

GO UP! 1



DRAMA

PAGE

END OF YEAR PLAYS:

A CHRISTMAS VISITOR 2

A SCHOOL TRIP TO LONDON 5



TEACHER'S NOTES

Objectives: The children work together to rehearse and perform a play. While doing so, they use their imagination and practise and extend their English.

Characters

- **Children:** Jess, Tom, Sarah
- **Family:** Mum, Dad, Granny, Grandad, Auntie Rachel, Uncle Simon, cousins
- **Friends:** Friend 1, Friend 2
- **Santa**

You can encourage more confident children to take on the roles of the three children or their parents and less confident children to play the roles of friends or cousins.

Instructions

1 Tell the story.

Explain to your pupils that they are going to prepare a play about Christmas in Britain. Then tell the story: Three children go to bed on Christmas Eve and wake up on Christmas Day to find presents from Santa. All their family come and have Christmas dinner. In the evening some friends come to visit the family, including Santa! Then they all sing a Christmas carol.

2 Assign roles.

Give all the children in class a task. They can be in charge of sound effects or perform non-verbal roles such as doors, window and the Christmas tree if they do not feel like acting out.

3 Pre-teach vocabulary and key phrases before preparing the scenes.

- Explain that Santa brings presents on Christmas Eve when children are asleep. Play a game: The children say the chant and then fall asleep on the floor. The teacher plays Santa and pretends to hand out presents to all the children. If Santa sees anyone moving, they are out of the game. After several rounds, the sleepest child is the winner.

Teach the chant *It's Christmas Eve. (It's Christmas Eve, It's Christmas Eve. Santa's got presents for me.)*

Rehearse Scene 1.

- The children pass around a stocking or bag with different items in it. They take one out and say: *I've got a ____!*

Rehearse Scene 2.

- Get the children to say *Hello, happy Christmas* to one another. Teach the *Happy Christmas* chant. (*Happy Christmas, Granny and Grandad, Happy Christmas, Rachel and Simon. Happy Christmas, cousins! Happy Christmas, everyone!*)

Rehearse Scene 3.

- Explain the tradition of Christmas dinner and teach the new vocabulary. Children mime eating and passing food around. Practise the *Yum, yum, yum* chant. (*Yum, yum, yum! Christmas dinner in my tum!*)

Rehearse Scene 4.

- Play a game: *Knock, knock*. The children stand in groups. They take turns to stand behind the group and knock. The group says: *Who's that?* Then they look and say: *It's ...!*

Rehearse Scene 5.

- Practise the traditional Christmas song *Jingle Bells* or any other song you find appropriate.

Rehearse Scene 6.

4 Rehearse the whole play.

Start reading the script aloud and encourage children to repeat after you, and eventually memorise the lines. Rehearse with costumes and props.

5 Perform the play.

The children can perform the play for another class.

SCRIPT

Scene 1

(Jess, Tom and Sarah are in bed.)

Mum and Dad: Good night! Sleep well!

(Mum and Dad leave the room.)

Jess, Tom and Sarah: (chanting) *It's Christmas Eve, it's Christmas Eve. Santa's got presents for me!*

(The children all yawn and fall asleep.)

Scene 2

(Jess, Tom and Sarah are snoring. Santa sneaks into the room and leaves a stocking full of presents near the children's beds. He winks at the audience.)

Jess: (waking up and looking around) **It's Christmas Day!**

Tom: Look! Presents!

Sarah: Thank you, Santa!

(They pass the stocking round and take out a present each. They unwrap the presents and show the toys to the audience.)

Jess: I've got crayons! (Pulls one out and pretends to scribble in the air.)

Tom: I've got a school bag! (Holds up the bag.)

Sarah: I've got a pencil case! (Opens and closes the zip.)

Scene 3

(The children go downstairs.)

Mum: (waving to Granny and Grandad as they walk into the house) **Granny and Grandad are here!**

Granny and Grandad: Happy Christmas everyone!

Jess, Tom and Sarah: Hello, Granny. Hello, Grandad. Happy Christmas!

Dad: (waving to Auntie Rachel and Uncle Simon as they walk into the house) **Auntie Rachel and Uncle Simon are here!**

Auntie Rachel and Uncle Simon: Happy Christmas, everyone!

Jess, Tom and Sarah: Hello, Auntie Rachel. Hello, Uncle Simon! Happy Christmas!

Mum: (waving to cousins as they walk into the house) **Your cousins are here!**

Cousins: Happy Christmas, everyone!

Jess, Tom and Sarah: Hello! Happy Christmas!

Mum, Dad, Jess, Tom and Sarah: (chanting) *Happy Christmas, Granny and Grandad. Happy Christmas, Rachel and Simon. Happy Christmas, cousins! Happy Christmas, everyone!*

Scene 4

Mum: Sit at the table please. It's time to have Christmas Dinner.

All the children: Mmmm, I'm HUNGRY!

(The children and grandparents sit at the table. Mum, Dad, Uncle Simon and Auntie Rachel are serving the food.)

Cousin 1: Can I have some turkey, please?

Dad: Here's the turkey! (Carves the turkey and serves it.)

Cousin 2: Can I have some salad please?

Granny: Here is the salad! (Serves salad.)

Cousin 3: Can I have some potatoes, please?

Grandad: Here are the potatoes! (Serves potatoes.)

(They all start eating)

All children, Granny and Grandad: Mmmm! Thank you everyone!

Everyone: (chanting and rubbing bellies) *Yum, yum, yum! Christmas dinner in my tum!*

Scene 5

(The family are all sitting together. The children are playing with their presents. Suddenly there's a knock at the door.)

Sarah: Who's that?

(All the children go to the door and try to see who's there.)

Tom: (opening the door) It's my friend(s)!

Friend(s) 1: Hello! Happy Christmas!

(The children sit back down and continue playing with their toys. Suddenly there's another knock at the door.)

Uncle Simon: Who's that?

(All the children go to the door and try to see who's there.)

Jess: (opening the door) It's my friend(s)!

Friend(s) 2: Hello! Happy Christmas!

(The children sit back down and continue playing with their toys. Suddenly there's another knock at the door.)

Everyone: Who's that?

(All the children go to the door and try to see who's there.)

Everyone: (opening the door, excited) It's SANTA!

Santa: Ho! Ho! Ho! Happy Christmas everyone!

Scene 6

(Santa is surrounded by the children.)

Auntie Rachel: It's time to sing a Christmas carol!

Granny: Let's sing *Silent Night*.

All the children and friends: Hmm, no!

Grandad: Let's sing *Little Donkey*.

All the children and friends: Hmm, no!

Santa: Let's sing *Jingle Bells*!

All the children and friends: YES!

(They all sing *Jingle Bells: Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride on a one-horse open sleigh!*)

Everyone: Happy Christmas, everyone!

TEACHER'S NOTES

Objectives: The children work together to rehearse and perform a play. While doing so, they gain cultural knowledge and use English in a meaningful context.

Characters

- **Teacher**
- **Class:** children's own names
- **Child (X):** student's own name
- **Archie:** the bus driver
- **Family members**
- **Three ticket collectors**
- **Zoo animals:** A parrot and a snake. Others can be added.
- **Waxwork figures at Madame Tussauds:** Queen Elizabeth II and Spiderman. Other English speakers can be added such as James Bond, The Incredible Hulk, etc.

Suggested props

The London Eye: Decorate a large cardboard circle to look like the London Eye.

Name plaques for the waxworks: Make them from cardboard.

Spider: It should be hung on a string.

Bus: Make from a large piece of cardboard.

Instructions

1 Explain the story.

Explain to your pupils that they are going to prepare a play about a school trip to London. Then tell the story: The teacher and her pupils go to London and meet a bus driver called Archie. He shows them different places in London but one student keeps getting left behind. At the zoo, he/she makes friends with a spider who scares all the children.

2 Assign roles.

You can encourage more confident children to take on the roles of Archie or the teacher and less confident children to play the roles of the pupils in the class.

3 Pre-teach vocabulary and key phrases before preparing the scenes.

- Show the children a map of Europe and get them to find London.

Rehearse Scene 1.

- Play a game to explain how the children feel in the plane. The teacher says *I'm (tired)* and the children mime the feeling.

Rehearse Scene 2.

- Ask the children to walk in a line to the rhythm of some music. The student at the back gets distracted. When the music stops, the children ask *Where's ...?* The child at the back says *Coming!* and then moves to the front. Teach the traditional English song *The wheels on the bus*.

Rehearse Scene 3.

- Show images of the London Eye. Ask: What shape is it?

Rehearse Scene 4.

- Show the children pictures of Madame Tussauds. Explain that it is a waxwork museum. Show pictures of the Queen and Spiderman and say: *Who's this? It's ...!* Teach the *Touch her arm* chant. (See script scene 5)

Rehearse Scene 5.

- Explain that London has a big zoo. Play a miming game to guess the animals. Teach the *It's a snake* chant. (See script scene 6)

Rehearse Scene 6.

A SCHOOL TRIP TO LONDON

- Ask the children to sit in a circle and say *Bye, bye* to one another.

Rehearse Scene 7.

4 Rehearse the whole play.

Start reading the script aloud and encourage the children to repeat after you, and eventually memorise the lines. Rehearse with costumes and props.

5 Perform the play.

SCRIPT

Scene 1

(The class say goodbye to their families. All waving.)

Teacher: Say bye! We're going to London!

Class: Bye, Mum! Bye, Dad!

Parents: Bye! Have fun in London!

Scene 2

(The class are on the flight to London.)

Child 1: (sighs) I'm bored.

Child 2: (yawns) I'm tired.

Child 3: (rubs belly) I'm hungry!

Teacher: Shh! We're nearly in London!

Scene 3

(The class arrive in London and meet the bus driver.)

Teacher: This is our bus driver.

Archie: Hello! I'm Archie.

Class (except X): Hello, Archie!

((X) not listening, looking around)

Teacher: (looking around) Where's (X)?

Class: Come on, (X)!

(X): (runs along) Coming!

(Class get on bus and sing *The wheels on the bus.*)

Scene 4

(The class arrive at the London Eye.)

Archie: (pointing to the London Eye) This is the London Eye.

Child 1: Wow, it's big!

Teacher: What shape is it?

Child 2: It's a circle!

Child 3: A big circle!

Class: I like the London Eye!

Ticket collector: Six pounds, please.

(Class pay and go towards the London Eye. (X) is standing behind, moving his/her head around in circles as if watching the wheel go round.)

Teacher: (looking around) Where's (X)?

Class: Come ON, (X)!

(X): (runs along) Coming!

A SCHOOL TRIP TO LONDON

Scene 5

(The class arrive at Madam Tussauds.)

Archie: This is Madame Tussauds.

Ticket collector: Eight pounds, please.

(Class pay to see the waxworks. Each waxwork has a characteristic pose or prop.)

Teacher: (pointing to Spiderman) **Who's this?**

Student 1: It's Spiderman!

(Repeat for all the waxworks)

Teacher: (pointing to the Queen) **And who's this?**

Class: It's the Queen!

Class: (chanting and touching the Queen excitedly) *Touch her arm! Touch her head! Touch her hand! Touch her leg!*

Teacher and ticket collector: (shouting) **DON'T TOUCH!**

((X) is next to the Spiderman waxwork, mimicking his pose)

Teacher: (looking around) **Where's (X)?**

Class: Come ON, (X)!

(X): (runs along) Coming!

Scene 6

(The class arrive at London Zoo.)

Archie: This is London Zoo.

Ticket collector: Five pounds, please.

(Class pay and go into the zoo.)

Teacher: (pointing to snake) **What animal's this?**

Class: (chanting) **It's a snake! It's a snake! Snake, snake, snake!**

(Snake makes slithering movements, hissing.)

Teacher: (pointing to parrot) **What animal's this?**

Class: (chanting) **It's a parrot! It's a parrot! Parrot, parrot, parrot!**

Parrot: (flapping wings, repeating in silly voice) **Parrot, parrot, parrot!**

Teacher: (pulls out spider on string and makes it dance along shoulders of children)
And what animal's this?

(X): (shouts excitedly) **It's a spider! SPIDER, SPIDER, SPIDER!**

Class: (screaming) **I'm scared!**

(Class run back to bus.)

(X), Archie and Teacher: (laughing as they go to the bus)

Scene 7

(The class are back at the airport. (X) has the spider resting on his shoulder.)

Teacher: Time to go home now! Say *bye, bye* to Archie.

Class: **Bye, Archie! Bye, London!**

Archie: Bye! See you soon!

(X): Bye, spider. (Gives spider to Archie.)

(They all wave to Archie, then face audience and wave.)