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## Christmas Slows Down

Have you ever experienced cold weather? And no, I don't mean 35° fahrenheit. I mean -20° fahrenheit. Well, I have. I experienced this over Christmas in Minnesota, 2024 for 5 days straight. It was so cold! We couldn't go anywhere! It was so cold that our pipes froze! Our car wouldn't even turn on! If I'm going to be honest, It was unusual to not be doing anything for once. We still figured out how to drink, wash our hands, and go to the bathroom. Our friends and family brought us jugs of water! As for not having a car, we stayed home and enjoyed reading, listening to music, cuddling up with our dog, playing games, and watching movies. We easily found a solution to our problems, even though they made everything slow down.

Can you imagine going for about a week in 20° below 0? It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. One thing we did to spend the time was snuggle with our dog, Chewy, on the couch, our hands rubbing his soft brown-and-black fur. We also read books. Almost every week, we go to the public library and get a good stock of books to read over the week. My family and I love to listen to music. Over Christmas, we tend to listen to Scott Weiland, Elvis Presley, Mariah Carey, ect. We all love to play board games. We play Clue, Chutes and Ladders, Battleship, and Candyland. You can't have cold-day fun without movies such as *Home Alone*, *The Christmas Carol*, *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, and *Elf*. It's not too bad to have to stay in all the time.

The Christmas of 2024 taught me that being without water or a car wasn't as bad as I would have thought. I expected to be bored out of my mind, but I wasn't as bored as I thought I would be. The affairs of Christmas that year gave me a new perspective. How do you think your family would spend time in this weather without a car or water? Next time you're in this situation, maybe try reading, listening to music, cuddling up with your dog, playing games, and watching movies. Hey - it worked for us!

