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OVERVIEW

A Storybook Christmas is a theme-based, complete Christmas concert. It has been designed to include every student in the school, while dividing the work load equally among the staff through the component system.

Each staff member should become familiar with the story and the component that they wish their class to perform. Each component is a unit in itself and can be rehearsed as a separate classroom unit, thus greatly reducing the time needed to prepare this production. Each component includes a description of characters, props, costumes, and stage directions. Those staff members who do not have a regular class of students, such as the Librarian or the Teacher Assistants, might wish to be the Director and/or be responsible for rehearsing the main characters or the choir.

The component feature allows teachers to add or delete items to suit their particular school size. To include more classrooms, creative teachers may wish to make up or adapt other acts to fit the theme. Other possibilities might include any adaptation of a popular fairytale. For example: "Jack and the Beanstalk" might make one last trip up the beanstalk to get gifts and gold for the needy at Christmas; "Hansel and Gretel" could go to the forest to find a Christmas tree, get lost, meet the witch, and end up coming home with gingerbread from the witch's house for Christmas. "Little Red Riding Hood" could take a Christmas basket to Gramma, encounter the wolf, convince him to turn over a new leaf and have some Christmas spirit, and culminate with everyone gathered around the Christmas tree at Gramma's house. Versions of Christmas stories such as "The Gift of the Magi", "The Nutcracker", and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" could be acted, pantomimed, or done in shadow play. Almost any concert item can be inserted by writing a few introductory lines for Grandpa and Kim, and inserting a song for the choir which provides time for each act to get on and off stage. If your school does not wish to follow the theme, each individual component may be used in a variety concert by excluding Grandpa and Kim, and having a Master of Ceremonies.

THE STORY

Grandpa is babysitting his granddaughter, Kim, while her Mom and Dad are away, doing some last minute Christmas shopping. The weather turns nasty and Kim's parents have to stop at a restaurant along the way to wait out the storm. Kim is worried about her parent's safety and so to pass the time, Grandpa tells Kim Christmas stories, some true and some he has made up. The stories include a variety of literary genre such as a biography, fantasy, fiction, sequel, historical fiction, and poetry. The concert culminates with a Bible story - The Nativity - and the safe, happy arrival home of Kim's parents, which to her is the best Christmas gift of all.

COMPONENTS

**SUGGESTED
GRADE LEVEL**

#1	Countdown 'Til Concert.....	K - 2
#2	Santa And Me.....	K - 2
#3	The Christmas Party.....	4 - 6
#4	Charlotte's Web - The Second Generation.....	3 - 5
#5	Silver Collection.....	6 - 8
#6	Peter Pan's Christmas Adventure.....	5 - 8
#7	'Twas The Night Before Christmas - Rap.....	5 - 8
#8	Guinness Book Of World Records.....	2 - 4
#9	A Christmas Carol.....	4 - 8
#10	The Nativity.....	K - 3

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Director | Lighting Director |
| Stage Hands | Sound Director |
| Curtain Puller | Choir Director |

THE MAIN CAST

The main characters in the program are Grandpa and his granddaughter, Kim. Grandpa should be performed by an older student or you may wish to cast a staff member or parent volunteer in this part. Kim, a young child of six to eight years of age, will need to be a smaller student but one who can memorize the part. Costuming is attire appropriate to the parts. At the end of the program, Kim's parents return home dressed in outdoor attire and carrying bags and parcels. Their parts can be played by older students. Props for the main characters include a rug, a swivel easy chair, an end table, and a telephone.

CHOIR

The choir selections are inserted after each component. Some selections are suggested but any seasonal or appropriate songs may be used. The words and music for the suggested selections can be found in "The Reader's Digest Merry Christmas Songbook" (Reader's Digest Association Inc., Pleasantville, New York/ Montreal c1981) or in most books containing common Christmas songs. The choir could be one classroom or could be selected from the entire student body. The choir selections immediately follow each component and provide time for each class to get on and off stage.

Teacher #15: “Which child will slip, fall down, or trip?
Band-aids and blood won’t do!”

(Sign bearer - 1 day ‘til concert. New teacher.)

Class: “Mrs. McCallum, you look so solemn.
What is bothering you?”

Teacher #16: “If we’re late by a minute, we won’t even be in it.
Hey, maybe that’s what we should do!”

(Sign bearer - 0 days ‘til concert. The real Grade One teacher puts on the wig, points to the steps on the chart, and looks very gloomy and dejected.)

Class: “Hey, Mrs. McCallum, no need to look so gloomy.
Have we got news for you!
Our part is all done, by your own sweet Grade Ones.
Get off the stage! We’re all through!”

(CURTAIN CLOSES. SPOTLIGHT ON CHOIR.)

