
Castlechanter Fairy Advent Calendar Cheat Sheet

December — what a sparkling month! Even more so for first-graders Oscar and Aliyah as they begin a mystical journey into the enchanted land of Hillwyn and explore a fairy spiral walk. As the children navigate this magical realm with their fairy friends, they revel in the festive joys of the holiday season — and begin to understand some of the season’s quieter gifts as well.

Use this parent cheat sheet to help you navigate the stories with activities that relate to each story. In this cheat sheet, we’ve given you a timeline so you can be prepared with a recipe, craft, or fun idea in advance. **Perfect for ages 5+**

Story One: “Where to Start”

December has finally arrived — Oscar Grimmson’s favorite month. As he begins dreaming about the upcoming winter festivities (including his own birthday), Oscar and his sister receive a surprise invitation to explore a new feature of the enchanted land of Hillwyn: the fairy advent spiral walk.

Fun tips: Try making some special breakfast oatmeal or begin an advent calendar.

Story Two: “The Middle”

Aliyah Azi awakens on December 1 with a delicious feeling of anticipation: today she begins her exploration of the fairy advent spiral walk. She doesn’t know very much about it, but her interest is piqued even more through the warm and wonderful picture Stitch paints of the journey.

Fun tips: Consider making something with a pile of sticks, like Stitch does!



Story Three: “The First Steps”

Oscar and Olive encounter Aliyah in Hillwyn and approach the fairy advent spiral walk together, acquainting themselves with the friendly fairy gatekeeper and the customs for beginning their adventure. What secrets will they discover within the walk ... and within themselves?

Fun tips: An autumn leaf craft project would be lovely today, or something to do with sledding.

Story Four: “The Perfect Moment”

Oscar’s first steps into the spiral plunge him into a glorious sledding adventure — a beautiful memory from his past. When he and his sister meet again with Aliyah, they share notes on their experiences, and then return to their own backyards ... where they discover another magical event taking place.

Fun tips: Today is a day to celebrate snow! If you’re lucky enough to have some on the ground, go out to play. Or use your imagination to make a craft with marshmallows or cotton balls!

Story Five: "The Magic of the First Snow"

Aliyah's joy over the first snow of the year is tempered by the worries and tension her parents carry. But with the help of some fairy wisdom, Aliyah invites her parents to recognize the magic of the day and enjoy the gift of each other's presence.

Fun tips: Ciabatta bread could be a fun baking project today – or some snowflake cookies.

Story Six: "Fairies and Shoes"

Rich memories come to life as Oscar and Aliyah walk the fairy advent spiral and discover the power of their feelings. When Saint Nicholas Day arrives, a new lesson teaches them of another power they possess: the power to help.

Fun tips: It's Saint Nicholas Day! Put your shoes out to receive treats in them tomorrow morning.

Story Seven: "The Next Person"

Saint Nicholas serves as an inspiration to Aliyah and Oscar as they head to school that day. Mr. Whittlesmith invites Oscar to tell the class about Saint Nicholas Day and then offers a way to make a difference ... through math.

Fun tips: We celebrate generous giving today. Perhaps you can consider making a donation as a family to a favorite charity?



Story Eight: "My Fairy Friends"

Aliyah wakes with a sense of determination: it is time to tell her parents about her fairy friends. But how will they respond? After Suspin offers some advice to embolden her, Aliyah takes her next steps and is pleasantly surprised by the results.

Fun tips: Today would be a great day to sketch the fairies you see in your own imagination ... and beyond. Parents are invited to participate, too!

Story Nine: "Fairy Stone Piles"

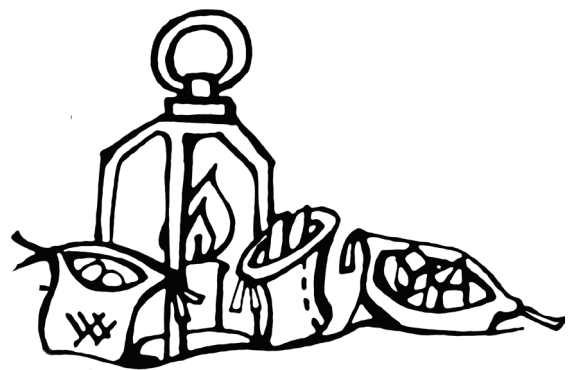
The story of Aliyah's successful fairy conversation with her parents intrigues Oscar and Olive. When the two siblings enter the fairy spiral together, they encounter a snowy land, a number of huldufólk, and a very familiar face.

Fun tips: Make a fairy stone pile for your fairy friends to inhabit.

Story Ten: "Buffbuff" and the Menorah

It's the first night of Hanukkah! Aliyah and her family joyfully immerse themselves in food preparation as they retell the story of Hanukkah. At the most exciting moment of the story, an unexpected friend joins Aliyah and shares the traditions alongside her.

Fun tips: Consider making a batch of potato latkes and enjoying them for supper.



Story 11: “Yule Lads”

Oscar’s father doesn’t believe in fairies — until he watches Oscar making beautiful stone fairy houses. Suddenly, he recalls his own childhood experience and tells Oscar about a particular group of Icelandic fairies that appear at this time of year: the thirteen mischievous Yule Lads.

Fun tips: Learn more about Icelandic Yule Lads online! You might even like to prepare for a visit from them.

Story 12: “Abi the Fraser Fir Fairy”

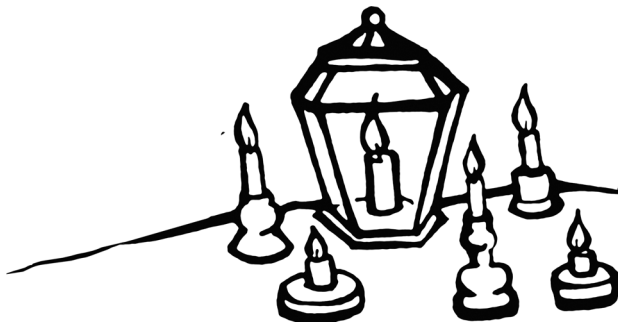
When Aliyah goes shopping with her mother at the local garden center, she encounters a tree fairy who enthusiastically recounts the history of the Christmas tree. Delighted by this new friendship, Aliyah wonders — could she convince her mother to buy this tree and its fairy for their own home?

Fun tips: It’s a great day to honor trees and the fairies that care for them. Go outdoors and see what you notice about the trees around you!

Story 13: “Christmas Tree History”

Abi the Fraser Fir Fairy devises a special Christmas tree history lesson for Aliyah’s next walk in the fairy advent spiral — while Aliyah offers a lesson of her own about the true nature of friendship.

Fun tips: Our story today celebrates caring friendship. Who can you be a friend to today?



Story 14: “Stubby and the All Pie Day”

Oscar can hardly believe his eyes when he wakes up to see his father talking to a fairy. Father and son indulge their little companion and invite him to participate in making his favorite food of all: pie.

Fun tips: If you ever plan to make a pie, today is the day for it! Try a sweet or savory recipe and enjoy the process.

Story 15: “Fairy Gift Bags”

It’s gift-making time in art class, but Oscar and Aliyah don’t know where to start. There are so many ideas to choose from! Mrs. Castlechanter shares fairy wisdom about finding gifts for their smallest friends and the children add their own unique touch in the wrapping of these presents.

Fun tips: Sometimes wrapping the gift can be the most fun part! Spend time today wrapping a gift in an extra-special way.

Story 16: “Better Than the North Pole”

Oscar wakes up with a terrible cold — what a disappointment! Although he cannot join Norman for a visit to the North Pole amusement park, his sniffles don’t prevent him from visiting a fairy wonderland that is even better than his original plan.

Fun tips: Imagine the kind of fairy wonderland you would like to visit. Describe it in detail over hot cocoa — or sketch it out on paper!

Story 17: "Christmas for the Animals"

Aliyah discovers a disagreement brewing between fairies and squirrels in her backyard. How can they celebrate Christmas with the local wild animals? Aliyah finds a way to resolve differences when she offers to throw a party for the animals — and receives some help in return.

Fun tips: Animals need to celebrate too! Make some edible treats for the animals outdoors and hang them on trees as a gift.

Story 18: "Teacher Gifts"

When Aliyah and Oscar confide in one another that they haven't yet made gifts for their favorite teachers, they look to the fairy advent spiral for inspiration. A journey into an unfamiliar location gives them just what they need — as well as a peek into the past of their beloved teachers.

Fun tips: Teachers work so hard — how can we thank them? Consider what kinds of special gifts you can make and send to the teachers in your life.

Story 19: "Fairy Birthday Candles"

Oscar wakes on the morning of his seventh birthday with a new plan: to see what surprises the day brings to him. As he walks through Hillwyn that morning, he sees that his friends have been preparing in extraordinary ways to shower him with birthday wishes.

Fun tips: Consider lighting some candles in honor of Oscar's birthday today!

Story 20: "Cookies and Caroling"

After Oscar and his family enjoy a full day of holiday baking together, they join Aliyah and Norman's families for an evening of caroling ... and experience a new kind of magic through their singing.

Fun tips: It's a great day to bake cookies and share them! You might even like to sing a few carols with your family when the baking is all finished.

Story 21: "Solstice Bread"

The winter solstice has arrived and the fairies are all aflutter. What will they eat on this most celebratory of days? Oscar offers up his skills as a baker and teaches his friends all about the wonders of baking bread.

Fun tips: Celebrate the joy of baking bread today, whether you make it from scratch or bake some refrigerated rolls. Smell the goodness, just like the fairies do!

Story 22: "Remembering the Rest"

When Aliyah wakes up after a busy few days, she just wants some extra rest — and it turns out her parents do, too. Together, they discover the sweet contentment that can be found in the snuggles of a close family.

Fun tips: We all need rest in the midst of a busy season. Can you take some extra time for rest and relaxation today?



Story 23: "Christmas Parties"

Oscar longs to throw a Christmas party but worries that his time has run out. However, a trip to Hillwyn shows him that a Christmas party can take shape in more ways than he had ever imagined.

Fun tips: A Christmas party can happen in lots of ways — even over video! Consider having a video-call with a friend or family member.

Story 24: "Fairy Revelation"

Inspired by her time in Hillwyn, Aliyah creates her very own spiral walk in the backyard to share with her parents. On Christmas Eve, Aliyah invites them to walk the spiral with her, unaware that a wondrous sight would soon be revealed to the whole family.

Fun tips: Design a walking spiral of your own. Walk through it together with luminaries after dusk!

Story 25: "Seven and Twelve Days"

On December 25, Aliyah and Oscar meet together in Hillwyn for their final walk through the fairy advent spiral. Resting in the center, they relish the sweetness they have cultivated these twenty-five days ... and receive the wonderful gift of savoring it for many days to come.

Fun tips: S'mores are a special treat, whether you roast them over a bonfire or just a candle flame. Enjoy them today!

