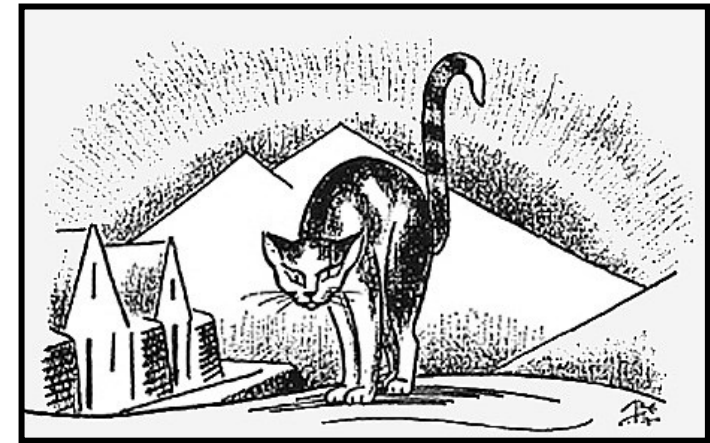


1 Are you sick of getting \_\_\_\_\_ or new pyjamas at Christmas? If you lived in Iceland you would certainly be grateful if your presents contained something to \_\_\_\_\_. Even a hideous Christmas jumper would be a welcome gift because it would prevent you from being eaten by Jólakötturinn the Christmas Cat!

5 Old Icelandic folklore states that every Icelander must receive a new piece of clothing for Christmas or they will find themselves in \_\_\_\_\_ danger. An enormous black cat is said to \_\_\_\_\_ around the snowy streets on Christmas Eve, \_\_\_\_\_ through windows, looking for people who haven't kept this simple rule. Not wearing something new on Christmas Eve? \_\_\_\_\_ will eat you!

10 However, perhaps worse still is Jólakötturinn's owner: Gryla. Traditional tales tell of a giant ogress, who is part troll, part animal, that lives up in the \_\_\_\_\_ with her cat, her third husband and her thirteen children. At Christmas Gryla and her sons, who are also known as the Yuletide Lads, come down from the mountains. Gryla looks for naughty children that she can \_\_\_\_\_ and put into her \_\_\_\_\_ to boil them up and eat them. The only way to escape this terrible \_\_\_\_\_, is for the children to  
15 repent and ask \_\_\_\_\_ for their bad behaviour.



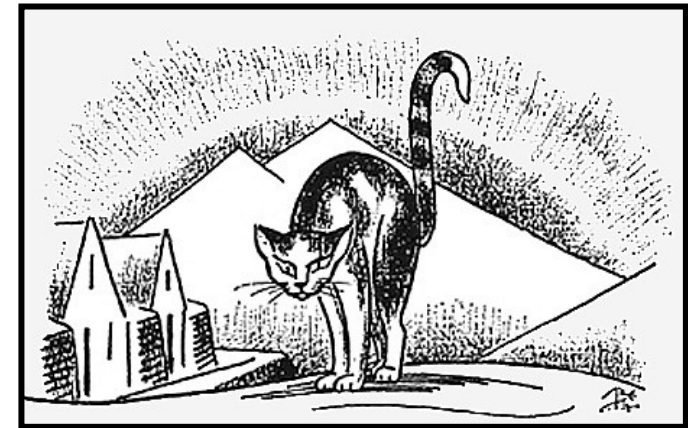
Perhaps one of the nicer Icelandic tales concerns Gryla's sons. The Yuletide Lads are actually like thirteen \_\_\_\_\_ or Father Christmases. Icelandic children place a \_\_\_\_\_ in their bedroom window each evening in the 13 days before Christmas. Every night, one Yuletide Lad visits, leaving sweets and small gifts or rotting potatoes, in their shoe, depending on how that particular child has behaved on the \_\_\_\_\_ day.  
20 Although these tales are only stories, Gryla, her sons and the Christmas Cat ensure that Icelandic children everywhere are as good as \_\_\_\_\_ at Christmas.

1 Are you sick of getting **SOCKS** or new pyjamas at Christmas? If you lived in Iceland you would certainly be grateful if your presents contained something to **WEAR**. Even a hideous Christmas jumper would be a welcome gift because it would prevent you from being eaten by Jólakötturinn the Christmas Cat!

5 Old Icelandic folklore states that every Icelander must receive a new piece of clothing for Christmas or they will find themselves in **MORTAL** danger. An enormous black cat is said to **PROWL** around the snowy streets on Christmas Eve, **PEERING** through windows, looking for people who haven't kept this simple rule. Not wearing something new on Christmas Eve? **JÓLAKÖTTURINN** will eat you!

10 However, perhaps worse still is Jólakötturinn's owner: Gryla. Traditional tales tell of a giant ogress, who is part troll, part animal, that lives up in the **MOUNTAINS** with her cat, her third husband and her thirteen children. At Christmas Gryla and her sons, who are also known as the Yuletide Lads, come down from the mountains. Gryla looks for naughty children that she can **CAPTURE** and put into her **CAULDRON** to boil them up and eat them.

15 The only way to escape this terrible **FATE**, is for the children to repent and ask **FORGIVENESS** for their bad behaviour.

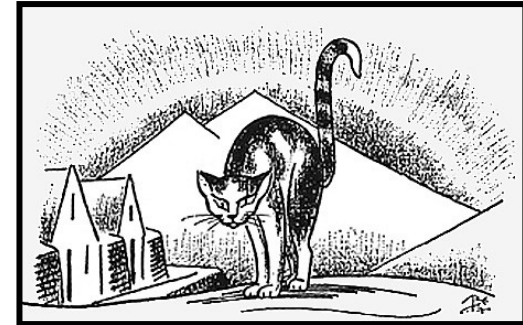


Perhaps one of the nicer Icelandic tales concerns Gryla's thirteen sons. The Yuletide Lads are actually like thirteen **SANTAS** or Father Christmases. Icelandic children place a **SHOE** in their bedroom window each evening in the 13 days before Christmas. Every night, one Yuletide Lad visits, leaving sweets and small gifts or rotting potatoes, in their show, depending on how that particular child has behaved on the **PRECEDING** day.

20 Although these tales are only stories, Gryla, her sons and the Christmas Cat ensure that Icelandic children everywhere are as good as **GOLD** at Christmas.

**Discuss the following questions with your group.**

**Write your answers in full sentences in your Reflective Reading Journal.** (Except for Big Talk questions!)



1. What stories, tales and traditions do we have here in the UK at Christmas and New Year? Discuss and make a list in your group.
2. Summarise the three tales mentioned in the article about Christmas in Iceland. Write a sentence or two describing each one in your journal.
3. Would you prefer a shoe full of presents every day for thirteen days or do you prefer exchanging gifts on Christmas morning? Why? Why not?
4. Do you think it is right or appropriate for parents in Iceland to tell their children about these scary stories to make them behave? Discuss in your group and be prepared to share your answers with the class.

