

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(s)	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 selection any seasonal or appropriate songs may be used. The words and music selections can be found in "The Reader's Digest Merry Christmas Song Digest Association Inc., Pleasantville, New York/ Montreal c1981) or in most book common Christmas songs. The choir could be one classroom or could entire student body. The choir selections immediately follow each component for each class to get on and off stage.

Choir:

PRODUCTION NOTES

Throughout the concert, Grandpa and Kim perform in front of the curtain level. Grandpa sits in a swivel chair facing the audience, with Kim on his feet. Each time Grandpa starts to tell a story, the curtain opens and to face the stage. Kim stretches out on her tummy on the rug, chin in hand stage. The script of Grandpa and Kim plus the singing of the choir provide for one class to leave the stage and for the next class to get on stage and aisles and two side stage doors allow for a smooth arrival and departure having them enter by one aisle and leave by the other. Stage hands for performance are a definite asset in setting and clearing the stage, and all transition from one story to the next. The stage hands will find it much jobs efficiently if you prepare a list of props for each performance.

A complete rehearsal is recommended to time the items so that each class enter on time and so that Grandpa and Kim, the lighting and sound director and curtain puller(s) can practice their cues. This also provides an opportunity for students to practice using the microphones.

The choir is best placed below stage level or to the right of the stage so that singing, the stage can be set for the next performance. If Grandpa, Kim below stage level, flood lights will be required for each of them when the lighting director will need to put these lights on and off at the appropriate approximately \$75 - \$100, a set of four lights can be rented from a theater. Each light can be controlled from a switch box. Position one light on the main characters below stage, and two on the main stage. The house lights throughout the performance unless you are using Component #5, the Silver Collection.

Stage decoration is not necessary for the concert but if you wish to decorate neutral as possible, considering the variety of settings for the stories. A table of stage with a replica of a large book open at the table of contents page if stories were listed.

We have found that most students cannot project their voices well enough. Much of the continuity and humour of the concert is lost to the audience crucial lines. We therefore recommend the use of microphones - 2 on stage characters, and 1 for the choir. Any music required for the class performance handled by the sound director and run through the P.A. system. Rehearsal concert is much more efficient if the whole school practices at a department allows assisting teachers, aides, and parents to pull the main characters for their practice.

A STORYBOOK CHRISTMAS - INTRODUCTION

Grandpa and Kim are the main characters throughout the concert. The scene is set below the stage and to the side. The scene contains a swivel easy chair, a rug on the floor, and an end table on which is placed a telephone. Grandpa is seated in the easy chair wearing a gray hair piece, shirt, trousers with suspenders, and slippers. Kim is seated on the floor at Grandpa's feet wearing pigtails, a shirt, bib-overalls, and running shoes.

Master of Ceremonies: "We take you now to Grandpa's house where Grandpa is babysitting his granddaughter, Kim, while her parents are away doing some last minute Christmas shopping."

(HOUSE LIGHTS DIM. SPOTLIGHT ON GRANDPA AND KIM.)

(Kim gets up and goes to center front. With hands shading her eyes, she peers out into the audience as though she were looking out a window.)

Kim: "Oh, Grandpa. When will Mommy and Daddy be home from doing their last minute Christmas shopping? They've been gone all day and they said they'd be back before supper time. It's already five o'clock."

Grandpa: "Oh, Kim. Hold your horses! They'll be along soon. You know that shopping always takes longer than parents think it will."

Kim: "Maybe something happened to them. Oh, Grandpa, I'm worried. It's started to snow, you know."

Grandpa: "Now! Now! Don't get your shirt tail in a knot, little girl! I'm sure everything is fine. No use to worry, you know. Come sit here beside me. I feel a story coming on."

Kim: *(Goes over and sits on the rug at Grandpa's feet.)* "Oh, yes! Grandpa, tell me a story! You tell the 'bestest' stories!"

Grandpa: "You know, Kim, I read a book once about a teacher who was so worried about the Christmas concert that she got herself into a real tizzy. Her name was Mrs. McCallum and she was some "Gloomy Gus", stewing away over what her Grade one class would perform. What she didn't know was that while she was so busy fretting, her problem was really being solved. It happened like this....."

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

Teacher #1: "It's time to prepare - Christmas Concert - I'm worried, why aren't you?"

(Sign bearer walks across the stage with the sign. Meanwhile, Teacher #1 hands wig and points to the chart. Teacher #1 joins the class. Teacher #2 puts on the wig, looks solemn and takes three steps on the chart. This procedure is followed for each new teacher.)

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

Teacher #2: "I'm having a fit, can't think of a skit! I'm worried, why aren't you?"

(Sign bearer - 14 days 'til concert. New teacher.)

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

Teacher #3: "Don't know of a thing we'd be able to sing! I'm worried, why aren't you?"

(Sign bearer - 13 days 'til concert. New teacher.)

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

Teacher #4: "Stunts on gym mats? We can't do that! I've done that before, oh phoo!"

(Sign bearer - 12 days 'til concert. New teacher.)

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

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Mrs. McCallum
Was feeling very blue
It was getting late
Close to the date
Oh my, what would she do?

The Grade One class became concerned
As the days they dwindled down
'Cause now her usual smiling face
Had turned into a frown.

So to the rescue
Came the Grade One class - Yahoo!
They made a rhyme
One day at a time
'Fore they knew it, they were through.

Hippety hoo-ray, hippety hoo-ray
Look at teacher smile
Hippety hoo-ray, hippety hoo-ray
She pulled it off in style!

(SPOTLIGHT OFF CHOIR. SPOTLIGHT ON GRANDPA AND KIM.)

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Just Santa and me.

(Santa brings in Critter #9 who carries a songbook.)

Critter #9: "I know you like music
Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree
(Critter sings off key, Santa joins in)
So we sang a little tune
Just Santa and me."

(Santa brings in Critter #10 who carries a large stocking with his/her name on it.)

Critter #10: "We found some stockings
To hang on the chimney
We'll line them all up
Just Santa and me."

(Santa brings in Critter #11 who holds mistletoe over his/her head.)

Critter #11: "Stand under the mistletoe
Then just wait and see
You'll get a surprise
From Santa and me."

(Santa brings in Critter #12 who wears a nightgown and carries a book.)

Critter #12: "The Night Before Christmas
Is a great bedtime story
We read it three times
Just Santa and me."

(Santa brings in Critter #13 who carries odd things for stuffing a turkey, such as a sock, stinky, cutlery, etc.)

COMPONENT 3 - THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES:

- Santa suit
- casual attire
- casual attire
- dress and purse
- frilly, little girl type dress
- dress, coat, purse and shopping bag
- pants, coat, and hat
- cowboy hat, pants, shirt, and hobby horse
- dress, hat, gloves, shoes
- suit made of fun fur
- cardboard box covered in tin foil for body with a big key in the middle
- two kleenex boxes covered with tin foil for feet, gray jogging pants
- toy rifle
- cardboard box painted red with bottom cut out so he/she can walk

If a larger class and need to include more characters, you might have more teddy bears, teddy bear, or tin soldier and have them speak the part in unison.

shelf of toys including a drum, a toy piano, small table, and tea set.

Eve in the toy section of a department store. At stage right is a counter. At stage left is an easy chair, a brightly decorated Christmas tree, and a table. Don't forget to say hello to Santa". As the curtain opens, Santa is seated at the table talking to the Boy and Girl.

"You will be sure not to miss our house, Santa?"

"And please don't forget what we want, Santa!"

"Now, now, don't you worry. Everything will be taken care of."

COMPONENT 9 - A CHRISTMAS CAROL

CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>Scrooge</i> | -top hat, suit jacket, dress pants, long coat |
| <i>Marley</i> | -top hat, suit jacket, dress pants, long coat, draped in chains |
| <i>Bob Cratchit</i> | -top hat, suit jacket, dress pants, long coat |
| <i>Mrs. Cratchit</i> | -long dress to the ankles |
| <i>Tiny Tim</i> | -ordinary pants and shirt, suspenders, crutches |
| <i>Nephew Fred</i> | -top hat, suit jacket, dress pants, long coat |
| <i>Collectors (for the poor)</i> | -(any number) coats and scarves |
| <i>Alice (Scrooge's former wife)</i> | -long dress, wedding ring |
| <i>Young Scrooge</i> | -suit jacket, dress pants |
| <i>Spirit Of Christmas Past</i> | -black robe, black hat |
| <i>Spirit Of Christmas Present</i> | -black robe, pillows for padding |
| <i>Spirit Of Christmas Yet To Come</i> | -black robe |
| <i>Party Folk</i> | -(2 or 3 couples) fancy dress |
| <i>Tombstone</i> | -cardboard tombstone large enough to hide student, with Scrooge's name on it |

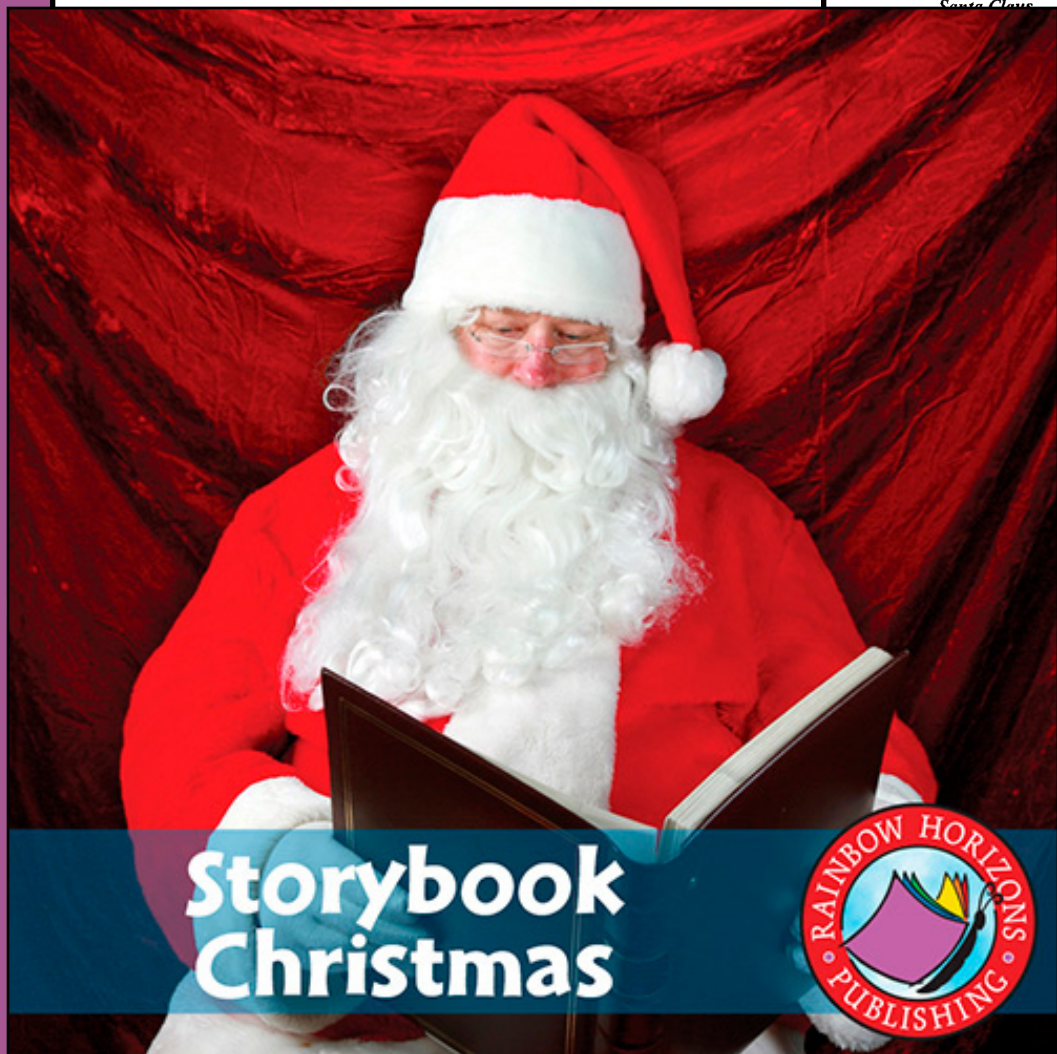
PROPS AND PRODUCTIONS SUGGESTIONS:

We used an armchair for Scrooge at his counting house and Cratchit used a stool and table on which was an ink well, quill pen, and large ledger. We had a coat and hat rack off to the side of the armchair on the right side of the stage. When Scrooge left the stage, he left by one door and returned by another, to the same armchair which served as the setting for his home. We alternated the scenes with the Spirits from one side of the stage to the other, and used a spotlight to draw attention to each scene rather than do a lot of scene changes. This allowed the play to move along smoothly without any awkward pauses. The Spirits and Marley entered through a curtained door at center back stage. The Spirits lead Scrooge back and forth across the stage from scene to scene. You will need the sound of bells as each Spirit enters and some dance music for the party scenes. You will need some papers for Scrooge to be studying, a coal bucket and a lump of coal, a collection box for the collectors, a skinny turkey for the Cratchit's (a rubber chicken worked well), and a plump turkey (could be made from a paper bag) for Scrooge to deliver.

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**Storybook
Christmas**



COMPONENTS

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL

- #1 The Big Comfy Couch..... K - 2
- #2 Sesame Street..... K - 2
- #3 Silver Collection..... 6 - 8
- #4 Fred's Night Before Christmas..... 5 - 8
- #5 Oprah..... 2 - 4
- #6 A Very Special Gift..... 4 - 8
- #7 Star Trek: The Next Generation..... 2 - 4
- #8 The News..... 4 - 8
- #9 World's Funniest Jokes..... 4 - 8
- #10 Charlie Brown's Christmas..... 3 - 5

COMMERCIALS

These commercials would be appropriate for Division Two students. One class may choose to do all the commercials or the class which has performed the previous component could perform the commercial that follows.

- #1 Canadian Bumper
- #2 Pizza Hut / Duracell Bunny
- #3 Grabber's Drug Store
- #4 Fruit Of The Loom
- #5 Pink Insulation
- #6 Ho! Ho! Ho!

CHOIR

Some choir selections are suggested but any seasonal or appropriate song can be used. The choir could be one classroom or could be selected from the entire school. It is possible for the choir members to also take part in their classroom performance. This does cause some traffic problems, with students coming and going to and from the stage.

In memory of our dear colleague, Vivian Bertrand, whose devotion, and love of Christmas concerts made these books...

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A CHRISTMAS ALPHABET PLAY

Narrator: "A B C and even D
Climbed up in the Christmas tree."
(ABCD climbs the step ladder, attaches the A clothes pin, and peeks out the "window" in the tree until the end of the play when he/she is convinced.)

Chanters: "Chick-a-chick-a-boom-boom
There could be a crash soon
Chick-a-chick-a-chick-a-chick-a-
Chick-a-chick-a-boom-boom."

Narrator: "E F G on bended knee
Begged....."
(Student EFG turns to child in tree and says..)

EFG: "Come down from the Christmas tree."

Chanters: "Chick-a-chick-a-boom-boom
There could be a crash soon
Chick-a-chick-a-chick- a-chick-a-
Chick-a-chick-a-boom-boom."

Narrator: "H and I sighed....."

HI: "Oh, my, my!
If you fall, I'm going to cry."

Chanters: "Chick-a-chick-a-boom-boom
There could be a crash soon
Chick-a-chick-a-chick- a-chick-a-
Chick-a-chick-a-boom-boom."

ISBN: 978-1-

PRODUCTION NOTES

Throughout the concert, Santa performs in front of the curtain or below in a swivel easy chair which allows him to face the audience and the stage clicks his channel changer, the curtains open. The script of Santa, the choir, and the singing of the choir provides enough time for one class to leave the stage and the next class to get on stage and get ready. Two aisles and two side stage doors for smooth arrival and departure of classes by having them enter by one aisle and exit by the other. Stage hands for the entire performance are a definite asset in setting the stage and allowing for a smooth transition from one T.V. show to the next. The hands will find it much easier to do their job efficiently if you prepare a script for each performance.

A complete rehearsal is recommended to time items so that each class can be on time and so Santa, the lighting and sound directors, stage hands, and can practice their cues. This also provides an opportunity for students to use their microphones.

The choir is best placed below stage level or to the right of the stage so that the singing, the stage can be set for the next performance. The theme music can be taped from the television and used to introduce each performance.

The channel names and numbers that Santa switches to have been left blank for you to wish to insert the initials of your school or the number of the grade that is performing the item.

We have found that rehearsing for the concert is much more efficient if you practice at the same time. This allows assisting teachers, aides, or parents to be present and the choir from class for their practice. The part of Santa should be performed by a student or you may wish to cast a staff member or a parent volunteer in the role of Santa.

Stage decoration is not necessary for the concert, but if you wish to, it should be as simple as possible considering the variety of settings for the scenes. A T.V. set for your school and the logo "Tuned In To You" or "Best On The Box" (on a sign or material), could be attached to the curtain so that when the curtain is pulled that the T.V. station is still on.

COMPONENTS

CHARACTER

- Fred Flintstone
- Wilma Flintstone
- Barney Rubble
- Betty Rubble
- Pebbles
- Bam Bam
- Dino
- Kazoo
- Mr. Stonehouse (banker)
- St. Nickel
- Rhinestone (shiny rockdeer)
- Mother Granite (Wilma's mother)
- Tree
- Narrator(s)

COSTUMES AND PROPS:

This play has seven scenes but all of them can be performed without having to close the curtains. The actors can exit and enter while the narrator is speaking. The characters should be costumed in a similar fashion to the cartoon characters on the Flintstone's T.V. show. Props should include whatever livingroom furniture you wish to use; a table or a desk which can double as the bank manager's desk; a pine tree painted on heavy cardboard and tall enough for a student to stand behind; St. Nickel's sleigh painted on heavy cardboard and attached to a wagon; a phone; a computer sheet; adding machine tape or an office ledger; and a big bat.

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COMPONENT 5 - OPRAH

This play is an afternoon talk show, in which the host introduces assorted guests and celebrities. The name may be changed to suit a male host or to any other afternoon T.V. show.

COSTUMES AND PROPS:

- The Show* -suit jacket, tie
- Swarzenegger* -big muscles, shades
- the Cyprus* -jeans, T-shirt with sleeves rolled up, guitar
- The Real Waldo* -red and white horizontally striped shirt, blue pants, glasses, red and white toque, cane
- (Without The Beast)* -long dress
- Queen Of England* -long dress, shawl, crown
- Phillip* -suit jacket with medals, captain's hat
- Mandel* -casual wear
- er* -all white clothing, chef's hat, 2 cups flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, mixing bowl and spoon
- er* -all white clothing, chef's hat
- er* -headphones, clip board, 3 cue cards with the following words on them: "Wild Applause" "The Crowd Goes Wild"; "The Crowd Goes Nuts".
- Members (Air Band)* -instruments, flashy clothing, shades
- er* -formal wear

will need 7 chairs across center back for the guests and one chair (slightly to the left) for the host. The Air Band is positioned to the left and the Producer will require some taped theme music representing a talk show. For Billie Jean you will need taped music of the song, "Achy Breaky Heart". "The Walrus" would be appropriate for Waldo's entrance on stage. For the finale, you will need "God Save The Queen". "Upbeat" music for Vancity or Belle will be needed. New "guests" can be added easily.

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COMMERCIAL #1 - CANADIAN BUMPER

(Children are looking at toys on display. Scrooge and Santa walk towards them.)

Scrooge: "Look at those greedy little ankle-biters coveting all those toys. They only think of themselves. The more they get, the more they want. Whoever thought of giving gifts at Christmas anyway? What a rotten idea! Humbug, I say! Bah! Humbug!"

Santa: "Oh, Scrooge, you can't really mean that! Whatever happened to make you so bitter and mean? Didn't you ever get presents for Christmas? Don't you know how it feels that special morning when you wake up and find all those lovely wrapped gifts under the tree?"

Scrooge: "Bah! Humbug! Too expensive! Money wasted! Now here's something that makes sense. The new talking, walking, inexpensive, Scrooge-approved doll. It doesn't take expensive batteries - you just wind it up and it does its thing. And it's made of all wood products so when you get tired of it, it makes good firewood. Nothing wasted. You can even wear its clothes!"

Santa: "Wouldn't that be a little strange - even for you, Scrooge?"

Scrooge: "Bah! Humbug! If you are a really smart shopper, I'll let you in on a secret. My factory is the exclusive manufacturer of these marvellous dolls, and Canadian Bumper stores have them on sale for Christmas time only - for \$49.99. Don't be stupid! Buy your brat one of these Scrooge-approved dolls and make a smart investment at the same time."

Santa: "Ho! Ho! Ho! You'll never give up, will you Scrooge!"

(CURTAIN CLOSES.)

Santa: "That Scrooge! He always shows up around Christmas time. I don't know if I'll ever be able to convince him to just enjoy the season. Oh well, I'll just have to keep working on him."

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Betty: "Men! Barney is always close by when Fred is up to something. I wonder where they are."

Wilma: "He must feel pretty miserable, Betty. How could Mr. Slate be so heartless?"

Betty: "Why don't we plan a surprise party, Wilma? Fred loves a good party and it might take his mind off his troubles."

Wilma: "Good idea, Betty. I have an idea....."

(Exit Betty and Wilma, heads together, planning)

Narrator: "And so with the aid of Pebbles and Bam Bam The stage was set to help Fred out of his jam."

(Enter Pebbles and Bam Bam from left, Wilma and Betty from right)

Pebbles: "Mother! Everyone says that they can come. The response to your invitations has been great!"

Betty: "Yes, Wilma. Even the Slates agreed to come, although I'd never have believed they would show their faces!"

Pebbles: "What do you think of all this Bam Bam?"

Bam Bam: *(Clubs the floor)* "Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!"

Pebbles: *(Laughs)* "I agree. The party's going to be a knockout! A real blast!"

"Too right! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!"

STAGE SET:

The stage should be set with a neutral background, with the news desk at stage right in front of the curtain, if there is room. If there isn't room, an inner curtain (some sheets pinned over a wire and pulled by a student on each side) could be behind the news desk. If you don't wish to have an inner curtain, the characters for each scene can enter from the left stage door and the reporter can enter from the right.

Santa: "Now for the News on Channel _____."

(Santa CLICKS his channel changer.)



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THE CAST

Choir
3 Audience Participants
Magician
Magician's Son

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Director
Stage Hands
Curtain Puller(s)
Lighting Director
Sound Director
Choir Director

CASTING

The *Magician and his son*, the main characters in the program, should be performed by senior class members, or you may wish to cast a staff member or parent volunteer in these parts. They will each require black pants, a black top hat, a white shirt, a bow tie, a magic wand, a coin (if you are using Component 8), and white gloves.

The *Audience Participants* could be any students from grades 4 to 8. They will not require any special costuming or props.

The *Choir* could be one classroom or could be selected from the entire student body. It is possible for the choir members to also take part in their classroom production, although this does cause some traffic problems, with students coming and going from the choir to the stage. Their songs are included in a section at the back of this unit. Almost all of the musical selections are traditional and so the musical notations have not been included as these are easily accessible.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Throughout the concert, the magician and his son perform in front of the stage level. Whenever the magician casts a spell, his chant ends with the word "and see", at which point they turn to face the stage curtain and spread the curtain open. They follow the curtain back, one on each side, and remain behind it during the ensuing act. When the curtain closes, they follow it out again, and thus join each other at center stage in front of the curtain for the next script.



The script of the magician and his son plus the singing of the choir provide for one class to leave the stage and for the next class to get on the stage and aisles and two side stage doors allow for the smooth arrival and departure having them enter by one aisle and leave by the other. Stage hands for the performance are a definite asset in setting and clearing the stage, allowing transition from one spell to the next.

A complete rehearsal is recommended to time the items so that each class enter on time and so that the main characters, lighting and sound director and curtain pullers can practice their cues. This also provides an opportunity for students to practice using the microphones.

STAGE SET

Cover the back of the stage with blue-coloured paper and attach coloured stars here and there. One large, gold-coloured star will be needed for the back of the stage. Attach flexible foil stars to the curtain so that there is a "magical" background when the magicians when the curtain is closed. These reflect and sparkle well. You will need a false window on the back of the stage for the *Mystery* (Component 9).

COSTUMES:

Candies could be dressed as *Christmas Trees* and with ornaments. *Gifts* can be dressed as *Gingerbread* can

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COMPONENT 2 - THE CHRISTMAS

Plant #1: "Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without the twinkling lights and decorations!"

Magician: "Oh for sure! Christmas needs a Christmas tree!"

Son: (To the audience)
"Let's see if we can use our powers of concentration to create Christmas magic. Close your eyes everyone and see the prettiest Christmas tree you have ever seen!"

Choir: Sings verse 1 and 2 of "Oh Christmas Tree".

Magician: (Chants)
"Maybe the lights dancing with glee
Are the twinkling eyes of the Christmas tree
And maybe it sees as plain as can be
How happy it makes us
(Magician turns and spreads arms open in front of the curtain)
LET'S LOOK AND SEE!"

(CURTAIN OPENS.)

PROPS:

An artificial Christmas tree with lights strung on it; decorations to represent each couplet; large cards with pictures of each decoration on the front and the beginning of the couplet (from the word "Christmas") on the back.

WHAT IS THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS?

Gifts: (Dancing around) "We're the most important part of Christmas! We're the bikes, the dolls, the rubber balls. It wouldn't be Christmas without us. We're the magic of Christmas!"

Candies: "What nonsense! You are wrong! You can't have Christmas without us. Candy canes, peppermints, fudge. We're the magic in the air at Christmas. Our sweet smell and taste are what make Christmas best!"

Trees: "You're out to lunch, again! Everyone knows that we're Christmas with our beautiful green, our piney scent, and our magical twinkling lights. If you don't have a Christmas tree, you don't have Christmas."

Candies: "Not true! We're the most important!"

Trees: "Simply not true! We're the most important!"

All Together: "No, it's us! You can't have Christmas without us!"

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DIAGRAM # 1

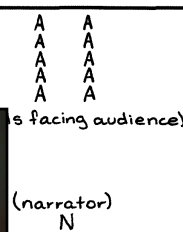
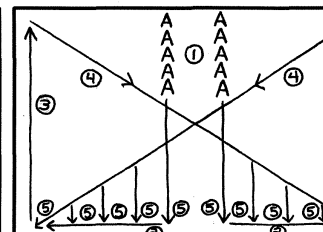


DIAGRAM # 2



Diagrams #1 and #2 show the position of the angels and the narrator as the curtain opens. The first part of the angels' drill. These two diagrams take you to the end of the first part of the angels' drill. These two diagrams take you to the end of the first part of the angels' drill. These two diagrams take you to the end of the first part of the angels' drill. In diagram #2, the angels move to the front of the stage, turn, go out to the front corners of the stage, back to the center, and then up to center stage where the two lines fall into place across the stage, making a solid line across the front. When the Chorus has played, the angels should be in this position. At the start of the repeat of the Chorus, the angels should move to the front left corner and at the front right corner, turn and lead their line in the same pattern again. Once again, they criss-cross to the front of the stage, making a solid line across the front, facing the audience. They should be in this position when the Chorus is ending for the second time. Once the angels are in position, Mary should enter (preferably from a door at the center back of the stage) and bring the cradle. They quickly get into position, near the center back of the stage.

DIAGRAM # 3

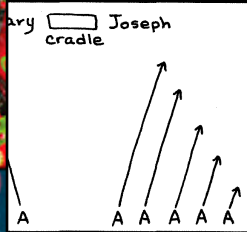
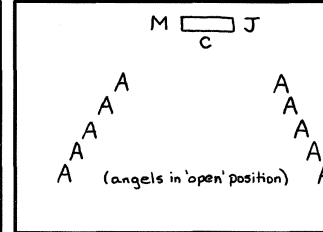


DIAGRAM # 4



LIGHTING

Coloured flood lights (blue is effective) on the magicians creates a magical mood. If the choir is off to the side, you will need some flood lights to illuminate them when they sing. Only the stage lights and the flood lights should be on throughout the performance, unless you are using Component 8 - The Silver Collection, at which time the house lights would go on. The lighting director will need to turn on and turn off the flood lights for the choir and the magicians when they are performing, as well as the stage lights for Component 2 - The Christmas Tree and Component 9 - The Plight Before Christmas.

SOUND

We have found that most students cannot project their voices well enough to be heard. Much of the continuity and humour of the concert is lost to the audience by not hearing the crucial lines. We therefore recommend the use of microphones, even if they have to be passed from one student to another. Four microphones work well, one for the magician and his son, two on stage, and one for the audience participants. However, the magicians could pick up and drop off the stage microphones as they follow the curtain when it opens and closes. Special "wireless" condenser microphones, that clip on clothing, are now available for rent at larger music stores. These microphones are ideal for students as there are no cords or wires to trip over.

Sound effects greatly enhance the "magical" theme of this concert. Reverberation of the word "see", when the magician ends each chant, is very effective. Digital-delay reverb boxes to achieve this echo effect can also be rented at a low cost from music stores. A synthesizer keyboard can be used to create "magical", "tinkling", "star-dusty" musical notes as the curtain opens on each magic spell. The sound director would organize the microphones and execute these special sound effects.

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Candies: "Ginger, you tell them we're the magical part of Christmas!"

Trees: "You have to have a Christmas tree..."

Gifts: "You can't have Christmas without gifts!"

Gingerbread: "I can see we'll have to settle this or we won't have any peace for Christmas."

Candies: "What do you mean, Ginger?"

Trees: "Humph! I guess he means that he's the most important."

Gingerbread: "Not me! Not me!"

Gifts: "I knew it! It's us, isn't it, Ginger?"

Candies: "No, it's us!"

Gingerbread: "Well, in a way, you're right."

Candies: "What do you mean - in a way?"

Gingerbread: "It's all of us together! We are all important! All of us has a part in the magic of Christmas."

"A SENSE OF MAGIC" - COMPONENT 1

To the tune of - "The More We Get Together"

- Oh, Christmas time is magical, magical, magical
Christmas time is magic
You see it everywhere
The cards and the presents
The parties so pleasant
Oh, Christmas time is magic
You see it everywhere.
- Oh, Christmas time is magical, magical, magical
Christmas time is magic
You hear it everywhere
The carols and singing
The bells sweetly ringing
Oh, Christmas time is magic
You hear it everywhere.
- Oh, Christmas time is magical, magical, magical
Christmas time is magic
You feel it in the air
The loving and caring
The helping and sharing
Oh, Christmas time is magic
You feel it in the air.

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CHOIR

The choir selections are inserted at the end of each component. Some selections are suggested but any appropriate songs may be used. The choir could be one classroom or could be selected from the entire student body. The choir selections immediately follow each component thereby providing time for each class to get on and off stage.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Throughout the concert, the main characters are seated on tiered gym mats in front of the curtain or below stage, facing the audience. The script of the main characters and the singing of the choir provides enough time for one class to leave the stage and for the next class to get on stage and get ready. Two aisles and two side stage doors allow for a smooth arrival and departure of classes by having them enter by one aisle and leave by the other. Stage hands are a definite asset in setting and clearing the stage, and allowing for a smooth transition from one scene to the next. The stage hands will find it much easier to do their job efficiently if you prepare a list of props for each class' performance.

A complete rehearsal is recommended to time the items so that each class can be ready to enter on time, and so that the main characters, the lighting and sound directors, stage hands, and curtain puller(s) can practice their cues. This also provides an opportunity for students to practice using the microphones.

The choir is best placed below stage level or to the right of the stage, so that while they are singing, the stage can be set up for the next performance. If the main characters and the choir are below stage level, flood lights will be required for each of them when they perform. The lighting director will need to turn these lights on and off at the appropriate times. For approximately \$75 - \$100, a set of four lights can be rented from a theatrical company. Each light can be controlled from a switch box. Position on light on the choir, one on the main characters below stage, and two on the main stage. The house lights will be dimmed throughout the performance unless you are using component #8, the Silver Collection.

Stage decoration is not necessary for the concert, but if you wish to, it should be as neutral as possible considering the variety of settings for the scenes. We used a starry night sky for a background and found that it enhanced the lighting and visibility of the performers, and reduced the amount of shadows.

We have found that most students cannot project their voices well enough. Much of the continuity and humour of the concert is lost to the audience on crucial lines. We therefore recommend the use of microphones - 2 on the main characters. Any music required for the class performances is sound director and run through the P.A. system. Rehearsing for the concert is efficient if the whole school practices at a designated time. This allows the aids, and parents to pull the main characters and the choir from class

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COMPONENT 3 - CHRISTMAS IN DENMARK

CHARACTERS:

Mom	Dad
Grandfather	Grandmother
Child #1	Child #2
Child #3	Child #4
Cow #1	Cow #2
Sheep #1	Sheep #2
Bird #1	Bird #2
Pig #1	Pig #2
Horse	

PROPS AND COSTUMES:

Home Scene: Danish flag (on the wall of the home); sign - Home; 4 chairs; 4 wheat sheaves; 1 large box for the people (Danish colours); beard and glasses for Grandmother; apron for Mom.

Stable/Barn Scene: Painted cardboard front for stable/barn; 2 costumes.

STAGE SET:

Two scenes are set on the stage. The home scene is set on the left side of the stage stable/barn scene is on the right side. As the curtain opens, the whole stage is lit. home scene, Grandma and Grandpa are seated on chairs helping the children who are seated in front of them on the floor, working at tying wheat sheaves. In the stable scene, Mom and Dad are feeding the animals. The birds are slightly apart from beside the poles.



Christmas Castaways



COMPONENTS

#1 Sweden - Christmas in Sweden.....	K
#2 Ukraine - Christmas Eve in the Ukraine.....	4
#3 Denmark - Christmas in Denmark.....	2
#4 Germany - Dance of the Toys.....	1
#5 Hawaii - Blue Hawaii.....	4
#6 Mexico - Christmas in Mexico.....	4
#7 England - Your Home is Your Castle.....	6
#8 Silver Collection.....	5
#9 Ireland - Ireland is in "Jeopardy".....	3
#10 Scotland - Santy Where's Your Trousers.....	2
#11 The Nativity.....	K

SUGGESTED GRAD

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Director	Lighting Director
Stage Hands	Sound Director
Curtain Puller(s)	Choir Director

THE MAIN CAST

The main characters in the program are: Gretchen (a German lady), Loni (a Hawaiian lady), Ole (a Swedish man), Torbin (a Danish man), Juanita (a Mexican Irish lady), Angus (a Scottish man), Loni (a Hawaiian man), and Elizabeth (a Danish lady). These parts are best played by older students who are able to memorize lines and project their voices well. Accents for the various nationalities may be used. The characters are dressed in appropriate "vacation" attire - colourful sunglasses, sandals, beach hats, etc. Props for the main characters include palm trees (We made these from large cardboard fabric tubes slipped over standards with green paper palm leaves attached to the top.), gym mats, brown blankets to represent a desert island, surrounded by blue blankets to represent the ocean. Sound effects include the sound of the surf on the beach and the sound of a helicopter. These sounds can be obtained from most electronic key

Torbin (Dane):

Gretchen (German):

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Loni (Hawaiian):

When I know that in almost every country, people have a Christmas tree, but I never knew where the tradition started."

Gretchen (German):

"Yaw! I remember when I was young, my grandmother would take English walnuts and split them in half. She would write a wish on a tiny slip of paper, place it inside the nut and glue the halves back together. She would print your name on the nut and hand it to the Christmas tree."

Elizabeth (English):

"Oh! How exciting it must have been to find your walnut on the tree and see what it said inside."

Gretchen (German):

"Yaw! One year mine said, 'To Gretchen. May your new baby doll behave as well as you have'."

Colleen (Irish):

"What other customs originated in Germany?"

Gretchen (German):

"Gingerbread is also a German custom...gingerbread cookies, gingerbread houses...(Wistfully) Oh how the kinder love the tree and the gingerbread..."

(SPOTLIGHT ON STAGE. CURTAIN OPENS.)

ISBN: 978-1-

COMPONENT 7 - YOUR HOME IS YOUR CASTLE

CHARACTERS:

Uncle (married to Betty)	Aunt Maggie (Betty's sister)
Uncle's wife (and mother)	Willy & Harry (sons of Charlie)
Uncle's mother (Lizzie)	Tim (Annie's latest husband)
Uncle's oldest son)	Beatrice And Eugenie (Andy's children)
Uncle's next son, unmarried)	Annie (oldest daughter)

COSTUMES, PROPS, AND STAGE SET:

The home scene is set on the left side of the stage. In the room of the Winsor family. At stage left there is a card table covered with a white cloth and a chair behind for Grandmum. There is a teapot and an assortment of cups and saucers. There are two more chairs to the left of this table. At center stage is a table covered with a quilt and a coffee table. At stage right there is a coat rack stands in the back of stage left and a decorated Christmas tree in the center behind the chesterfield.

Uncle is seated at the table sipping tea. Phil is seated with Grandmum, in her hat, seated at the table sipping tea. Phil is seated watching T.V. with remote in hand. Betty is fussing nervously about the children. The children are all excitedly awaiting the arrival of the rest of the family for Christmas.

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(Spotlight on the castaways. Sound of surf on the beach.)

Angus (Scottish):

"Oh dear, it's two days since our cruise ship went down in that terrible storm. I wonder what happened to everyone?"

Elizabeth (English):

"I only hope that the others are okay...wherever they are."

Colleen (Irish):

"Faith and begora, t'was the luck of the Irish that our lifeboat washed up on this island."

Gretchen (German):

"Neon. This wasn't all luck. We had Senor Loni with us."

Juanita (Mexican):

"Si! Senor Loni, he sure knows how to get around on the water."

Loni (Hawaiian):

"Well in Hawaii, we are as at home on the water as we are on the land. Our ancestors were the Polynesians. They sailed across the Pacific Ocean in giant canoes to settle in Hawaii."

Lena (Ukrainian):

"I'd give my best babooshka to see one of those canoes right now...or any kind of boat for that matter."

Torbin (Dane):

"Yaw! It would be nice to be rescued so that we could all be home in time for Christmas."

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Children

Dolls

Gingerbread Cookies

Toy Soldiers

Robots (Transformers)

COSTUMES AND PROPS:

Gingerbread house (which can be made from a clothes dryer box); Christmas tree; pillows. Music needed: Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker". The following costumes are appropriate for the characters to wear:

1. Children - pyjamas; gingerbread decorations to hang on the tree.
2. Toy Soldiers - red or blue pants and jackets; white gloves; black rubber boots; toy rifles; red cheeks.
3. Dolls - fancy dresses; exaggerated eye lashes; red dots on cheeks. Raggedy Ann, Barbie, or Ballerina costumes would be appropriate.
4. Robots (Transformers) - spray paint cardboard boxes gold or silver and cut out holes for their arms and head to go through. Paint their faces the same colour.
5. Gingerbread Cookies - costumes can be made using a commercial pattern for a dog costume. Trim the brown fabric with white ric-rac. Paint red spots on their cheeks.

STAGE SET:

The gingerbread house is placed in front of the center back stage door. The back of the gingerbread house is open to allow students to come on stage through the door in the front. The Christmas tree is at the back left of the stage and the pillows, to signify

(Choir sings the following rendition of "Donald Where's Your Trousers", written by Stuart/Grant and found on the recording, "The Irish Rovers Greatest Hits".)

Choir:

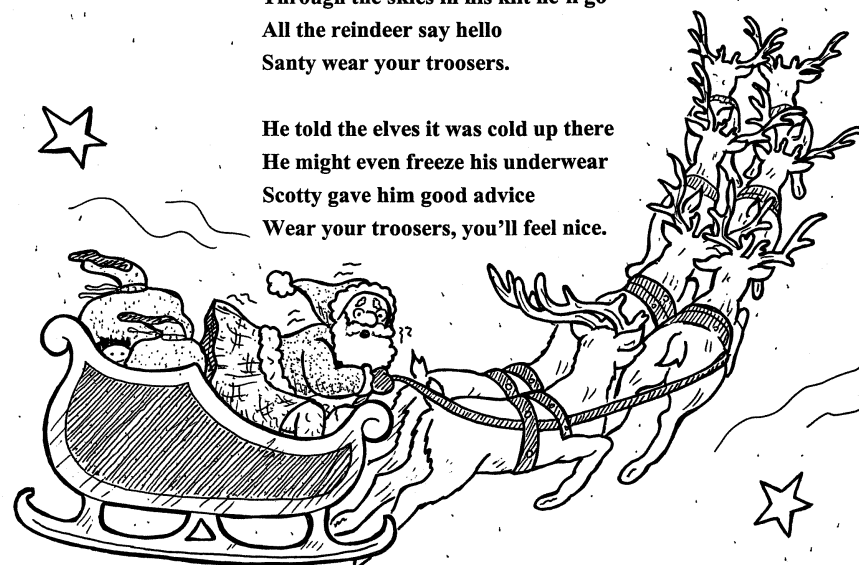
SANTY WEAR YOUR TROUSERS

Oh he just came back from the old North Pole
He's not very big but he's a jolly old soul
He canna wear his kilt on Christmas night
Santy, my goodness, what a sight!

CHORUS:

Let the wind blow high, let the wind blow low
Through the skies in his kilt he'll go
All the reindeer say hello
Santy wear your trousers.

He told the elves it was cold up there
He might even freeze his underwear
Scotty gave him good advice
Wear your trousers, you'll feel nice.



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CHOIR

The choir selections are inserted at the end of each component. Some selections are suggested but any appropriate songs may be used. 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.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Throughout the concert, the main character is seated at his computer on a swivel chair in front of the curtain or below stage level, facing the audience. The script of the main character and the singing of the choir provides enough time for one class to leave the stage and for the next class to get on stage and get ready. Two aisles and two side stage doors allow for a smooth arrival and departure of classes by having them enter by one aisle and leave by the other. Stage hands are a definite asset in setting and clearing the stage, and allowing for a smooth transition from one scene to the next. The stage hands will find it much easier to do their job efficiently if you prepare a list of props for each class' performance.

A complete rehearsal is recommended to time the items so that each class can be ready to enter on time, and so that the main character, the lighting and sound directors, stage hands, and curtain puller(s) can practice their cues. This also provides an opportunity for students to practice using the microphones.

The choir is best placed below stage level or to the right of the stage, so that while they are singing, the stage can be set up for the next performance. If the main character and the choir are below stage level, flood lights will be required for each of them when they perform. The lighting director will need to turn these lights on and off at the appropriate times. For approximately \$75 - \$100, a set of four lights can be rented from a theatrical company. Each light can be controlled from a switch box. Position one light on the choir, one on the main character, and two on the main stage. The house lights will be dimmed throughout the performance, unless you are using component #5 - the Silver Collection.

Stage decoration is not necessary for the concert, but if you wish to, it should be as neutral as possible considering the variety of settings for the scenes. We used a starry night sky for a background and found that it enhanced the lighting and visibility of the performers, and reduced the amount of shadows.

We have found that most students cannot project their voices well enough. Much of the continuity and humour of the concert is lost to the audience on crucial lines. We therefore recommend the use of microphones - 2 on the main characters. Any music required for the class performances is sound director and run through the P.A. system. Rehearsing for the concert is efficient if the whole school practices at a designated time. This allows the aides, and parents to pull the main characters and the choir from class

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Santa: (SPOTLIGHT ON SANTA)
"Well folks, that was just the beginning
That night led to another and another
And soon the days as well
Mrs. Claus and the elves were all upse
As further behind my work fell.

I couldn't leave that blasted computer
I was caught up in it's spell
I didn't care about anything else
I was addicted, can't you tell.

I'd become a computer-holic
It was oh so plain to see
I was caught up in the World Wide Web
No one could rescue me.

I discovered the world of E-mail
And all that it can do
No more "snail mail" for me
Out my orders flew!"

(SPOTLIGHT ON STAGE. CURTAIN OPEN)

ISBN: 978-1-

COMPONENT 1 - SANTA LEARNS A LESSON

CHARACTERS:

Santa Claus	World Scene: Queen Elizabeth
Mrs. Claus	Mexican
Elf #1	Sumo Wrestler
Elf #2	Crocodile Dundee
Elf #3	Person from your town
Elf #4	Beach Scene: Sand castle builders
Elf #5	Beach ball tossers
Elf #6	Sunbathers
	Surfer

COSTUMES:

As appropriate to the various roles.

PROPS:

Computer; desk; chair; rocking chair; knitting needles and yarn; flat made of cardboard with holes marking London, Tokyo, Mexico City, Sydney; flashlight to shine through the holes on the map; beach balls; towel; lotion; hats; pails and shovels; water wings; sand castles made of cardboard; surfboard; music (Beach Boys - "Surfing USA"); clips of authentic music from various countries; computer sounds.

STAGE SET:

The left half of the stage is set up with Santa's computer desk and chair, and a chair for Mrs. Claus. The right half of the stage is empty and will be used for the beach scene and the world scene. As the scene opens, the left half of the stage should be in shadow.

CHARACTERS:

Secretary
President
Secretary
Workers
Battery-operated

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COSTUMES:

As appropriate to the various characters. The battery-operated glue bottle can be made as a white sandwich board, coloured to look like a glue bottle. A cereal box which has been painted 3/4 black and 1/4 copper colour (to resemble a Duracell battery), can be glued on the back.

PROPS:

A large glue bottle; 2 desks and chairs; 2 telephones; signs that read "LePages Glue Company, Duracell Company, and Reebok Shoes"; one pair of pantyhose; sleigh bells and cow bells; a wreath; a doughnut; very short clip of heavy metal music and "Surfing USA".

STAGE SET:

The stage is set initially to represent three different scenes: the LePages Glue Company office at stage left; the Duracell Company office at center stage; and a Reebok Shoe Store at stage right. When these scenes are complete, the scene shifts to Santa's workshop at the North Pole. If lighting permits, each scene may be illuminated as it is performed and then remain in semi-darkness. The change of scene to Santa's workshop can be executed in semi-darkness.

ISBN: 978-1-

COMPONENT 5 - THE TRUE STORY OF HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

CHARACTERS:

Narrator	Jimmy
	Zolton
	Hugh
Who	Betty Lou
	Cinda
	Matilda
	Margie

with horns, for Max. The Grinch should have green hair and a green face. He should be wearing pyjamas and have green faces. Hugh and Betty Lou should be wearing red and white striped shirts.

Props; 1 meter by 1 meter calendar dated the year prior to your concert; 4 sets of gifts; toys; hoops; books; cards for the Grinchlings to play with; so on. Striking 4 times.

the livingroom in the cave of the Grinches. The Grinch is sitting at his desk and the Grinchlings are playing on the floor. Max is among them.

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Santa: "Ho, ho, ho. Thank you for giving me these pointers. I'm going to spend the rest of the evening surfing the net by chatting with some of the Christmas newsgroups and exploring the browsers."

(Santa sits at the computer. Elves exit. Lights fade out.)

(CURTAIN CLOSES. SPOTLIGHT ON CHOIR.)

Choir: SANTA CLAUS IS SURFING THE NET
(Adaptation of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town")

You better watch out, you better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is surfing the net

He's typing a list, spellchecking it twice
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice
Santa Claus is surfing the net

He's been reading your E-mail
He knows just what to take
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake

Oh! You better watch out, you better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is surfing the net

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Worker #2: "Sleigh runner? Sleigh runner? That's not a brand name that I've ever heard of. Santa must have been listening to heavy metal when he made this order. (Play a few seconds of heavy metal music and have the worker wear a walkman as if he is listening to it.)

(Scene shifts to Santa's workshop at the North Pole)

Elf #1: "Man, am I ever having a bad hair day under my toque! I got out the pattern to make the 101 Dalmatians and - would you believe it - Santa ordered spotted material all right, but the spots belong to the leopard in the Lion King." (Again, other movies could be substituted)

Elf #2: "Oh, dear! I know what you mean. I've got problems too. I told Santa to order Christmas stockings for all the good little boys and girls, and look what I got - pantyhose!!!" (Holds up a pair of pantyhose)

Elf #3: "Pantyhose! Yuck! Wouldn't they look just ducky hanging from the mantelpiece on Christmas Eve."

Elf #4: "Boys, boys, Santa must be off his rocker."

"Why do you say that?"

COMPONENT 7 - RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

STAGE SET:

The curtain opens to a large sign, "Ripley's Believe It Or Not", on the center stage wall. The set is arranged around five vignettes. At stage left, drums are set up for one actor to provide a drum roll after each punch line is delivered. There is a garbage can with a flip-top lid at center stage. It is disguised as a mailbox and has the lettering, CANADA POST, on the audience side. It has a dual purpose as a podium/pulpit when covered with a cloth. Props include a small desk and a chair at stage left; the mailbox at center stage; and two chairs at stage right. If you have the lighting capabilities, spotlighting each vignette is effective. Otherwise, have full lights on stage.

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Vignette #1 (Right side of stage):

A preacher in a black gown is at the "pulpit" (garbage can covered with cloth). Two members of the congregation are seated on chairs, stage right, looking bored.

Narrator: (Holding an hourglass made from two plastic pop bottles taped together with duct tape at the necks)
"Believe it or not...
the hourglass was invented for the purpose of limiting the length of sermons."

Preacher: "And I say to you, you must repent! Have you been saved?"
(Bell rings as the hourglass runs out)

Member #1: "Saved by the bell."

Member #2: (Lifts a sign with the words, "To be continued next week.")
(Drumroll as actors walk off stage left)

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ALL STRESSED OUT AT CHRISTMAS

Overview

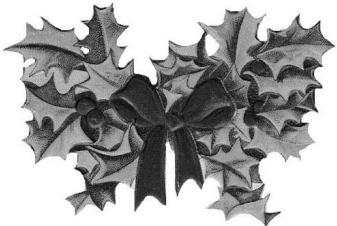
OVERVIEW

All Stressed Out At 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 as part of Santa's therapy, eliminating the need for an intermission. In the final scene, one element from each class's performance returns to the stage with Santa.

The play requires only one stage setting, and the curtain closes and re-opens only once during the production, very close to the end. A minimum number of props stay on the stage.

There is a great deal of flexibility within the play for teachers to "do their own thing". Many teachers prefer that freedom, rather than sticking to a predetermined script. The storyline is approximately 25 minutes in length, but the total time will depend on the length of the performance chosen by each teacher. The teacher has the opportunity to create his/her class's contribution within the parameters of the plot, this enabling the show to be part of the classroom curriculum if desired. It also enables the teacher to capitalize on the special abilities and talents of the children – and the teacher! – in the class. Extra scenes can be added if you wish to include more classes, and any one scene could be eliminated if there are not enough classes. As well, a class may be assigned more than one part, since the number of students participating in any given component is established by the teacher.

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



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ALL STRESSED OUT AT CHRISTMAS

MAIN CHARACTERS

There are several characters who are involved in the main storyline, and they are:

Santa	Rudolph	Borman
Mrs. Claus	Dexter	Backstrom
	Various other Reindeer and Elves	

Suggestions: This is most suitable for an older group of students who sound and lighting effects, memorizing lines, speaking loudly and clearly, and children as necessary. Have an understudy for each part!

The teacher of this class should be the producer/director of the whole production. Students could be appointed to make sure the necessary items are present for class performs.

COSTUMES AND PROPS

- costumes for Santa, Mrs. Claus, Reindeer and Elves
- business suit for Stress-Management Consultant (briefcase)
- Santa's easy chair
- Mrs. Claus's rocking chair, knitting
- portable screen
- stethoscope
- pad and pencil
- blood pressure cuff
- large wristwatch
- bathtub

-in the bathtub: soap bubbles, towel, extra pants and jacket for Santa, box of chocolates, caroller's scarf, shower cap

-8 signs for the countdown to Christmas



PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

The various other Elves. If they are in costume, also hand out the program.

PRODUCTION NOTES

There are two chairs set up on the stage, one for Mrs. Claus. Santa is removed at any time after she has been chased away the Stress-Management Consultant. She does not need it when she reappears after Class #4.

All of the action takes place in the interior of Santa's home, so one set of scenery across the back of the stage is all that is required. (If desired, a night scene can be used as though it were viewed through a window.) This leaves a maximum amount of space on the stage for larger classes of students. Each class will bring its own props onto the stage and take them away when they leave, so only large items such as the stretcher, bathtub, and portable screen need be hidden behind the curtains.

The action is set out for only one exit (to the left), but if your stage has one on each side, the classes could alternate sides for more convenient entrances and exits. If there are stairs at the front of the stage, any class could come up from the auditorium floor, if so desired. With Santa staying close to the front of the stage, all the speaking parts will take place as close to the audience as possible, so it will be easier to hear. Speakers must be taught to speak loudly and clearly unless you have access to microphones. Each class can practice individually, and then a dress rehearsal will pull it all together.

Suggestion: Have Santa, Rudolph, and Borman practice at least once with each class before the dress rehearsal, so the students with speaking parts know who they are speaking to.

The bathtub is made of a box large enough for Santa to sit in, with a large, tub-shaped cardboard cut-out glued to the side that the audience will see. The props that Santa needs for each of the two bathtub scenes (first scene – towel, extra Santa suit, soap bubbles, running water recording; final scene – box of chocolates, sports equipment, dumbbells, shower cap, etc.) can be put into it so that they are readily available for his use. The first scene props can be removed after they are used, when Rudolph and Borman pull the tub to the side of the stage. In this way they will not be in the way during the final scene.

The house lights should be dimmed throughout except when the audience participates in the singing, and for the finale, when the curtains are closed while Rudolph and Borman speak to the audience. The flashing lights on the stage indicate the passage of time, and can be used to hide any prop changes, such as the removal of the bathtub and screen.

As members of the audience arrive for the performance, they will receive their song sheets for their part in the play. Instructions for their part in the play can be written on the sheets. If the children who lead the singing do some practicing at home, the audience will be better prepared for their part.

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ALL STRESSED OUT AT CHRISTMAS

The Story

THE STORY

Christmas Eve is just over a week away, and it seems that the North Pole Workshop is on time for the Christmas trip. Santa Claus, the Elves, and the Reindeer are arguing over the pettiest things. Production in the Workshop has come to a halt due to the fighting and bickering among the Elves. Flight training for the Reindeer is due to problems with teamwork. Even the services of a Stress-Management Consultant are needed! Only Mrs. Claus seems to have things under control.

Then the Elves and Reindeer come to realize that they must stop fighting and help Santa relax so he will be able to carry out his Christmas obligations. Work the rascally Elves who try to derail their plans, Rudolph and Borman, the Foreman, relaxation techniques to distress Santa. Even the true Christmas story plays out. In the end, maybe they have succeeded too well!



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ALL STRESSED OUT AT CHRISTMAS

Components

There are parts for up to 9 classes. Remember that parents like to see the smallest children in cute costumes, so the Nativity Scene is probably best given to the youngest class. Because the individual class performances are the choice of the teacher, any class can take any part and make it fit their level of expertise. The part of the main characters should probably be taken by older students who can project their voices well. It is advisable that the teacher whose class is doing the acting for the main characters also should be the producer/director of the show.

Suggested Grade Level

- #1 All Stressed Out 7 – 8
- #2 Aerobic Dancers 1 – 3
- #3 Sports Enthusiasts 4 – 6
- #4 Dancers 2 – 4
- #5 Chocoholics 4 – 6
- #6 Singers 4 – 8
- #7 Variety Show 6 – 8
- #8 Bathtub Relaxers/Masseurs/Masseuses 2 – 3
- #9 Nativity Scene 1 – 2



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Rudolph	Cupid
Donder	Borman
Pixie	Snoozy
Twinkie	Mrs. Claus
Consultant	Dexter
Backstrom	

(The nine reindeer sit on the floor on the left side of the stage, and several Elves on the other. Mrs. Claus is sitting in a rocking chair on the far right side of the stage, knitting. Santa comes in, irritated, at wit's end, sits down beside her in his easy chair, then jumps up and paces back and forth.)

Santa: "I don't know what's going on around here. We'll never be ready for Christmas! The Reindeer and Elves are all so stressed out! I was down at the flight training center a while ago and the Reindeer were acting terrible, just terrible – fighting, arguing. Then I went to the workshop and the Elves were doing the same! Putting each other down! Saying nasty things! Especially those two, Dexter and Backstrom. I swear, sometimes they're naughty Elves!"

(Reindeer begin arguing.)

Dancer: "Rudolph, you couldn't fly straight if you had a clothesline to follow!"

(Others shout agreement.)

Rudolph: "Well, if you could fly faster, I wouldn't always get pulled over to one side!"

(Others shout agreement.)

Cupid: "And Donder, if you weren't so clumsy, we wouldn't have crashed into that chimney!"

(Others shout agreement.)

Donder: "Well, if I didn't have to carry you, I wouldn't fly so low!"

(A free-for-all breaks out among the Reindeer, and Santa goes over and stamps his foot. He shouts loudly.)

Santa: "Stop! Stop your fighting! It's only nine days till Christmas, and you've got to learn to get along with each other as a team! You've got to get along!"

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Component 2 – Aerobic Dancers

CHARACTERS:

Borman	Rudolph
	Student #1
	Santa

The primary class take this part, because the audience will not expect to see a class in workout clothes and using dumbbells. This adds to the humour and the

such as *Jingle Bells* or *The Twelve Days of Christmas* for your music. Divide your class into groups, so they perform in turns. Include an aerobic routine. At the end, the students form a "U" around Santa and shake their heads sadly as he lies on the floor. Add some lines such as "I'm out of shape!", etc. before they leave. Make as great a contrast as possible between the vitality and Santa's lack of it.

PROPS:

- dumbbells
- handbands, warm-up suits, leotards, sneakers, wristbands
- toilet tissue rolls and construction paper
- signs for Santa

(Speaker)



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Component 5 – Chocoholics

(Santa sits down to devour the cake, with obvious enjoyment. Dexter and Backstrom disappear, to the left. Class #4 performs, then leaves. Santa tastes each goodie. Mrs. Claus enters from the right.)

Mrs. Claus: (She is indignant when she sees what is happening.) "What's going on here? Where did this come from?"

Mrs. Claus: (She grabs the cart and wheels it away.) "All the caffeine in this chocolate is going to send your blood pressure sky-high! If you pig out like this any more, your suit will be too small! You won't fit in the sleigh! We'll need three more reindeer to pull you, and where would we get them at this late date? I'll bet it was that Dexter and Backstrom behind this. They are the naughtiest elves! They'll get straw in their stockings for sure, this Christmas!"

(Mrs. Claus leaves, to the left, pushing the cart.)

Santa: (Santa grins sheepishly.) "Well, it was good while it lasted."

(Santa returns to his chair. LIGHTS FLASH OFF AND BACK ON. A Reindeer walks across the stage carrying a sign, "4 DAYS LEFT". Borman and Rudolph come in again with the inevitable stethoscope and blood pressure cuff.)

Borman: "Santa, we heard about your "pig-out" yesterday. Shame on you! Just for that, you're going to have to really get into this next activity. We've got some people coming to help you sing."

Santa: "Well, finally you've found something that I like to do, that's also good for me. Living to be this age, I must be doing something right."



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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 transporter. The story ends with the recommendation that the holiday be taken back to the planet Zork and adopted into their culture.

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COSTUMES AND PROPS

Spacemen

-hard hats covered with foil and attached to the head with springs and styrofoam balls on top
-boots covered with foil
-hand-held radio/communicator for Donkus
-data sheet for Quark (accordion-fold)

Santa's sleigh

-see Production Notes - will require a prop that the audience can see it as Santa enters

Reindeer costumes

-brown clothing, Bristol board antlers, and 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

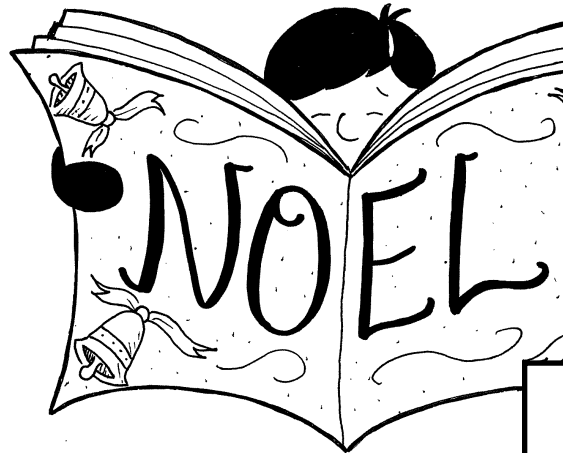
It is advisable to have the teacher whose students are the main characters in charge of the production. Have students dressed as Elves to take the part of the production. Have students dressed as Elves to take the part of lighting, sound, and curtain hands. If they are in costume it will not matter any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

ISBN: 978-1-

COMPONENTS

Suggested

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



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The curtains open over the stage. The action begins. The actors enter and the audience is enthralled. The action continues 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.

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.

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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 (WRAP)

Introduction:

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

"P-R-E-S-E-N-T-S!"

(The whole class)

Receiving presents feels good and you get into the spirit, and that's the reason for the season and nobody needs to fear it. So think about your friends and you add them to your list. Be sure to check your list, man, yeah, check it twice, and see whether they be naughty or nice. And 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.)

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Spacemen
Visit Christmas



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