

The Magical Christmas Box

Primary Script

by

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CAST LIST

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

Main Characters:

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Jake | (20) |
| Jenny | (18) |
| Narrator 1 | (10) |
| Narrator 2 | (11) |
| Keeper 1 | (16) |
| Keeper 2 | (16) |
| Grandfather | (6) |

Trees:

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Tree 1 | (3) |
| Tree 2 | (3) |
| Tree 3 | (3) |
| Tree 4 | (3) |

Presents:

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Present 1 | (1) |
| Present 2 | (1) |
| Present 3 | (1) |
| Present 4 | (1) |

Foods:

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Food 1 | (2) |
| Food 2 | (3) |
| Food 3 | (3) |
| Food 4 | (3) |

Crackers:

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Cracker 1 | (1) |
| Cracker 2 | (1) |
| Cracker 3 | (1) |
| Cracker 4 | (1) |

Snowmen:

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Snowman 1 | (2) |
| Snowman 2 | (2) |
| Snowman 3 | (2) |
| Snowman 4 | (2) |

Snowflakes:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Snowflake 1 | (1) |
| Snowflake 2 | (1) |
| Snowflake 3 | (1) |
| Snowflake 4 | (1) |

Elves:

| | |
|-------|-----|
| Elf 1 | (2) |
| Elf 2 | (2) |
| Elf 3 | (2) |
| Elf 4 | (2) |

Santas:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Santa 1 | (1) |
| Santa 2 | (2) |
| Santa 3 | (1) |
| Santa 4 | (1) |

Angels:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Angel 1 | (4) |
| Angel 2 | (4) |
| Angel 3 | (4) |
| Angel 4 | (4) |

Nativity Scene:

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Mary | (0) |
| Joseph | (0) |
| Wise Man 1 | (0) |
| Wise Man 2 | (0) |
| Wise Man 3 | (0) |
| Shepherd 1 | (0) |
| Shepherd 2 | (0) |
| Shepherd 3 | (0) |

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has.

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Jake | 20 |
| Jenny | 18 |
| Keeper 1 | 16 |
| Keeper 2 | 16 |
| Narrator 2 | 11 |
| Narrator 1 | 10 |
| Grandfather | 6 |
| Angel 1 | 4 |
| Angel 2 | 4 |
| Angel 3 | 4 |
| Angel 4 | 4 |
| Food 2 | 3 |
| Food 3 | 3 |
| Food 4 | 3 |
| Tree 1 | 3 |
| Tree 2 | 3 |
| Tree 3 | 3 |
| Tree 4 | 3 |
| Elf 1 | 2 |
| Elf 2 | 2 |
| Elf 3 | 2 |
| Elf 4 | 2 |
| Food 1 | 2 |
| Santa 2 | 2 |
| Snowman 1 | 2 |
| Snowman 2 | 2 |
| Snowman 3 | 2 |
| Snowman 4 | 2 |
| Cracker 1 | 1 |
| Cracker 2 | 1 |
| Cracker 3 | 1 |
| Cracker 4 | 1 |
| Present 1 | 1 |
| Present 2 | 1 |
| Present 3 | 1 |
| Present 4 | 1 |
| Santa 1 | 1 |
| Santa 3 | 1 |
| Santa 4 | 1 |
| Snowflake 1 | 1 |
| Snowflake 2 | 1 |
| Snowflake 3 | 1 |
| Snowflake 4 | 1 |

CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has.

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Angel 1 | 4 |
| Angel 2 | 4 |
| Angel 3 | 4 |
| Angel 4 | 4 |
| Cracker 1 | 1 |
| Cracker 2 | 1 |
| Cracker 3 | 1 |
| Cracker 4 | 1 |
| Elf 1 | 2 |
| Elf 2 | 2 |
| Elf 3 | 2 |
| Elf 4 | 2 |
| Food 1 | 2 |
| Food 2 | 3 |
| Food 3 | 3 |
| Food 4 | 3 |
| Grandfather | 6 |
| Jake | 20 |
| Jenny | 18 |
| Keeper 1 | 16 |
| Keeper 2 | 16 |
| Narrator 1 | 10 |
| Narrator 2 | 11 |
| Present 1 | 1 |
| Present 2 | 1 |
| Present 3 | 1 |
| Present 4 | 1 |
| Santa 1 | 1 |
| Santa 2 | 2 |
| Santa 3 | 1 |
| Santa 4 | 1 |
| Snowflake 1 | 1 |
| Snowflake 2 | 1 |
| Snowflake 3 | 1 |
| Snowflake 4 | 1 |
| Snowman 1 | 2 |
| Snowman 2 | 2 |
| Snowman 3 | 2 |
| Snowman 4 | 2 |
| Tree 1 | 3 |
| Tree 2 | 3 |
| Tree 3 | 3 |
| Tree 4 | 3 |

Non-speaking roles: Three Wise Men, Three Kings, Mary and Joseph.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Grandfather
Jake
Jenny
Keeper 1
Keeper 2
Narrator 1
Narrator 2

Scene Two

Jake
Jenny
Keeper 1
Keeper 2
Narrator 1
Narrator 2
The Presents
The Trees

Scene Three

Jake
Jenny
Keeper 1
Keeper 2
Narrator 1
Narrator 2
The Crackers
The Foods

Scene Four

Jake
Jenny
Keeper 1
Keeper 2
Narrator 1
Narrator 2
The Snowflakes
The Snowmen

Scene Five

Jake
Jenny
Keeper 1
Keeper 2
Narrator 1
Narrator 2
The Elves
The Santas

Scene Six

Grandfather
Jake
Jenny
Joseph
Keeper 1
Keeper 2
Mary
Narrator 1
Narrator 2
The Angels
The Shepherds
The Wise Men

LIST OF PROPERTIES

Scene 1

Chair Scene Prop
 Wooden Box (Wrapped As Christmas Gift) Grandfather

Scene 2

Jigsaw Piece 1 (Wrapped As Christmas Gift) Present 3

Scene 3

Jigsaw Piece 2 (Wrapped As Christmas Gift) Cracker 3

Scene 4

Jigsaw Piece 3 (Wrapped As Christmas Gift) Snowflake 3

Scene 5

Toys (Being Made By Elves) Elves
 Four Sacks Santas
 Jigsaw Piece 4 (Wrapped As Christmas Gift) Santa 3

Scene 6

Manger Scene Prop
 Baby doll (Jesus) Mary
 Cloth Mary
 5th Jigsaw Piece Within Manger
 Gold Kings
 Frankincense Kings
 Myrrh Kings

PRODUCTION NOTES

The Christmas Jigsaw is a central part of the play and will have to be constructed in such a way as to make it easily seen by the audience. In the suggested staging, the jigsaw is completed piece by piece on a jigsaw board in the centre of a raised platform. The jigsaw comprises 5 pieces, and can be drawn onto paper and stuck to card. The pieces can then be cut out and used in the play. An example template is included on page 9 of this script. You may wish to photocopy (and enlarge) this image and colour it before fixing it to card to form the jigsaw. A jigsaw board is needed and the pieces should be stuck to the board in the right places as they are discovered, one by one during the play.

Staging

The following notes and staging plan are suggestions only as staging requirements and limitations vary from production to production. In the suggested plan, the chorus groups are arranged either side of a central raised platform, on which is positioned the jigsaw board and the two narrators. All the scenes take place in the central area, and at the end of each scene Jake, Jenny and the Keepers move onto the raised platform for the song “Little Box”. This gives the impression of them leaving and arriving at each scene whilst giving an opportunity for them to stick a jigsaw piece onto the board and allowing the next scene’s children to arrange themselves. In the Bethlehem scene, Jake, Jenny and the Keepers remain on the platform and look down on the Nativity.

Alternatively, if digital backdrops have been purchased, the jigsaw itself can be projected five times, each showing the addition the children make at the end of each scene. It is recommended that the example template on page 10 of this script is used to create the jigsaw pieces the children discover so that the children can then go to the backdrop, holding the jigsaw piece, and then act out placing it onto the backdrop. The children can drop the jigsaw piece as they ‘attach’ it. The piece will then be projected as if it has been added and ‘magically’ enlarged. The pieces will need to be added in the following order and position: -

Piece 1: (Christmas tree and presents) – bottom left of the backdrop

Piece 2: (Christmas food and crackers) – top left of the backdrop

Piece 3: (Snowman and snowflakes) - bottom right of the backdrop

Piece 4: – (Santa, elf and sleigh silhouette) - top right of the backdrop

Piece 5: (Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus manger scene) – centre of the backdrop.

Costumes

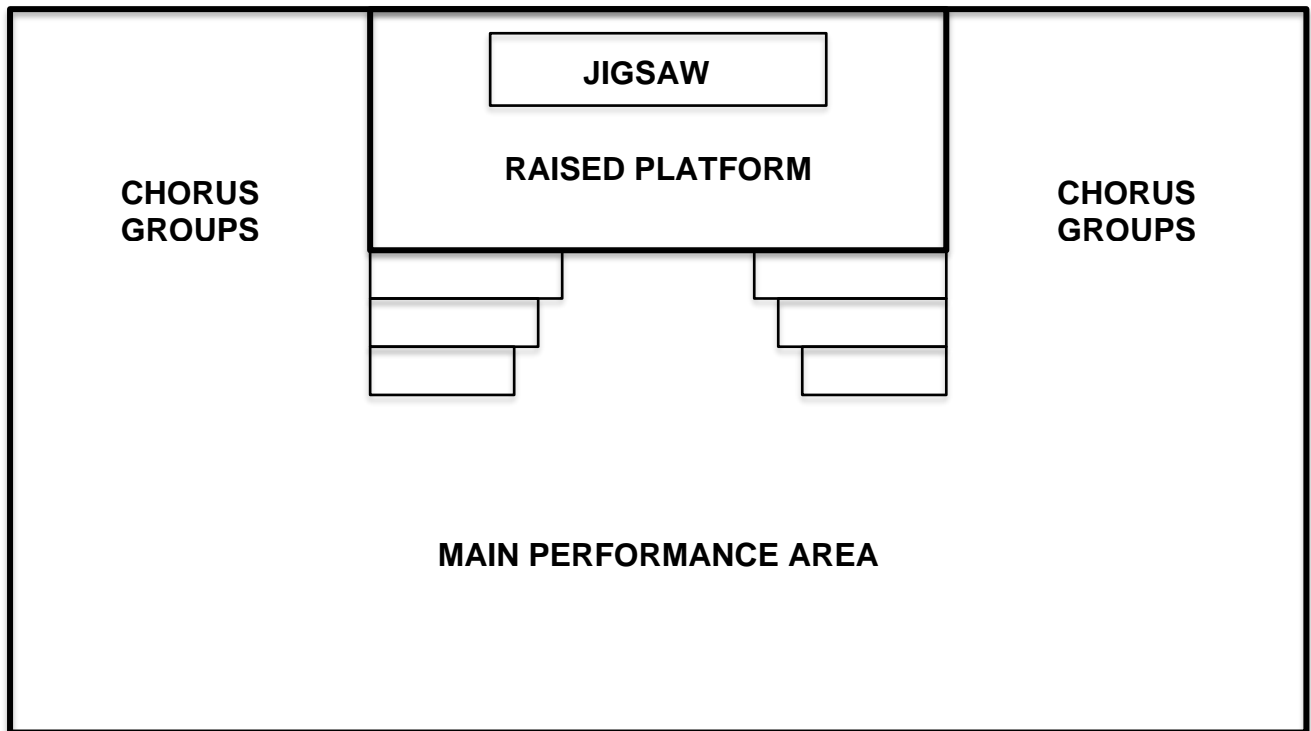
Simple or extravagant costumes will work equally well and the following few suggestions are only intended to aid inspiration:

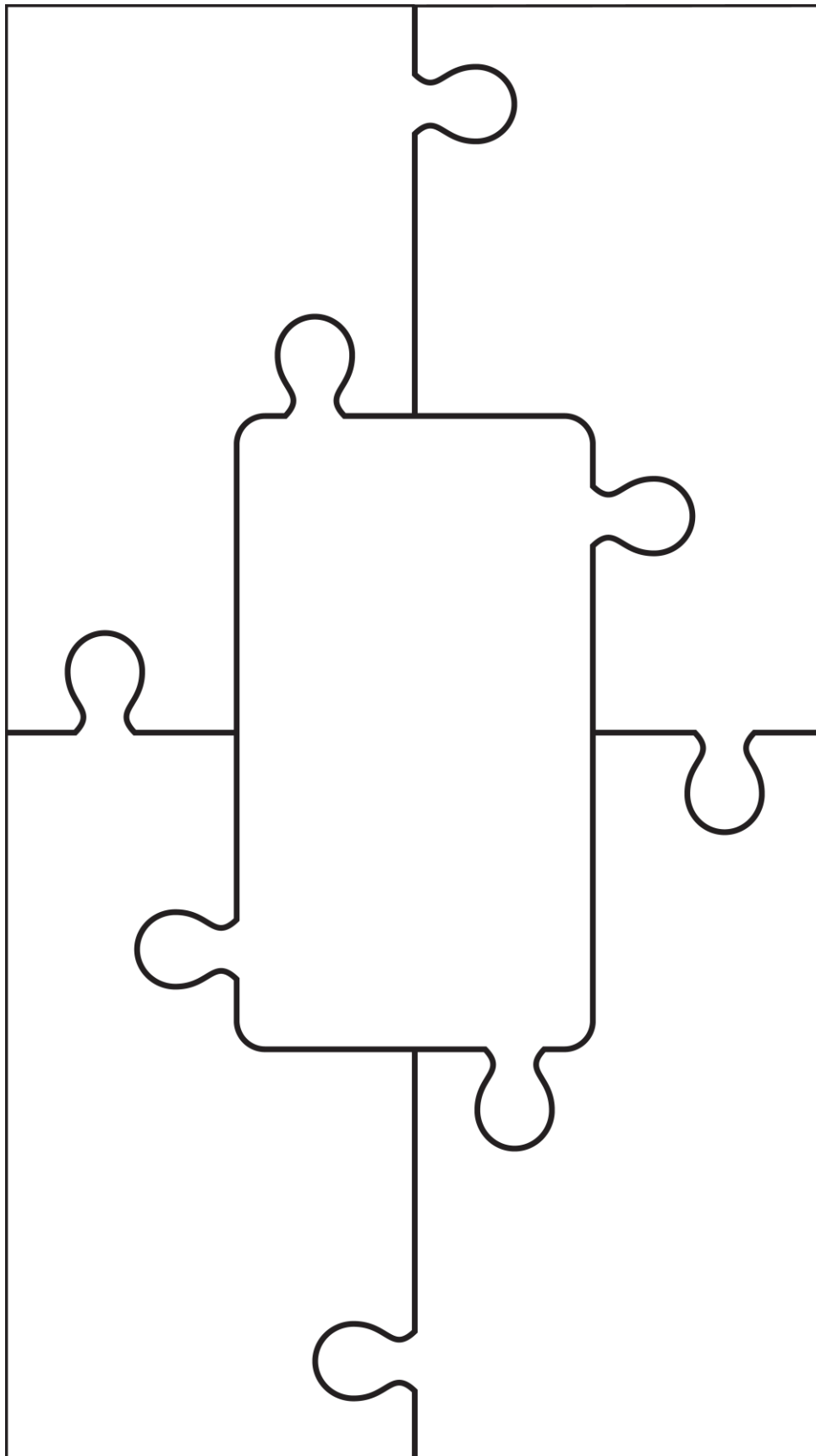
| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Narrators: | Smart black or white clothes or matching T-shirts. |
| Keepers: | Sparkling 'bell-boy' type dress (like Buttons in Cinderella). |
| Jake: | Traditional nightwear with dressing gown and slippers. |
| Jenny: | Traditional nightwear with dressing gown and slippers. |
| Grandfather: | Suitably old-fashioned attire and spectacles. |
| Groups: | Full dress costumes, sandwich-board type costumes or simple headbands. |

Adaptation

The musical is designed to be flexible and open to adaptation. Each scene may be extended by adding appropriate dances or traditional poems. For example, the Presents in scene two could recite a poem about presents or the Snowflakes in scene four could perform a snowflake dance. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

SUGGESTED STAGING PLAN



EXAMPLE JIGSAW TEMPLATE

SCENE ONE:**THE BEDROOM****TRACK 1:****TELL ME WHY**

(During the song, Narrators take their places on the raised platform and Grandfather sits in the armchair centre stage with Jake and Jenny at his feet looking up at him. Keepers hide behind armchair.)

ALL: TELL ME WHY THE PEOPLE ARE SMILING,
TELL ME WHY THERE'S LAUGHTER IN THE AIR.
DO YOU KNOW WHY A GLOW
LIGHTS UP CHILDREN'S FACES?
THERE'S MAGIC EVERYWHERE!

TELL ME WHY THE CHOIRS ARE SINGING,
TELL ME WHY THERE'S MUSIC ALL AROUND.
CAN YOU HEAR BRIGHT AND CLEAR
HOW THE BELLS ARE RINGING?
THEY MAKE A JOYFUL SOUND!

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME, IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME,
A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT TO SEE!
IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME, IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME,
BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?
BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

NARRATOR 1: It was Christmas Eve and in every house on every street, excited children were being tucked into bed.

NARRATOR 2: In one particular house, Jake and Jenny were being read a bedtime story by their wise and kind grandfather.

GRANDFATHER: ...and they lived happily ever after! Right you two, straight to sleep. Tomorrow is Christmas Day and you will need all the rest you can get.

JENNY: I love Christmas, Grandad. It's so exciting and magical! I wonder who invented it?

JAKE: Yes, Grandad, please tell us. When did it start? What is it all about?

GRANDFATHER: Here is something to help you. *(He takes the wrapped box from his pocket.)* It is your early Christmas present. I was given it by my grandfather when I was your age. Take great care of it. Goodnight, children! *(He exits.)*

JENNY: I wonder what it could be? Let's unwrap it, Jake!

JAKE: *(Unwrapping the box)* Wow! It's a beautiful wooden box. And look - the lid opens!



(Keepers appear from behind the armchair.)

KEEPER 1: Greetings, Jake!
KEEPER 2: Greetings, Jenny!
JENNY & JAKE: Who are you?
KEEPERS 1 & 2: We are keepers of the Box. We are here to help you!
KEEPER 1: Christmas is like a jigsaw puzzle and this little box holds the answer to the puzzle.
KEEPER 2: It will take us on a magical adventure to help us piece together the puzzle and find the true meaning of Christmas.
KEEPERS 1 & 2: Will you come with us?
JENNY: A magical adventure! Fantastic!
JAKE: We'd love to come! What must we do?
KEEPER 1: Hold the box in your hand and close your eyes.
KEEPER 2: Now say the magic words together.
ALL: Little box, magic box, held in my hand, help me to understand.

TRACK 2:

LITTLE BOX

ALL: LITTLE BOX, MAGIC BOX,
 PLEASE WON'T YOU TELL
 ALL OF THE SECRETS YOU HIDE SO WELL?
 LITTLE BOX, MAGIC BOX,
 HELD IN MY HAND,
 HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND.
 SPINNING ROUND IN SPACE AND TIME,
 SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS TO FIND.
 LITTLE BOX, MAGIC BOX,
 HELD IN MY HAND
 HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND.

(As the song ends the Trees enter to form a forest.)



SCENE TWO:**THE FOREST**

NARRATOR 1: The box had taken the Children and the Keepers far away from their cosy, warm bedroom.

(Keepers and Children walk between Trees to centre stage.)

NARRATOR 2: Now they found themselves in the middle of an enormous forest, with hundreds of green fir trees.

JENNY: I don't think we're at home anymore, Jake!

JAKE: Why have we come to a forest, Keepers?

KEEPER 1: Remember the Christmas tree in your lounge, with presents underneath?

KEEPER 2: There are hundreds of Christmas trees here. Look!

(Trees begin to move and come to life.)

TREE 1: Hello, Jenny! Hello, Jake! We were expecting you!

TREE 2: Welcome to our German forest. Do you like it?

JENNY: It's beautiful! You are all decorated so nicely!

JAKE: But why are you outside? Christmas trees are normally in houses.

TREE 3: Here in Germany, years ago, we were decorated with candles while we were still in the forest.

TREE 4: Then the people started to bring us into their houses for Christmas.

TREE 1: We soon caught on all over the world and now most people have us in their houses at Christmas time.

TREE 2: Because we are green, even in winter, we remind people that Christmas is a time for hope.

TREE 3: And our lights remind people of the light that came to the world on the very first Christmas.

(Presents enter and take places for song.)

TREE 4: Look - here come the Presents! Now we can sing our song!



TRACK 3:**I'M A LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE**

ALL: I'M A LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE,
EVERYBODY LOOK AT ME,
I CAN BRIGHTEN UP YOUR DAYS WITH LIGHTS ABLAZE
AND FILL YOUR HEARTS WITH GLEE!
PRESENTS SCATTERED AT MY FEET
HANGING CHOCOLATES YOU CAN EAT
WITH A POINTED STAR UP HIGH I REACH THE SKY.
YES, I'M THE SMARTEST TREE YOU'LL EVER MEET!

I'M A LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE,
EVERYBODY LOOK AT ME,
I CAN BRIGHTEN UP YOUR DAYS WITH LIGHTS ABLAZE
AND FILL YOUR HEARTS WITH GLEE!
PRESENTS SCATTERED AT MY FEET
HANGING CHOCOLATES YOU CAN EAT
WITH A POINTED STAR UP HIGH I REACH THE SKY.
YES, I'M THE SMARTEST TREE YOU'LL EVER MEET!

PRESENT 1: Hello, Jenny! Hello, Jake! We're the Christmas presents.
PRESENT 2: We sit beneath the Christmas tree until Christmas Day arrives.
PRESENT 3: We have a present for you that you can open now. (***Hands the jigsaw piece to Jenny.***)
PRESENT 4: It is the first piece of your Christmas jigsaw.
JENNY: Thank you very much!
JAKE: Goodbye Trees! Goodbye Presents!
KEEPER 1: We must go now for there is much more to see.
KEEPER 2: Hold hands and off we go again!



TRACK 4:**LITTLE BOX (REPRISE)**

(As song starts, Trees and Presents exit and Keepers and Children move to the raised platform. The first jigsaw piece is put in place on the board.)

ALL: LITTLE BOX, MAGIC BOX,
PLEASE WON'T YOU TELL
ALL OF THE SECRETS YOU HIDE SO WELL?
LITTLE BOX, MAGIC BOX,
HELD IN MY HAND,
HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND.
SPINNING ROUND IN SPACE AND TIME,
SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS TO FIND.
LITTLE BOX, MAGIC BOX,
HELD IN MY HAND
HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND.

(As song ends, Foods enter and form a banquet.)

SCENE THREE:**THE BANQUETING TABLE**

NARRATOR 1: As they closed their eyes they felt a strange feeling. They were shrinking!

(Keepers and Children walk between Foods to centre stage.)

NARRATOR 2: Suddenly, they found themselves in the middle of an enormous banqueting table set for a Christmas feast.

JENNY: Look at all this food, Jake!

JAKE: *(Taking in a deep breath.)* It smells delicious!

KEEPER 1: We are in the banqueting hall of a large house.

KEEPER 2: Here on the table are some of the Foods eaten at Christmas.

(Foods begin to move and come to life.)

FOOD 1: Hello, Jenny! Hello, Jake! We were expecting you!

FOOD 2: Welcome to our Christmas feast. Do you like it?

JENNY: It's wonderful! You all look so tasty!

JAKE: But why is there so much? We don't eat all this every day of the year.

FOOD 3: On birthdays and other special occasions we often eat special foods.

