

“First Day of Christmas” walkthrough

B5 is an Apple

We are told there are 2 Apple trees, from which the Cherry is NE & NW. There are no squares NE from B5, so the Cherry must be at A4, and the other Apple at B3, C2 or D1.

A4 is a Cherry

The Plum and the two Apples are at 3 corners of a rectangle. This rules out B3=Apple. If the Apple is at C2, the Plum must be at either B2 or C5. But both of these are next to another tree, which we are told does not happen. So D1 is an Apple and either B1 or D5 is a Plum.

D1 is an Apple

D1 has a clear view of the rising sun, so nothing lies to its East. Therefore

B1 is a Plum

The pear is equidistant from the two Apples, so must be at A2, C3 or E4. Of these A2 is nearer the Plum than the Cherry, C3 is equidistant between them, while E4 is nearer the Cherry as required. So

E4 is the other Pear

(Note that we are told the squares are exact and that the trees are at their centres. So the distance from A4 to E4 is 4 units. The diagonal distance from B1 to E4 is the square root of 18 by Pythagoras' theorem, which is bigger than 4 as $18 > 16$. It also looks further, an effect which is spuriously increased if the squares actually appear as rectangles on the screen!)

Filling in the other squares as directed leads to a message, which may give some indication of what the future holds in store...