Lantern Lane

Christmas Table Kit

Four new puzzles, a few good questions, and a place for everyone.

Print just the pages you want. Puzzles are on pages 2–5; conversation cards on page 6; place cards on page 7; the shared-play sheet on page 8; all answers on pages 9–10.

Start with one question from page 6. Everyone may answer or pass. Then choose a puzzle, work together or print a copy for each person, and let the evening find its own pace.

Print at actual size on US Letter or A4 paper; these 8 × 10 inch pages fit both. Choose black-and-white printing. Adults should handle any cutting. Scissors are optional: cards also work as an uncut sheet.

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A place at the table

Find all 12 words. Words run in straight lines in any of eight directions, forward or backward. Each appears once; words may cross.

Q	B	W	P	L	I	T	D	R	C	E	A	J	A	W
N	T	E	W	S	F	B	W	V	N	V	A	J	E	T
T	I	N	M	Q	T	B	T	A	B	L	E	A	S	O
J	K	A	U	U	U	P	W	N	Q	F	J	U	K	G
O	Z	P	E	I	L	A	U	G	H	T	E	R	B	E
P	Z	K	Y	R	E	H	T	A	G	P	N	H	U	T
P	C	I	I	O	M	Z	E	M	V	W	E	Y	X	H
J	V	N	Y	Z	Y	Y	C	V	D	M	U	S	F	E
H	Q	V	T	E	L	L	F	A	O	C	B	W	I	R
R	H	D	X	X	T	H	Z	C	A	O	Q	E	S	J
C	K	S	R	U	S	A	L	K	G	O	S	J	H	F
Z	O	Y	E	P	W	E	L	R	N	K	R	K	A	W
H	L	C	O	C	W	F	Q	P	M	I	T	T	R	D
Z	J	O	O	Z	W	J	M	H	R	E	V	F	E	R
U	N	J	R	A	B	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	I	F

GATHER
TABLE
NAPKIN
PLATE
SPOON
COCOA
COOKIE
LAUGHTER
FRIENDS
WELCOME
SHARE
TOGETHER

Answer: page 9

A quiet little challenge

Fill the empty squares with digits 1–9. Each row, column and outlined 3 × 3 box must contain every digit exactly once.

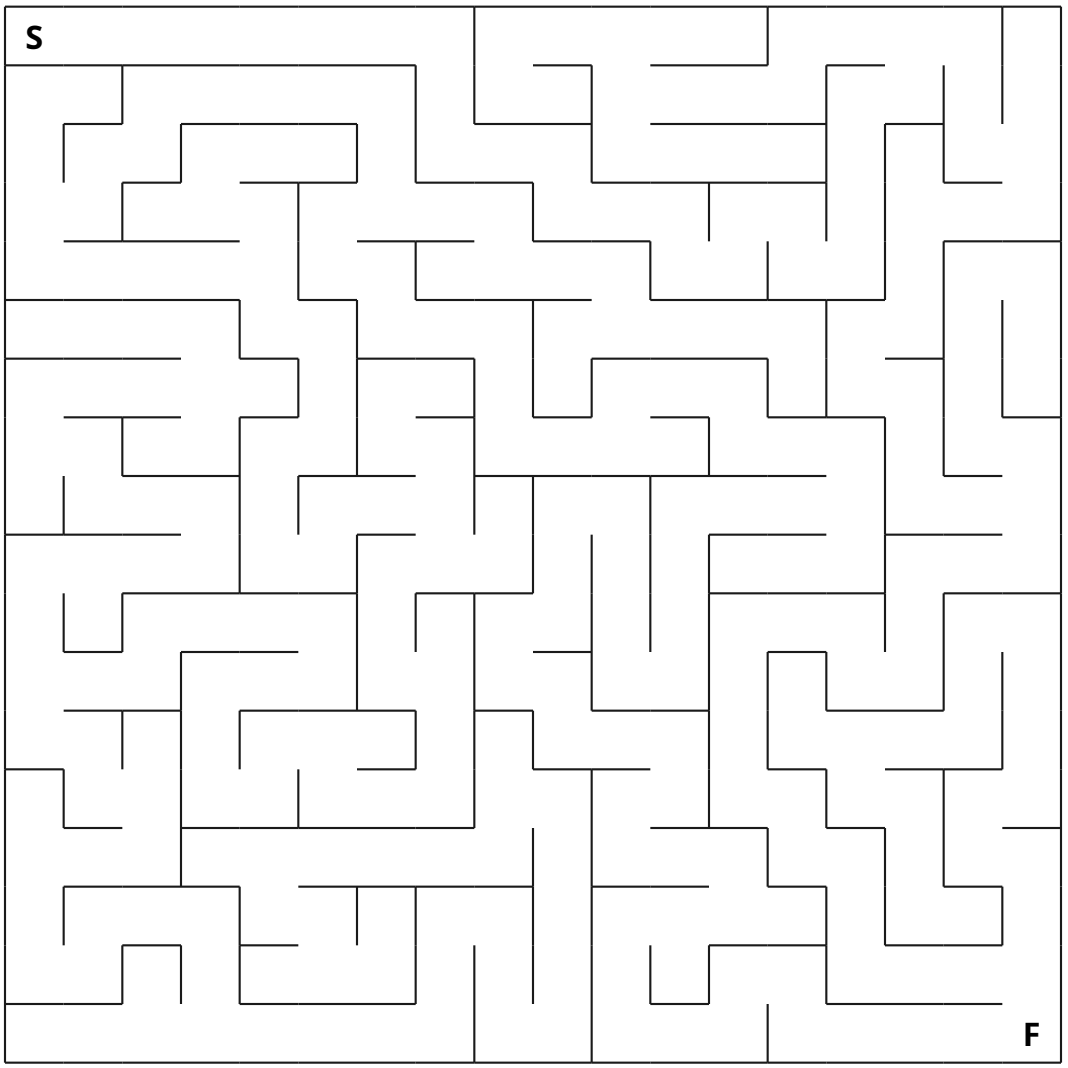
9		7	1		8	5		
			3	7		8	1	
8			4	6		9		7
		3	8		7			4
	5	4	9	3	6	7		
			5			6		3
				9				8
4		9		8		1	2	
3	7		2	5	1	4		

Optional nudge: row 1, column 5 has only one possible digit. Check its row, column and box.

Answer: page 9

The long way to supper

Draw a route from S to F through open passages. Move horizontally or vertically; never cross a wall. All paths stay inside the square.



Answer: page 10

An invitation in disguise

Find each message letter in the CODE row. Replace it with the PLAIN letter directly above. Spaces and punctuation stay unchanged.

PLAIN	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**L**	**M**
CODE	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V

PLAIN	**N**	**O**	**P**	**Q**	**R**	**S**	**T**	**U**	**V**	**W**	**X**	**Y**	**Z**
CODE	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I

CQNAN RB JUFJHB AXXV OXA XWN VXAN BCXAH JC CQN CJKUN.

Example: C decodes to T. Answer: page 10.

Pass a question around

Choose one. Answer, ask someone else, or pass. There are no right answers.

What small thing makes a room feel welcoming?

Which winter sound would you put in a memory jar?

What is a gift you enjoyed giving?

What would your imaginary little shop sell?

Which familiar smell brings back a good memory?

What is one kind thing someone did for you?

What would you like to make time for this season?

Which simple tradition would you like to begin?

Cut along the outlines if you want separate cards.

There is a seat for you

Write a name on each card. Cut around the outline and lay it beside a plate, mug or puzzle page. Or use the whole sheet to plan your table.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE ★

WELCOME TO THE TABLE ★

WELCOME TO THE TABLE ★

WELCOME TO THE TABLE ★

WELCOME TO THE TABLE ★

WELCOME TO THE TABLE ★

No folding or special paper needed.

A little friendly teamwork

Choose a team name. Use this sheet as a tracker, or try the optional scoring below. Skip timing and scoring whenever you prefer.

Our team: _____

Optional scoring: one point for each found word (up to 12), four for a completed Sudoku, four for reaching F without crossing a wall, and four for a decoded message. Maximum: 24. Hints cost nothing; compare with the answers together.

Word search / 12 _____

Sudoku / 4 _____

Maze / 4 _____

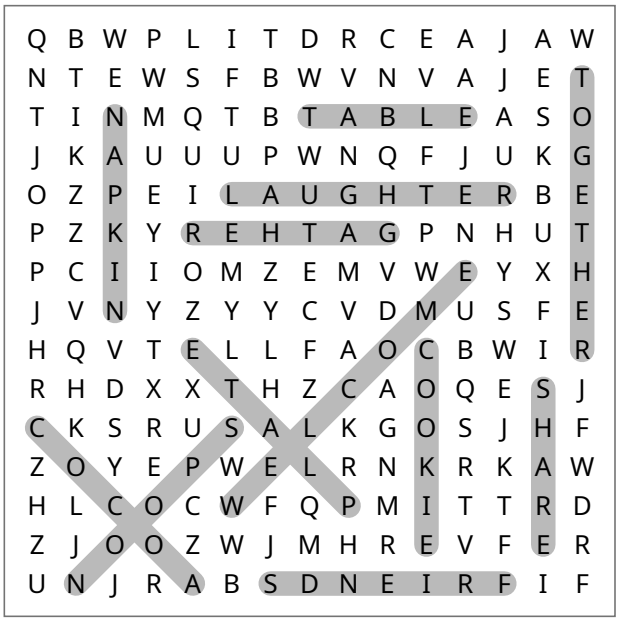
Code / 4 _____

Total / 24 _____

A contribution we appreciated from each other:

_____

Check together



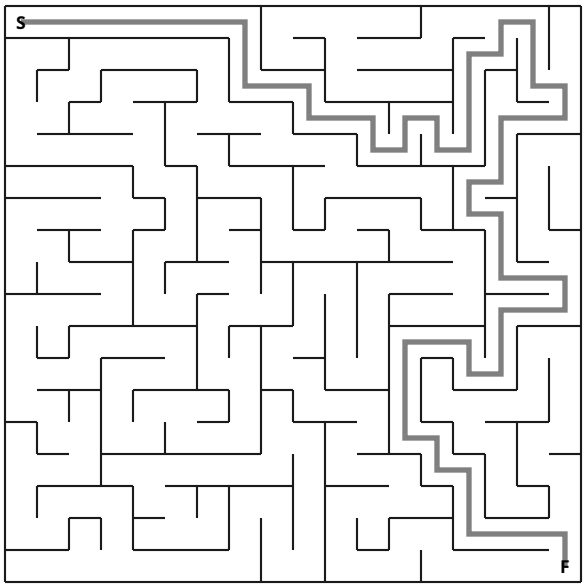
Sudoku

The shaded paths mark the 12 words.

Sudoku opening move: row 1, column 5 is 2. All other digits are ruled out by its row, column or box.

9	3	7	1	2	8	5	4	6
5	4	6	3	7	9	8	1	2
8	1	2	4	6	5	9	3	7
6	9	3	8	1	7	2	5	4
2	5	4	9	3	6	7	8	1
7	8	1	5	4	2	6	9	3
1	2	5	6	9	4	3	7	8
4	6	9	7	8	3	1	2	5
3	7	8	2	5	1	4	6	9

One last story



Decoded message

THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE STORY AT THE TABLE.

Read each message letter in the CODE row and choose the PLAIN letter above. For example, C becomes T, Q becomes H, and N becomes E. The opening word is THERE.

Thank you for making room at the table.