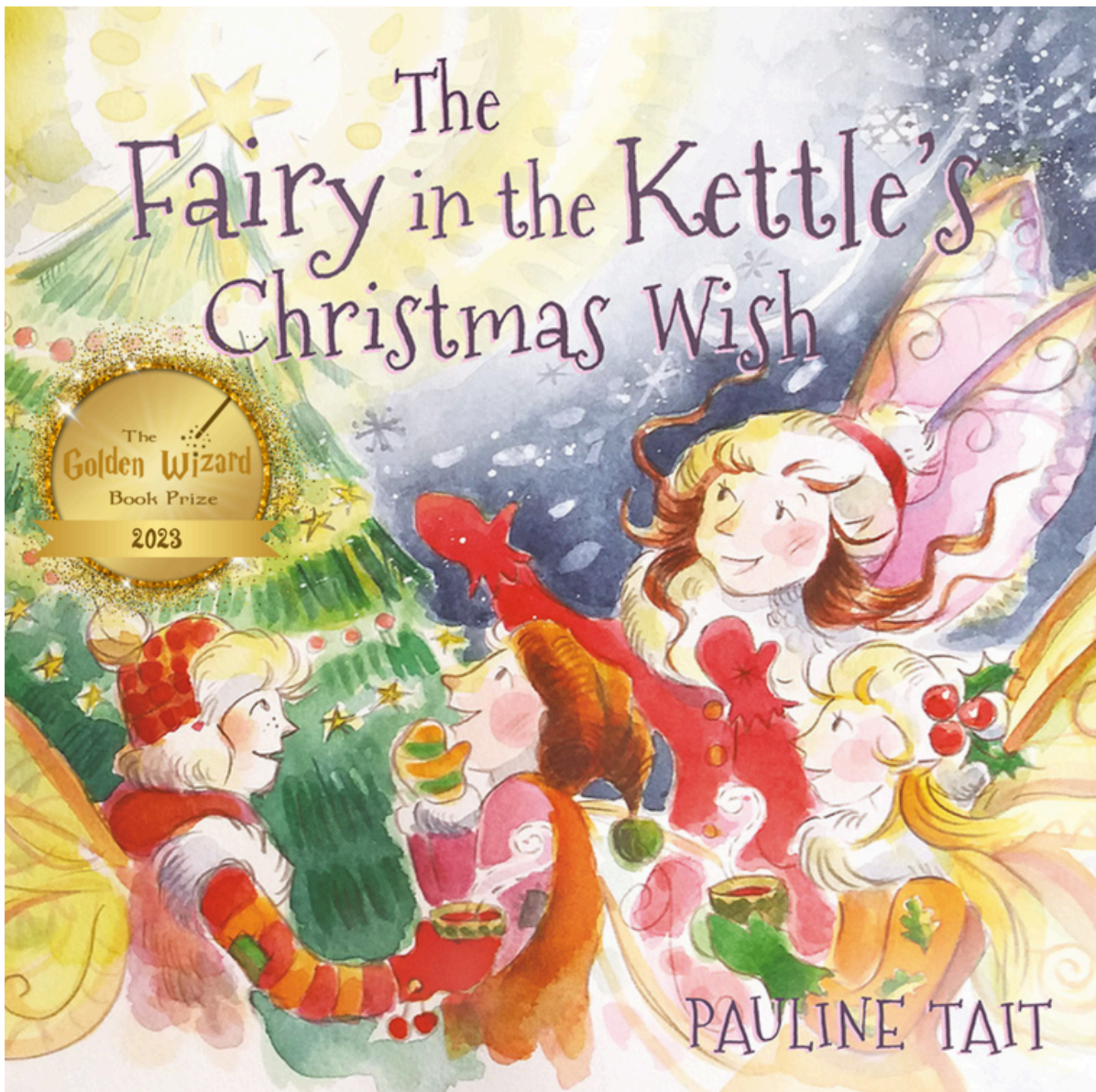


Pauline Tait

The Fairy in the Kettle's Christmas Wish

Teaching & Activity Pack for 3 -7 Years



MULTI-AWARD-WINNING BESTSELLING AUTHOR

The Fairy in the Kettle's Christmas Wish Teaching Pack | Pauline Tait | paulinetait.com

About The Fairy in the Kettle

It's Christmas Eve and Bramble Glen is covered in a thick blanket of snow. As Leona and her friends gather to plan their Christmas, Leona is determined her first Christmas in her precious kettle will be the best one yet. But as the fairies search for their perfect tree, things don't quite go to plan.

From the multi-award-winning The Fairy in the Kettle trilogy, this enchanting story brings friendship, magic and holiday cheer to Bramble Glen

Themes

- Friendship
- Community
- Courage
- Kindness
- Celebration

Literacy Focus

- Seasonal and descriptive vocabulary
- Story sequencing
- Understanding problem and resolution
- Exploring feelings and empathy
- Oral storytelling

How to Use This Pack

This pack is designed to support discussion, comprehension and creative response for children aged 3–7, in line with early years and Key Stage 1 literacy frameworks, including the National Curriculum and Curriculum for Excellence.

About the Author



Pauline Tait is a multi-award-winning and bestselling children's author based in Perthshire, Scotland. Her picture books are known for warm characters, engaging read-aloud rhythm and a strong focus on early literacy.

With a background in supporting children's literacy development, Pauline writes stories that nurture vocabulary, discussion and a love of reading. Her books are enjoyed by families, schools and libraries across the UK and beyond.

The Fairy in the Kettle continues her tradition of creating character-led stories that gently explore themes of belonging, imagination and warmth.

Pauline regularly visits schools and libraries, delivering engaging, literacy-focused author sessions for children aged 3–7.

You can find out more at paulinetait.com

Curriculum Links

Early Years Frameworks

Communication and Language

- Listening and attention
- Speaking and discussion
- Describing winter settings and events

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Recognising feelings
- Developing empathy
- Building confidence
- Understanding safety and reassurance

Literacy

- Seasonal and descriptive vocabulary
- Story sequencing
- Developing comprehension through imagery
- Exploring problem and resolution

Key Stage 1 & Curriculum for Excellence (Early Level)

Spoken Language

- Participating in discussion
- Asking and answering questions
- Retelling key events

Reading – Comprehension

- Prediction and inference
- Identifying key moments in the story
- Understanding character feelings and relationships
- Exploring cause and consequence

Writing – Composition

- Creating simple narratives
- Sequencing events logically
- Writing about feelings and winter settings

Health and Wellbeing / PSHE

- Understanding friendship and belonging
- Reflecting on kindness and care
- Recognising how others help us feel safe

Before Reading

Explore the cover illustration and title together, allowing space for discussion and early predictions.

Discussion Prompts

- What do you notice about the snow and setting?
- Where do you think this story takes place?
- How does Leona look? What clues can you see?
- What do you think might happen in a snowstorm?
- Why might Christmas feel important to Leona?
- What could go wrong while searching for a tree in the snow?

Vocabulary Focus

You may wish to explore key vocabulary before reading:

snowstorm

blanket of snow

bristly

shivering

precious

search

surprise

Explore the meaning of each word and how it helps to create the mood and setting of the story.

During Reading

Pause at key moments in the story to explore character feelings, setting and atmosphere.

Pause and Reflect

- How is Leona feeling here? What clues tell you?
- What can you hear in this part of the story?
- What words help you imagine the snowstorm?
- How does Bramble Glen feel during the storm?
- What does Leona do when she realises she is lost?
- How do the illustrations help you understand the mood?

Looking at the Illustrations

- What colours do you notice in the snowy scenes?
- How do the pictures show cold and warmth?
- Where do you see safety or comfort in the illustrations?
- Do the illustrations add details that are not in the words?

After Reading

Explore the story's themes and character development through discussion and reflection.

Discussion and Reflection

- Why is Christmas important to Leona?
- How do you think Leona feels when she realises she is lost?
- How does Old Badger help her?
- Why are the fairies so worried about Leona?
- What moments feel warm or comforting in the story?
- What do you think this story is teaching us about friendship?

Making Connections

- What makes you feel safe and comfortable?
- Have you ever helped someone who was worried or frightened?
- How can small acts of kindness make a difference?
- Where do you feel most at home?

Story Sequencing

Retelling and sequencing the story supports understanding of key events and how the narrative unfolds.

Activity Option 1 – Order the Events

Cut out the statements below and place them in the correct order.

- Leona and her friends search for a Christmas tree in the snow.
- The snowstorm begins and Leona becomes separated from the others.
- Leona crawls under the roots of the old oak tree.
- Old Badger finds her and keeps her warm.
- The fairies search for Leona and feel worried.
- Old Badger carries Leona back to Bramble Glen.
- Leona discovers her kettle has been decorated as a surprise.

Activity Option 2 – Draw and Retell

Draw four pictures to retell the story.

Write one or two sentences for each picture.

Creative Writing

Use the story as inspiration for a new adventure or idea of your own.

Activity Option 1 – A Winter Rescue

Imagine you are walking through snowy Bramble Glen.

- What do you see and hear?
- Who might need help?
- How do you keep them safe?

Draw your snowy scene.

Write one or two sentences describing what happens.

Activity Option 2 – A Christmas Surprise

Tilly decorated Leona's kettle as a surprise.

- What surprise would you create for a friend?
- How would it make them feel?
- What would you need to prepare?

Draw your surprise.

Write a short description.

Activity Option 3 – Old Badger's Story

Retell part of the story from Old Badger's point of view.

- How did he find Leona?
- What did he think when he saw her?
- Why did he help her?

Draw Old Badger in the snow.

Pretend you are Old Badger. What would you say?

Exploring the Story Further

Extend learning through drama, art and discussion activities inspired by the story.

Drama and Movement

- Create a freeze-frame of Leona lost in the snow.
- Use movement and sound to show the snowstorm building.
- Show the moment Old Badger finds Leona using facial expressions and posture.
- Act out the joyful reunion in Bramble Glen.

Art and Design

- Draw Bramble Glen covered in snow.
- Create a picture showing cold outside and warmth inside the kettle.
- Design a Christmas decoration for Leona's kettle.

Discussion Extension

- What makes a place feel warm and safe?
- Why is helping others important in a community?
- How did Old Badger's actions change the ending of the story?

Vocabulary and Word Work

Explore key vocabulary from the story and how it helps to create atmosphere and meaning.

Key Words

- Snowstorm
- Blanket
- Bristly
- Shivering
- Precious
- Search
- Surprise

Snowstorm

Heavy falling snow with strong winds.

Blanket (of snow)

A thick covering that lies over something.

Bristly

Covered in short, stiff hairs.

Shivering

Shaking slightly because you are cold.

Precious

Very special or important.

Search

To look carefully for something.

Surprise

Something unexpected that brings feeling or emotion.

Activity Option – Word Detective

Find the words in the story and discuss:

- What is happening when this word appears?
- How does it help you picture the snowy scene?
- What kind of feeling does it create?
- Does this word help show cold or warmth?

Invite the Author to Your School

Pauline Tait enjoys visiting schools, libraries and bookshops to share her stories and inspire young readers and writers.

With a background in primary literacy, she tailors each visit to suit the age and stage of the children, from Nursery to Primary 7, aiming to leave them buzzing with ideas and confidence in their own storytelling.

School Author Visits: Pauline offers two types of visit:

Read and Discover (Nursery to Primary 4)

An interactive reading from one of her award-winning picture books, followed by discussion and an informal Q&A.

- Exploring characters and story themes
- Creative writing
- Working with an illustrator
- The publishing journey
- How books reach bookshops
- Life as an author

Creative Character Workshop (Best suited to Primaries 1–4)

A creative writing session focused on building engaging characters, supported by a visual presentation. This workshop provides a strong foundation in storytelling and story structure, designed to inspire children and build confidence in their own writing.

Drawing on her experience supporting children with additional literacy needs, Pauline adapts each session to specific stages and learning goals, ensuring sessions are accessible and enjoyable for all learners.

Bookmarks and activity sheets are included, and books are available to purchase at a discounted rate. Pauline is always happy to sign and personalise copies.

Booking Information

For enquiries and availability, please contact:

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