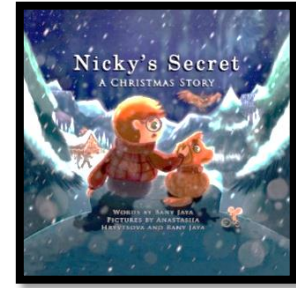


Fact Sheet for *Nicky's Secret: A Christmas Story*

Nicky's Secret: A Christmas Story is a children's picture book published by The Hunch Trail in November 2025.

The book is most suited to children **aged 4 to 8 years old**, but older siblings, parents and teachers will appreciate the many hidden details and references in the book as well.

The full story is told in 85 sentences and under 1,200 words.



Accessibility

Nicky's Secret boasts a **Flesch Reading Ease score of 89.9 out of 100**, which measures how easy a text is to understand. The coupled Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level score of 4.0 indicates the text is at a **4th grade reading level**. Books such as *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson have similar Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level scores. A typical child of age 5 years will be able to comprehend the vast majority of the words in the book when it is read to them. Additionally, around **93% of adults can read at this level**, and the text uses the **Open Dyslexic font to help any readers with Dyslexia**.

The **rhyming couplets and consistent rhythm provide a scaffolded musical experience** for younger children, improving immersion and auditory memory. Additionally, the story moves at a **fast pace designed to hold the attention of most children** right through.

There are **numerous hidden details and references** throughout the book, many of which will be disclosed through videos posted online. These complementary materials will serve to supplement and **enhance the experience that parents, teachers and older siblings have while re-reading the book to younger children**.

“ A Flesch Reading Ease Score of 89.9 / 100 ”

Challenges

The story includes a **flashforward through time** that many children aged 4 to 5 years will struggle to comprehend due to their having limited life experience. Parents and teachers are advised to provide some explanation of the aging process to guide children through this section.

One of the challenging themes of the story is theft. Robbery is never valorised in any way, and **the ending delivers a lesson on practical and moral consequences** of theft.

Nevertheless, some parents might consider this book for children who are slightly older, like those aged 6 or above.



A pair of robbers also appear in the book, and while they have a cute visual appearance, some younger children might still find these characters scary. Parents and teachers may wish to preview the book for suitability first.

