



## Happy New Year, Nora

Christmas was very different for Nora's family this year. Nora was quite ill with pneumonia and had to spend Christmas Day in the hospital. Her family came to visit her, but it just wasn't the same. She didn't feel well, and she kept coughing. She thought the medicine she had to take was awful, and it made her mom's homemade Christmas cookies taste funny. Nora was a little grumpy the whole day. The nurses tried to cheer her by assuring her she would soon be well enough to go home, but it didn't help much. Finally, on January 1st, New Years Day, Nora was able to leave the hospital. As the car pulled into her driveway, she realized just how glad she was to be home. She was even more excited when she opened the front door to discover the wonderful surprise her family, neighbors, and friends had prepared for her.

"Happy New Year, Nora!" they all shouted. It was a welcome home party. Nora couldn't believe her eyes. There were lovely gifts, colorful decorations, and delicious goodies smothering every inch of the dining room table. Nora's old year had not ended so well, but this new year was off to a fabulous start. Nora's mom and dad hugged and kissed her. They were very thankful to have their little girl home safe and well.

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1. Why was Christmas very different for Nora's family this year?

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2. Why did Nora have to be in the hospital on Christmas Day?

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3. How did Nora feel about the medicine she had to take?

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4. What day did Nora finally get to go home from the hospital?

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5. What wonderful surprise was waiting for Nora at her house?

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