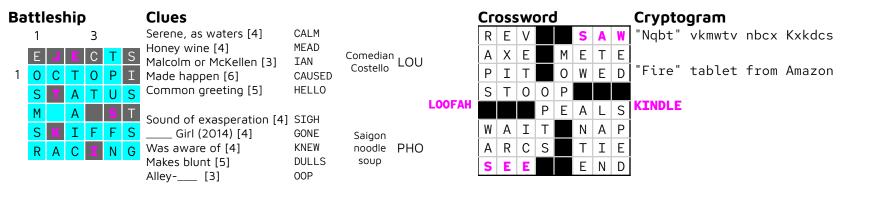# Preparing for Christmas (Solution)

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We are given seven children and seven puzzles. But if you try the puzzles directly, you'll find that they are not straightforwardly solvable. For example, the crossword answers have the wrong lengths, and the word search contains none of the words listed in the word bank.

The key observation is that each child's tagline is needed to solve the associated puzzle as intended. The associations are shown below.

character & tagline	minipuzzle	gimmick
Alexis is always checking out her reflection in the mirror.	Word Search	Entries bounce off a MIRROR seen in the grid.
Bill is no grammarian—singular vs plural, past vs present, who care?	Crossword	The entries disagree with the tense of their clues.
Carla is so stealthy you won't hear her sneak up on you.	Drawing	Silent letters are absent from the letterbank.
Dan is a bit of a goofball, and when he's out on the water, he looks odd from every angle.	Battleship	Every row/column contains an odd number of ship segments.
Eric talks through his ideas aloud with his rubber duck.	Clues	Clue answers form a new phrase when read aloud.
Francis likes to read the newspaper.	Jumble	The to-be-found words are newspaper elements.
Gloria dots her Q's and crosses her V's and has it all together from K to D.	Cryptogram	In the cryptogram, Q=I, V=T, K=A, and D=Z.

Battleship

```
      1       3
    E  J  E  C  T  S
1   O  C  T  O  P  I
    S  T  A  T  U  S
    M  A  S  T
    S  K  I  F  F  S
    R  A  C  I  N  G
```

Clues

Serene, as waters [4]	CALM
Honey wine [4]	MEAD
Malcolm or McKellen [3]	IAN
Made happen [6]	CAUSED
Common greeting [5]	HELLO

Comedian Costello LOU

Sound of exasperation [4]	SIGH
_____ Girl (2014) [4]	GONE
Was aware of [4]	KNEW
Makes blunt [5]	DULLS
Alley-____ [3]	OOP

Saigon noodle soup PHO

Crossword

```
R  E  V  ▮  ▮  S  A  W
A  X  E  ▮  M  E  T  E
P  I  T  ▮  O  W  E  D
S  T  O  O  P  ▮  ▮  ▮
▮  ▮  ▮  P  E  A  L  S
W  A  I  T  ▮  N  A  P
A  R  C  S  ▮  T  I  E
S  E  E  ▮  ▮  E  N  D
```

LOOFAH

Cryptogram

"Nqbt" vkmwtv nbcx Kxkdcs

"Fire" tablet from Amazon

KINDLE

Drawing

1. [W]RIST
2. SOMMELIE[R]
3. AX[E]
4. COLUM[N]
5. YA[C]HT
6. G[H]OST

Jumble

DEPO	MENIAC
O P E D	**C** I N E M A

TASR	RATCEIL
A R T **S**	A R T **I C** L E

C O M I C S

Word Search

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

ADIDAS
BEANIE
DRESS
FLEECE
SLIPPER
T-SHIRT

Finale

[C]	Alex:	CAPRIS	__**PR**__
[A]	Bill:	SEESAW	__**ES**__
[P]	Carla:	WRENCH	__**EN**__
[R]	Dan:	JETSKI	__**TS**__
[I]	Eric:	LOOFAH	__**OF**__
[S]	Francis:	COMICS	__**MI**__
	Gloria:	KINDLE	__**ND**__

Ordering and 'unwrapping' the seven gifts by child, retaining the central bigrams, produces **PRESENTS OF MIND**, our gift to you.