

There's no such thing as too much tinsel!

Fancy

NANCY

Event Guide and Activity
Suggestions



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Joyeux Noël, friends! (That's French for Merry Christmas!)

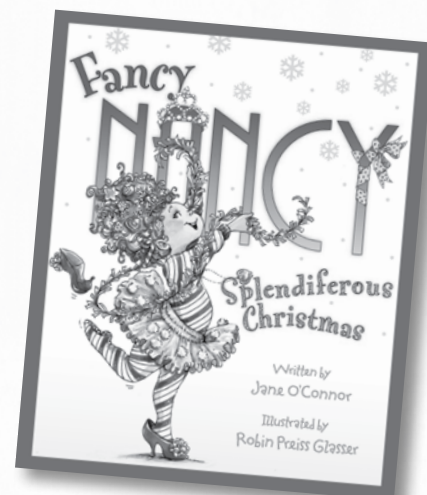
As every fancy girl knows, it's never too early to start preparing for Christmas, the most splendiferous holiday of the year! There are ornaments to be made, cookies to be decorated, cards to be mailed, presents to be wrapped, carols to sing, and so much more!

What better way to get ready for the festive holiday season than to host a fabulous fete for your favorite fancy friends? This event kit, complete with suggestions, reproducibles, and giveaways, will help you plan, throw, and enjoy a spectacular event for your guests.

Not only will everyone have the merriest time, but also they'll leave your event equipped with a plethora (that's fancy for huge amount!) of materials, ideas, and inspiration for celebrating the holidays with their own families!

And, as Nancy proves once again in *Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas*, nothing is more joyous than a little fancying up for Christmas!

Happy holidays!
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Event Suggestions

Any holiday gathering that promises to be super festive requires careful planning and lots of creativity. Luckily, Mrs. Claus, who is one fancy hostess, agreed to share her secrets with all of you. Follow her suggestions below for hosting a very merry event!

Make a guest list (and check it twice): Use the template in this booklet to create customized event invitations to distribute in the weeks leading up to your fancy fete. Fill in the event details, photocopy, cut along the dotted lines, and send the invitations to everyone on your guest list. Consider adding a sprinkle of snowflake-shaped confetti to each envelope!

Seasonal dressing: Let the season be your guide when selecting the perfect accessories to dress up your hostess outfit. Wrap yourself in a garland boa or a piece of sparkly fabric. Ribbons, bows, bells, and artificial holly leaves make splendid hair ornaments in addition to gift toppers. Use seasonal items in creative ways and ask your young guests to do the same, so that everyone looks especially festive.

Deck the halls: Spruce up your event space by adding some holiday cheer to the usual mix of balloons and streamers. Decorate with homemade paper snowflakes, ribbons, garland, bells, candy canes, pinecones, and evergreens! Purchase and hang inexpensive stockings, mittens, or ornaments. Remember: There's no such thing as too much tinsel!

Holiday greetings: Being a gracious hostess is essential! Greet each of your guests personally upon their arrival and introduce them to one another, so that everyone feels welcome. Create personalized name tags for your guests, using the template in this booklet.

Splendiferous story time: Add some embellishment to your reading of *Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas* to make it even more memorable. Use props to bring to life the sophisticated (that's fancy for not easy) vocabulary and newly-introduced concepts. Pass around a fragrant evergreen branch (select one with soft needles) to demonstrate the word "aroma." Show an ornament or tree topper from your own childhood and explain the notion of family heirlooms and traditions. Discuss other holiday traditions like caroling, decorating cookies, hanging stockings, and leaving out milk and cookies for Santa Claus.

Event wrap-up: After leading your guests through the activities in this booklet, treat them to one final flourish. Send everyone home with a small favor (like a piece of holiday ribbon or gift wrap) and a warm farewell!

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Splendiferous Invitations

Use these invitations to let everyone know about your fancy holiday *fete*. Simply fill in the details, photocopy, cut along the dotted lines, and distribute to as many people as you'd like.

YOU'RE INVITED
to rejoice in the holiday season Fancy Nancy-style!

Place: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

RSVP: _____

Please come bedecked in your most festive holiday attire and get ready to have a holly jolly time!

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YOU'RE INVITED
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JOYEUX NOËL!

My name is:

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JOYEUX NOËL!

My name is:

Illustrations © by Robin Preiss Glasser.

JOYEUX NOËL!

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JOYEUX NOËL!

My name is:

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Dear Santa Claus

Writing a letter to Santa Claus has been a Christmas tradition of children for many years. Use the simple tips and sample letter template below to craft your own holiday message to Santa.

- ❄ Start your letter with a greeting, also known as a salutation.
- ❄ Since Santa hears from you only once a year, it's polite to ask how he and the elves have been.
- ❄ Remind Santa of the good things you've done this year. For example, have you helped your parents by putting away your toys? Have you been nice to your sister or brother?
- ❄ Tell Santa the two or three presents you'd most like to have for Christmas.
- ❄ Close your letter by thanking Santa and signing your name.
- ❄ Give the letter to an adult to send; they'll put it in the mail and make sure it gets to Santa in time for Christmas.



Santa Claus
North Pole, Alaska 99705



Dear Santa Claus,
Merry Christmas! Are you and your elves busy getting ready for the holidays? My family sure is! I have been very good this year. I have helped my mom and dad by _____

_____.

This year, I hope you will bring me some fun presents. Some things that I would like this year are: _____, _____,
and _____.

Thanks for bringing me presents every year, Santa!

Love,



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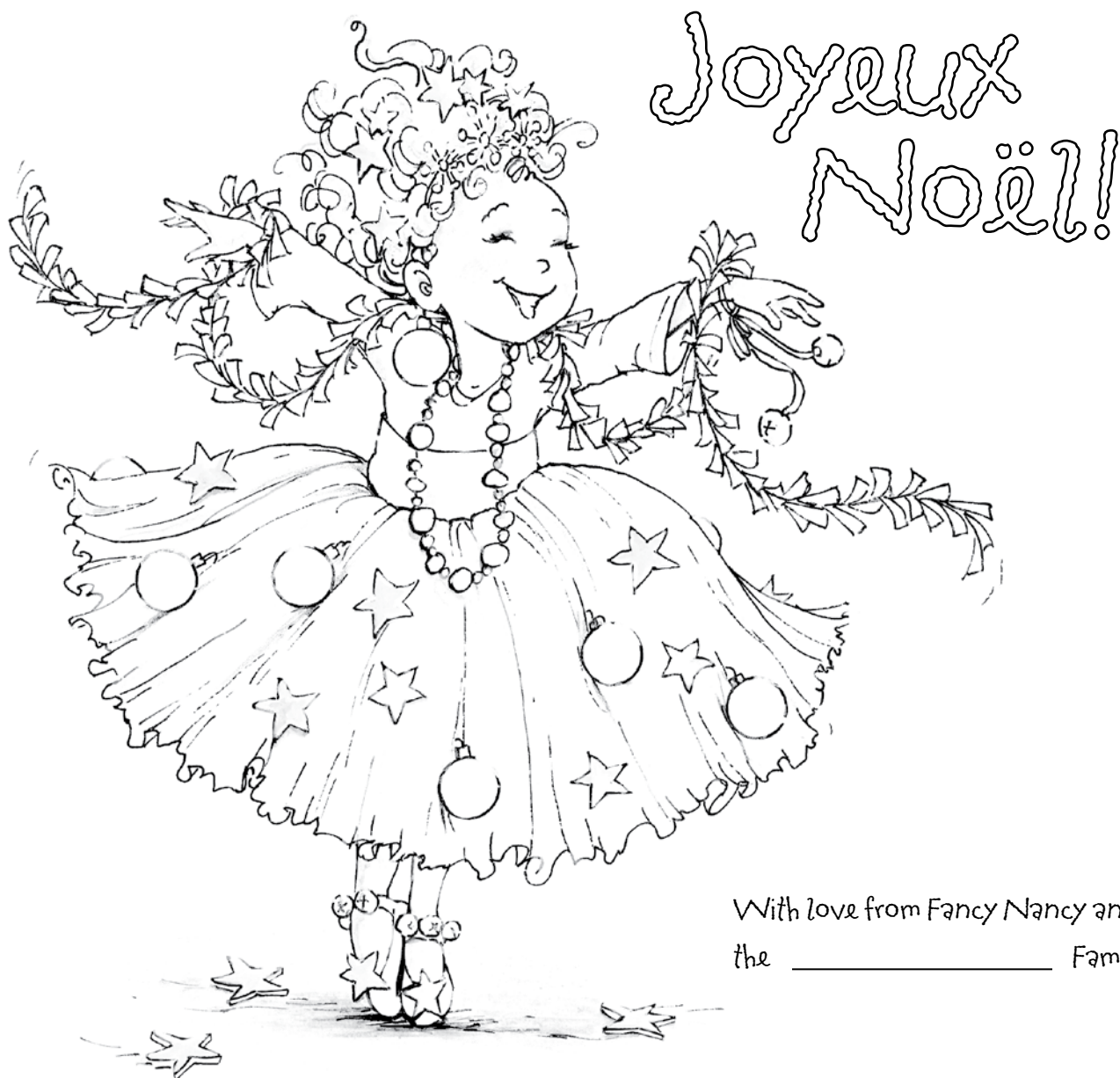
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Colorful Greetings

Use the guidelines below to make a one-of-a-kind (that's fancy for special) holiday card to send to family and friends this season. Simply color, cut, photocopy, sign, stuff, and send!

- ❄️ Color the image of Fancy Nancy, adding your own trimmings to the background. Draw holly leaves, silver bells, or a candy cane border.
- ❄️ Ask an adult to help you cut around the dotted lines, make color copies of your colorful creation, paste or tape onto card stock, and place each card in an envelope for everyone on your family's mailing list.
- ❄️ Remember to personalize the cards with your signature and special message.



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Gift Tags Galore

Make your own gift tags and make each gift you give that much more magnificent. Your family and friends will surely feel the love and care you've put into presenting their presents.

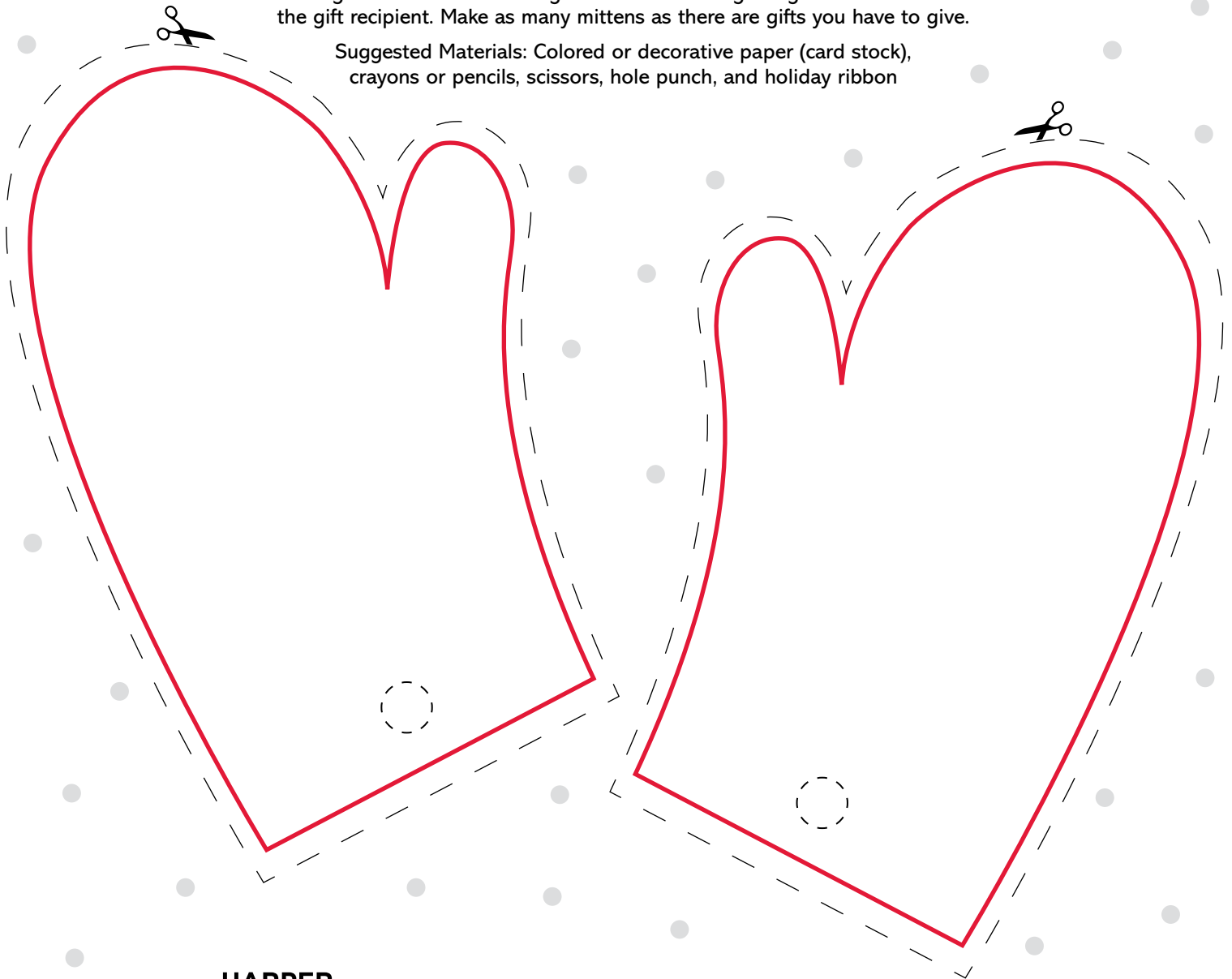
Here are several crafty ideas for improvising (that's a fancy word for using whatever's around to make something) your own gift tags. Work together with an adult, please!

❄️ Collect holiday cards from Christmases past. Outline the shapes of cookie cutters onto the cards and cut out the designs. For a fancier effect, use scallop-edged scissors. Make a hole at the top of the tag with a hole punch, and thread ribbon through the hole.

❄️ Keep 'em guessing with top-secret gift tags! Use a white crayon to write the name of the gift giver and the gift recipient on white construction paper tags. On Christmas morning, take turns running a colored marker over the tags to reveal who gets each gift and who gave it!

❄️ For these "handy" gift tags, you'll need the mitten template and materials listed below. With help from an adult, cut out the mitten shapes and use them as templates to trace onto colored or decorative paper. Then cut out each pretty paper mitten and punch a hole through the cuff. Thread ribbon through the hole for attaching. Personalize each gift tag with the name of the gift recipient. Make as many mittens as there are gifts you have to give.

Suggested Materials: Colored or decorative paper (card stock), crayons or pencils, scissors, hole punch, and holiday ribbon



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It's Ornamental

Homemade ornaments can really make your Christmas tree shine. Try this elegant paper ornament craft: It'll come together with three snaps of a stapler and look simply smashing.



Suggested Materials:

- ❄ Colored or decorative paper
- ❄ Ruler
- ❄ Scissors
- ❄ Stapler
- ❄ Ribbon or gold cord

Instructions:

- ❄ Cut two 10-inch strips of paper, two 8-inch strips, and one 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch strip.
- ❄ Each strip should be one to two inches wide for the best results.
- ❄ Line up strips in the following order (one on top of the other): 10, 8, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$, 8, 10.
- ❄ One set of ends should be even; staple this end.
- ❄ Line up the other ends evenly (bending the outer strips, as needed) and staple.
- ❄ To hang, knot the end of a gold cord or ribbon and place it between the loose strips of paper at the top of the ornament and then staple together.

Safety Note:

This ornament craft involves cutting and stapling. Please ask an adult for assistance.

Photo by Thomas Gotsch

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Grateful Garland

This easy-to-make paper garland will spruce up any holiday tree, fireplace mantle, or doorway and doubles as a clever (and gratifying) way to count down to Santa's arrival.

Suggested Materials:

- ❄ Construction paper
- ❄ Tape
- ❄ Scissors
- ❄ Crayons, markers, or glitter pens (optional)

Instructions:

- ❄ Cut out 25 strips of construction paper in various colors, with help from an adult.
- ❄ On each strip, write something you (and your family) are thankful for this season. Use glitter pens and fancy lettering for extra flare.
- ❄ Tape the strips together to form loops in a chain.
- ❄ Each day of the month, beginning on December 1, snip off one loop and "count" your family's blessings.



Photos by Thomas Gotsch

Make it Sweeter:

In place of plain construction paper, use candy buttons on paper strips (aim for eight candies per strip, when you cut). Each loop in this sugary garland contains an edible reminder of Santa's upcoming visit. Now, that's worth the wait!



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Countdown to the Holidays

Use this countdown calendar to help you (and your whole family) get ready for the fabulous and festive holiday season.

6 SUNDAY	Write your letter to Santa and send it up North!	7 MONDAY		1 SUNDAY		20 SUNDAY		27 SUNDAY	
13 SUNDAY	Host a holiday cookie exchange: Guests bake, bring, and swap. Everyone goes home with a whole new batch of sweets!	14 MONDAY	Host a holiday cookie exchange: Guests bake, bring, and swap. Everyone goes home with a whole new batch of sweets!	15 TUESDAY		22 TUESDAY	Write a Christmas story together as a family. Have each person add a line, then repeat.	29 TUESDAY	
20 SUNDAY		21 MONDAY	Host a holiday cookie exchange: Guests bake, bring, and swap. Everyone goes home with a whole new batch of sweets!	22 TUESDAY	Write a Christmas story together as a family. Have each person add a line, then repeat.	23 WEDNESDAY		30 WEDNESDAY	
27 SUNDAY		28 MONDAY		29 TUESDAY		30 WEDNESDAY		31 THURSDAY	
5 SATURDAY		4 FRIDAY	Craft a homemade gift for your favorite teacher. Think bookmarks or magnets.	3 THURSDAY		2 WEDNESDAY	Let it snow! Make paper snowflakes and hang them on windows and doors.	1 TUESDAY	
12 SATURDAY		11 FRIDAY	Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, begins at sundown.	10 THURSDAY		9 WEDNESDAY	Transform your holiday masterpiece into a greeting card for everyone on your family's list.	8 TUESDAY	Draw a wintry Christmas scene. Use glitter to make the snow glisten and stars twinkle.
19 SATURDAY	Wrap it up: Use brown paper bags, fabric, felt, or unused wallpaper pieces to package your presents perfectly.	18 FRIDAY		17 THURSDAY		16 WEDNESDAY	Go caroling in your neighborhood. Be sure to sing the classics like "Frosty the Snowman"!	15 TUESDAY	
26 SATURDAY		25 FRIDAY	Merry Christmas!	24 THURSDAY	"Bake" a gingerbread house using cinnamon graham crackers. Put together with icing and decorate with bite-sized candy pieces.	23 WEDNESDAY		22 TUESDAY	

December 2009

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Triumphant Tree Topper

Take-Home Activity

In *Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas*, the magnificent tree topper that Nancy bought with her birthday money breaks into many pieces. Grandpa and Nancy collaborate (that means work together) to create an even better tree topper, using items they have on hand. Follow Fancy Nancy's lead and the instructions below to craft your own version of her homemade tree topper . . . and make family memories while you make your masterpiece!



Suggested Materials:

- * Cardboard party hat (with elastic)
- * Three white paper plates
- * White construction paper
- * Assorted colored pipe cleaners and pom-poms
- * Silver and gold Christmas bows (star shaped)
- * Piece of decorative foil garland/tinsel
- * Decorative ribbon
- * Scissors, stapler, craft glue, markers, and glitter (optional)



Instructions:

- * Using a vibrant red marker, color the front of one paper plate and the back of another.
- * Glue one pom-pom to the end of each pipe cleaner, mixing colors for a pretty assortment. Carefully add some twists and curls to each pipe cleaner for extra ornamentation.
- * One by one, glue or staple pipe cleaners around edge of the white plate. To add bulk and to hide staples, glue the two red plates onto the white one with each red side facing out.
- * Cut out a giant star shape from the construction paper and affix it to the front outermost paper plate. Add silver and gold bows (and maybe a glitter border).
- * Make a bow with the ribbon and attach it to the plate. Trim ribbon edges on the diagonal.
- * For a final flourish, add a tuft of garland to the top of the party hat and affix the hat to the back of the tree topper. Hat should sit nicely on crown (top) of the tree; use elastic to secure.
- * Perch your splendiferous creation atop the Christmas tree. Simply splendiferous!

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