**The 25th of December Incident**

This morning I awoke blurry eyed and I instantly knew something was wrong…

Me and my family live in a creaky old house with large chimneys on the roof. My bedroom is on the second floor and on one wall there is a huge fireplace with a wooden mantel piece. Normally, my collections of sports awards are displayed neatly on top. My football awards on the left and tennis on the right.

However, this morning was different and a chill ran down my spine. Lying on the floor in a mess were my trophies and awards. They were scattered around the fire place. What had happened? Then something even stranger caught my eye! Dark, thick, dusty foot prints dotted the carpet like patch work. Strangely, they led from inside the fire place all the way to my bedroom door. Cautiously stepping out of bed, I noticed that these foot prints returned the same way in which they came, as though the intruder had both entered and exited from the same chimney. Surely, this was not possible!

Peering around the frame of the door, I made my way down the stairs, which creaked and squeaked as I stepped. Following the dust of destruction, I tip-toed over broken vases, knocked picture frames and even crumbs, which, I later discovered, belonged to our missing mince pies!

Making my way towards the living room, my heart was thumping hard. What if the intruder was still in the house? What if the footprints returning to the chimney were just a trick!? Taking one final deep breath, I pushed the door open, ever so slowly. What I saw next, I will never forget. My eyes widened and my thumping heart skipped a beat or two. Sat in the corner, like a stack of bricks were presents. I rushed towards them. The paper glistened in the early morning sunlight. Each box was individually wrapped so neatly and so well. Taking one small gift from the top, it read…

To Mum, lots of love, S.

I couldn’t believe it. Each present was labelled for me and my family.

Who was this ‘S’? Why did they come? How had they made such a mess? I did not have answers for any of these questions but I knew it was my mission to find out!