

Annie Courtway

Age 11

My Real-ly Perfect Christmas Tree

Christmas is a time of joy. It is a time for peace and hope. One way to show our happiness is with a Christmas tree. The perfect Christmas tree doesn't have to be ten feet tall with shining glass ornaments. I think the best trees are the ones that are decorated with handmade ornaments and cared for with love.

Each ornament on our tree signifies a special memory that my family has experienced together. For instance, our clarinet ornament shows my sister's dedication and determination to making sweet music that has its own story. Also, the cotton girl from Haiti reminds us of the year my mom spent in Haiti to help in an orphanage. One other very important, memorable ornament is one of an elegant Chinese girl. This one brings us all joy as we remember the hectic Christmas Eve of 1999. On that night, I got the most wonderful gift ever. I received another adopted sister from China. My family, still to this day, ponders what our lives would be like without my sister, Heidi.

Finding our perfect real Christmas tree is easy. We all vote on which one is the best, and the tree with the most votes gets the pleasure of coming to a new home.

Although putting up the ornaments and candy canes is fun, the most enjoyable part is putting on the angel. Our angel is very old, beat up, and lop-sided, but it has also been with us for eighteen years, and is beautiful in its own way.

I have the perfect Christmas tree for many reasons. One is, it is put up by a family who is enjoying time being together. Also, it shines brightly with the joy of Christmas even when its lights are not on.