



## OVERVIEW



***Spacemen Visit Christmas* is a humorous and entertaining play that provides opportunity for every student in the school to participate. Each class contributes to the plot, making the story into a variety show that includes even the audience. Comedy, dance, singing, choral speaking, and the Nativity Scene contribute to the enjoyment of the program. Approximately midway through the production, the audience gets to stretch their legs when they are asked to stand and join in the singing of Christmas songs, eliminating the need for an intermission. In the final scene, Santa and his reindeer enter from the back of the auditorium and make their way up the aisle to join the players on the stage.**

**The play requires only one stage setting, and the curtain closes only at the end of the play. A minimum number of props are on the stage.**

**There is a great deal of flexibility within the play for teachers to “do their own thing”, rather than sticking to a pre-determined script. The storyline is approximately 25 minutes in length, and the total length of the production depends on how long each class takes to perform their component. The teacher may choose to use the suggestions provided, or take the opportunity to create his/her class’s contribution within the parameters of the plot, thus enabling the show to be part of the classroom curriculum if desired. This also enables the teacher to capitalize on the special abilities and talents of the children - and the teacher - in the class. Suggestions are included for two extra components if you wish to include other classes. Additional script, following the storyline, would need to be added in order to fit the extra components into the plot. Any one class could take on more than one component, since the number of students participating in any given way is established by the teacher.**

**Students can also create posters for advertising and the programs for the performance, linking the production to many requirements of the school curriculum.**

## THE STORY

This is a humorous and entertaining story about a spaceship from the planet Zork, far off in another galaxy, visiting Earth to gather data. It has been in orbit for two or three months when the Zorks begin to realize that there are some extraordinary activities occurring on the planet below them. On December 24th, Earth time, Donkus (the inept and bumbling leader of the scout craft) and Quark (his first mate) receive permission from the Mothership to investigate these activities more closely.

Donkus tries unsuccessfully to stay out of the way of a small craft that is frantically flying around the Earth. It is pulled by some kind of primitive furry creatures and driven by a man in a red suit, identified by the computer as Santa Claus. This not-so-jolly man makes an unexpected visit aboard the spaceship to complain about their interference with his task.

Although the transporter on the spaceship is not functioning properly, the Zork crew manages to beam aboard a number of Earthlings who, in turn, explain to them just what Christmas is all about. The Zorks learn about Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, keeping in touch with friends and family, carols and Christmas songs, feasting, the mall "Santa-clones", and finally, in a Nativity scene, the true meaning of Christmas.

A labour dispute at the North Pole Workshop flashes its way into the story as the transporter malfunctions.

Finally, Commander Chonk arrives from the Mothership in a timely rescue by Santa and his reindeer. The story ends with the recommendation that this special holiday be taken back to the planet Zork and adopted into their culture, too!

## COMPONENTS

### Suggested Grade Level

#1	Introduction/Spaceship Crew.....	7 - 8
#2	Christmas Trees.....	1 - 3
#3	Christmas Presents.....	2 - 8
#4	Keeping In Touch With Family And Friends.....	4 - 6
#5	Christmas Songs And Carols.....	4 - 8
#6	Christmas Food And Dinner.....	2 - 6
#7	Mall Santas.....	2 - 6
#8	Nativity Pageant.....	1 - 2
#9	Finale.....	7 - 8
#10	Candies and Sugarplums (optional).....	1 - 3
#11	Traditions (optional).....	4 - 8



## MAIN CHARACTERS

There are several characters who are involved in the main storyline, and who appear throughout. They are:

Donkus	Zork #1	Santa
Quark	Zork #2	5 (or more) Elves
Commander Chonk	Zork Crew Members	

Also, the Narrator introduces the story, and 9 (or fewer) Reindeer appear in the final scene.

### Suggestions:

The main character parts should be played by older students who can learn lines and project their voices, and who have the ability to recover if something goes wrong.

The teacher of this class should be the director/producer of the whole production, because she/he knows how each component fits into the storyline.

Extra students who are not involved in on-stage roles can dress as Elves and give the younger children assistance as necessary. If the students are in costume, it will not matter if the audience sees them - it will appear as if they are in their role.

The Workshop Elves who are on strike carry picket signs, and due to the transporter malfunction, inadvertently get beamed aboard the spaceship. They must stay on the stage long enough for the audience to read their signs. If there are more students available, 2 or 3 Elves could be beamed aboard at one time, and more signs made as necessary.

## COSTUMES AND PROPS

### Spacemen

- hard hats covered with foil and attached antennae made of springs with styrofoam balls on the end
- boots covered with foil
- hand-held radio/communicator for Donkus
- data sheet for Quark (accordion-fold computer paper?)

### Santa's sleigh

- see Production Notes - will require front-end damage so that the audience can see it as Santa comes up the aisle

### Reindeer costumes

- brown clothing, Bristol board antlers fastened to a headband

### Picket signs for Elves

- "Workshop Elves on Strike"
- "On Strike for More Holidays"
- "Santa is Unfair to Elves"
- "On Strike for Higher Wages"
- "North Pole Local 25/12 On Strike"
- other humorous sayings as required

### Elf costumes as necessary

## PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

It is advisable to have the teacher whose students are the main characters be in charge of the production. Have students dressed as Elves to take the parts of the lighting, sound, and curtain hands. If they are in costume it will not matter, if at any time, they are seen by the audience. They may also help direct some of the smaller children onto the stage correctly. Two of the Elves could also hand out the programs and song sheets to the audience as they arrive.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

The curtains open after the introduction is done, and remain open until the play is over. The action throughout the play takes place inside the spaceship. Near the end, the actors use the stairs in front of the stage to go down to meet Santa's entourage. The classes enter and exit the stage from one side only, in order to remain consistent in the "beaming up" process. The stage lights flash on and off wildly to simulate the transporter beaming players on and off the stage, and when the audience participates, the auditorium lights are also used. The house lights should be dimmed throughout the play, except while the audience is participating, until Santa's entry. They are turned on as Santa comes in, and then remain on for the rest of the performance.

The backdrop should show the interior of a spaceship with a high porthole through which the night sky can be seen, and with equipment such as radar, a computer, a communicator, and a transporter. Crew members sit at the console along the back wall. Tables or desks could form the console (*put some old computer monitors on the console for effect*), with a string of pulsating lights above it. A table should be available at the opposite side of the stage from the entrance/exit, to hold the samples left by each class. Two electrical outlets will be required for this table: one for the tree and one for the CD player. There should be a captain's chair near this table for Santa to sit in when he arrives, but it must not be an easy chair.

If possible, the star should shine through the porthole of the spaceship. Alternatively, it can hang above the stage. It may be fitted with a rope so it can be lowered when required. It may have its own lights that can be turned on at the appropriate time, or a spotlight may shine on it.

The transporter problem is emphasized by the appearance of Elves carrying picket signs. This happens as other classes leave the stage. These Elves have no speaking parts, but must stay on the stage, showing great confusion, long enough for the audience to read their signs. The stage lights can flash continuously, or only when the Elves leave.

*Voice:* (Commander Chonk has grown weary of what he thinks is a rather incompetent officer.)  
"Trees, Donkus?"

*Donkus:* "Yes, sir, trees."

*Donkus:* (*Donkus is hopeful for a further assignment.*)  
"Would you like me to investigate this matter further, sir? We could go down closer to the surface of the planet and check it out!"

*Voice:* "Yes, Donkus, you do that. And Donkus..."

*Donkus:* "Yes, sir?"

*Voice:* "Stay out of trouble!"

*Donkus:* (*Donkus salutes again.*)  
"Yes, sir! Thank you, sir!"

*Donkus:* (*He turns to the crew.*)  
"Take her down, Zorks!"

*Donkus:* (*Excited, he turns to Quark.*)  
"Quark, did you hear that? This is my trip to a promotion!"



## THE CHRISTMAS (W)RAP

### Introduction:

Eight children carry large cards that spell out the word P-R-E-S-E-N-T-S. They stand in line at the front of the stage and each one shows the card shouting,

"I like ..."  
P - icking them out!  
R - eceiving them!  
E - xtra large ones!  
S - tockings filled with them!  
E - ven the small ones!  
N - oisy ones!  
T - ying the bows on them!  
S - ending them!  
We like PRESENTS!

### RAP

(performed by the whole class)

Giving presents feels good and you get into the spirit,  
It's the reason for the season and nobody needs to fear it.  
You think about your friends and you add them to your list.  
Be sure to check your list, man, yeah, check it twice,  
To see whether they be naughty or nice.  
Add your father and your mother and your sister and your brother.  
And your cousins by the dozens and your uncles and your aunts.



(The loud sound of crashing metal is heard from off-stage.)

*Donkus:* "Oh, zonkadock! What was that?"

*Zork #1:* "It's hard to tell in this fog, but it appears to be a red craft pulled by some primitive furry Earth creatures with four legs and large antlers. One has a bright red signal light. I assume that is their navigation system, primitive, and apparently not very effective. And there is an Earthling all dressed in red, riding in the craft."

*Quark:* (*Quark shows his concern.*)  
"Is the craft disabled?"

*Zork #1:* "No, it appears to have landed on a roof-top below us, and the Earthling is getting out. He seems to be okay."

*Zorks:* (*Quark and Donkus turn to each other and speak at the same time.*)  
"On a roof-top?"

*Donkus:* "Well, let's watch out for him. I told Commander Chonk that we'd stay out of trouble. Now - who else can we talk to?"

*Quark:* "The Post Office seems to be involved in Christmas somehow. There's a mailman - let's beam him up!"

(THE STAGE LIGHTS FLASH WILDLY as Class #3 enters.)

