

FOR THIRD GRADERS**THE FIRST NOWELL ***

THE first Nowell the angel
 did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds
 in fields as they lay
 They looked up and saw a star
 Shining in the east, beyond
 them far
 And by the light of that same
 star
 Three wise men came from
 country far;
 To seek for a King was their
 intent,
 And to follow the star where
 ever it went.



* *Noel* is a French word meaning Christmas. Songs for Christmas were known as *Noels* or *Nowells*; in English they were called *carols*.

KEEPING CHRISTMAS

WHEN we keep Christmas we honor the birthday of Jesus. We give presents to each other, because Jesus was a great Gift to the world.

Do you always think of Jesus when you give or receive a Christmas present?

Or have you forgotten why we all keep Christmas?

Let us remember that Christmas is a holy day.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

How can I help the poor and the needy at Christmas time?

Do I just want to get many presents at Christmas, or does it make me happier to give than to receive?

How can I make some boy or girl or grown-up happy at Christmas?

What is the meaning of Christmas?