



HO HO HO Hello!

It's almost Christmastime and the festive spirit fills the air here in the North Pole. There are snowflakes falling from the sky shaped like stars that remind me of the star atop a Christmas tree. The elves are busy, busy, busy at Santa's workshop making toys and wrapping presents. And Mrs. Claus is baking her world-famous gingerbread cookies just in time for the gingerbread house contest we're holding at the Town Hall later this week.

The joy of Christmas is alive and well. Still, I couldn't help it but feel like something was missing. That's when I realized: I hadn't received your letter yet! Well, I reached into my mailbox this morning and giggled with glee when I noticed your letter had arrived. I am so glad it did!

This Christmas, I've given Donner and Blitzen a bigger role. I'm teaching them how to draw the maps we'll use to navigate the skies on Christmas Eve. It's been hard work, but I know they are ready for the new responsibility.

I am happy that you wrote - better late than never, I say. It feels like receiving a gift and I am overjoyed with happiness whenever I read wonderful letters like yours. Remember that being kind to the people around you is the greatest gift anybody can give. I must be off now - I hear a knock at the door and I think Mr. Snowman is here to help me decorate my gingerbread house. What colour of frosting should I use to paint the roof? What's your favourite colour? Maybe I can use that!

I look forward to hearing from you again next year. Until then, have a safe and happy holiday.

Your friend, *Santa*

