

'I'm sure you do,' Sulley replied. 'I'm just going to see if there's anything I can do to help.'

Sulley followed Mike into the basement of Monsters, Inc., where the laugh wranglers were hard at work. Everyone wanted to get the laugh tank fixed as soon as possible and time was running out. The tree-lighting ceremony was only a few hours away!

But the wranglers couldn't agree on how to fix the problem.

'Anything I can do?' Sulley asked.

'One of the pipes that leads into the laugh tank has burst,' explained Smitty. 'We need to tie it off but none of our tools are strong enough to turn the pipe.'

'Hmm...' said Sulley, scratching his head. Then Mike had a great idea. 'Why not actually tie it off?' Since Sulley was so strong, he could bend that pipe right into a pretzel shape!

Sulley was willing to give it a try. Mike stood by his side and coached him.

It worked! The pipe stopped leaking!

Mike and Sulley headed back up to the Laugh Floor. All the monsters congratulated Sulley!

Mike wondered why no one was thanking him. It had been his idea, after all. But there was no time to think about that now. 'We're back up and running!' Mike announced. 'Let's make some laughs!'

All the monsters got to work. They knew they'd have to work extra hard to make up for all of the lost laughs.

Sulley decided to jump in and help. Hey, we've only got a couple of hours to get the tree lit, he said to Mike.

Still dressed as Santa, Sulley went through a child's wardrobe door.

When he came back onto the Laugh Floor, he looked up at the Laugh Meter on the wall. It was increasing, but slowly.

'We've got to make it,' Sulley whispered to Mike.

Finally, the Laugh Meter was back up to the level it had reached before the leak. Sulley looked at the clock on the wall and frowned. It was only thirty minutes until the tree-lighting ceremony.

Suddenly, Sulley had an idea. 'The only way we're going to make our laugh quota is to get some really over-the-top laughs.'

Mike nodded in agreement.

'We need a big one,' continued Sulley. 'We need a special kind of monster. One with perfect timing, star quality, a natural at comedy, a one-eyed sensation.'

Mike realised what Sulley was trying to do. He crossed his arms and shook his head. 'No, Sulley. Absolutely not.'

'The Christmas tree lighting is only half an hour away,' Sulley told him. 'Come on, Mike. The whole city is depending on you.'

That was all Mike needed to hear. 'You're right. Let's do it!' he said. 'But you're coming with me!'

Sulley and Mike went through a door together. Sulley was still dressed as Santa and Mike had dressed up as an elf. To their delight, a little girls' sleepover was going on!

Mike started with some of his best jokes. Hey, Sulley, I've got to walk twenty-five miles to get home.'

'Why don't you take a train?' Sulley asked, playing along.

'I did once, but my mother made me give it back!' Mike said. The kids in the room laughed but not as hard as the monsters had hoped. After a few more jokes, Mike realised he'd have to try something else. He picked up the sack of toys Sulley had brought in, but it was far too heavy for him.

'Whoa!' he exclaimed as he tripped. He landed upside down and the sack of toys spilled out around him. He sat up with a doll draped over his head and a toy race car stuck to his foot.

The kids roared with laughter. They begged for more and Mike happily tumbled and tripped for them again.

Mike and Sulley made it back onto the Laugh Floor in time to watch the Laugh Meter hit its limit!

At the tree-lighting ceremony, Mike and Sulley stood proudly in the front of the crowd.

Sulley whispered in Mike's ear, 'You did a great job. Thank you.'

Mike smiled. 'You know what I always say: funny doesn't grow on trees. When you got it, you got it. And I got it.'

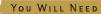
Sulley laughed. He was happy Mike had it and shared it. It was going to be a bright Christmas, after all.

MAKE AN

ADVENT CALENDAR

Get creative and make your own activity advent calendar!







· coloured card or wrapping paper · coloured pens or pencils

- · coloured ribbon
 - · string





- 1. Cut out 25 shapes from the coloured card or wrapping paper. You could cut Christmas trees, wreaths, presents, snowmen, stockings or baubles.
- 2. On the front, write a number from 1 to 25. On the back, write a fun activity to do every day leading up to Christmas Day.
- 3. Add extra decoration to each card try adding glitter, stickers or even fresh holly!
- 4. Ask an adult to hang up the ribbon you could hang it on a wall or along a bannister.
- 5. Make a small hole in the corner of each card and thread through string. Hang up the cards, in order, ready to open each day!

ACTIVITY IDEAS

- · Make a hot chocolate with marshmallows
- · Watch a Christmas film
- · Decorate the Christmas tree · Make a gingerbread house
 - · Put on a festive play







DECEMBER

THE BEST PRESENT EVER

'Hey, Lightning, look at me! Wooooeeeee!' Mater sledged past his best buddy, Lightning McQueen.

It was winter in Radiator Springs. Christmas was just a few days away and fresh snow blanketed the ground. The two friends were taking turns sliding down a snow-covered hill using Mater's one-of-a-kind junkyard sledge.

'I'm tellin' you, this here's the best sledge in Radiator Springs!' Mater exclaimed. 'I know, you have told me,' Lightning laughed. 'Several times. It has its own headlights, superfast gliders—'

'And built-in bumper tyres!' the friends said together.

'Well, hold your horsepower,' said Mater. 'Because it's gonna be even funner when we take it sledging at Kersploosh Mountain!'

Kersploosh Mountain was a water park near Radiator Springs. For just one day a year, on Christmas, the waterslides were frozen over so that cars could go sledging down the chutes.

'Üh, Mater, there's something I need to tell you.' Lightning looked worried. 'Remember that Russian Ice Racers Cup I told you I'm competing in?'

'Well, sure,' said Mater. 'The one in a few weeks.'

'That's just it,' Lightning said. 'They moved it up to this week. I'm not going to be here for Christmas after all.'

Mater stopped dead in his tracks. 'You're not?'

Lightning shook his head. 'I'm really sorry, buddy. I know I'll miss Christmas at Kersploosh Mountain. But maybe we can do something else when I get back?' 'Yeah... sure thing,' Mater said.



'Hey there, Mater,' Flo called. 'Want to try a sip of my new eggnog oil? It's guaranteed to fill you up with Christmas cheer.'

'I could use some,' said Mater. 'I'm plumb out of Christmas cheer.'

'Something got you down, honey?' Flo asked.

Mater sighed. 'Lightning won't be home for Christmas. He's in some Rushin' Rice Cup.' $\,$

'That's too bad,' Flo said. 'I guess you'll have to celebrate the holiday early.'
'Yeah, celebrate early! That's a good idea!' said Mater. Then he thought for a
moment. 'Oh, shoot, I forgot about presents. I've gotta get Lightning something!

Flo looked thoughtful. 'Hmmm. Well, you're going to miss him while he's away, right?'

'Yeah,' Mater nodded eagerly.

But what?'

'So how about getting him something for the race, so he knows you'll be thinking of him? Like ear mufflers? Or a snow scraper?'

Mater smiled. 'Or snow tyres! That's a great idea, Flo. I know just where to go!' With that, Mater dashed off.

'Luigi!' Mater yelled as he skidded up to Casa Della Tires. 'I need your help!' Luigi smiled. 'For you, Mater, anything!'

'Those snow tyres,' said Mater. 'The ones that used to be in your front window. Where'd they go? I need to buy them for Lightning for his Crushin' Dice Cup!'

Luigi's smile faded. 'Ah... I can do anything but that. I'm afraid someone's already bought them. They just left a moment ago.'

Sure enough, outside a big truck was driving away from the shop.

Mater raced after the truck, finally catching up with him at the intersection. Mater explained the situation then pleaded with the truck. 'I need those tyres for my best buddy's Christmas gift. I'll give you anything.'

The truck sighed. 'Sorry, but I've been dreaming of speeding through the snow with these superfast tyres.'

Mater raised an eyebrow. 'Fast, huh? What if I told you I had something that goes even faster than those tyres?'







Curious, the truck agreed to meet Mater at the edge of town. Meanwhile, Mater raced to his junkyard to grab his sledge.

'All right,' Mater said when the two trucks met again. 'I'll bet my sledge is faster going down that hill than you in those tyres. If I'm right, we'll trade. Deal?'

The truck agreed and soon they were zipping down the snowy slope. Mater zoomed past the truck – and won!

The truck happily traded the tyres for Mater's sledge.

Meanwhile, Lightning was helping Sally decorate the Cozy Cone Motel.

'I feel awful,' he said. 'Mater looked so sad when I told him.'

'Well,' said Sally. 'Do you need to do the race?'

'Huh?' asked Lightning.

'It's not part of your normal circuit,' Sally pointed out. 'I'm sure they'd understand if you didn't go.' $\,$

Lightning's eyes lit up. 'You're right. Mater is my best friend. And a trophy is just another trophy. I'm going to withdraw from the race and stay here for Christmas!'

Lightning raced home to call Vitaly Petrov, who was hosting the Russian Ice Racers Cup. Vitaly told Lightning not to worry, he could reschedule the race for after the holiday.

'That works out great. Thanks, Vitaly!' said Lightning.

He couldn't wait to tell Mater the good news. On his way to see his best buddy, Lightning drove past a big sign for Kersploosh Mountain. He suddenly had an idea for the perfect gift...

The next day, Lightning and Mater exchanged gifts.

'Open yours, open yours, open yours!' Mater cried.

'Okay,' said Lightning. 'But, Mater, I have some good news that...' Lightning trailed off as he unwrapped the tyres.

'You got these for me?' he asked, looking up at his friend.

'Yeah!' Mater grinned from mirror to mirror. 'If my best buddy can't be here for Christmas, then he'd sure as heck better win his Blushin' Mice Cup! Do you like 'em?'

Lightning was touched. 'Mater, I love them. But...'

Mater was already ripping open his gift. When he saw the two tickets to Kersploosh Mountain, his eyes grew wide.

Lightning shrugged. 'My race was delayed, so now I can spend Christmas with you, buddy.'

'No way!' Mater exclaimed. 'This is awesome! I can't believe we're going to Kersploosh Mountain on Christmas Day! Now we can take my sledge and... uh oh.'

'Hey, where is your sledge?' Lightning asked, looking around. Mater shuffled nervously. 'Uh, I may have kind of, sort of, traded it to get you them there snow tyres.'

The two friends stared at each other. Then they started laughing. 'Can you believe this?' Lightning exclaimed. 'We thought we were getting each other the perfect Christmas presents but we ended up getting stuff we can't use!'

Mater nodded. 'Yeah, but I'll tell you one thing, buddy, spending Christmas together is still the best present ever.'

Lightning smiled. 'Same here, pal. I wouldn't change a thing.'

Mater looked at the gifts. 'Well, shoot. What are we going to do with four tyres and no race and two tickets with no sledge?'

A twinkle came to Lightning's eye. 'Well, we may not have a junkyard sledge but we do have a junkyard. Mater, didn't your old sledge have bumper tyres?'

Mater bounced up and down. 'Oh, oh! I see where you're going.' He started racing around his junkyard, collecting scraps. 'Dad gum, this is gonna be so cool!'

On Christmas Day, Mater and Lightning sat at the top of Kersploosh Mountain. Beneath them was a new junkyard sledge. Except this one was extra special – it had two seats, flashing Christmas lights, double gliders and extra-large bumper tyres.

'It's Mater's Junkyard Sledge 2.0, with double the sledding fun!' cried Mater.

'You ready for this?' Lightning asked as they teetered on the top of the slide.

'You bet,' said Mater. 'As long as I've got my good buddy with me, I'm as ready as I'll ever beeeeeeeeee!'



