

THE MAGICAL
CHRISTMAS BOX

Book, Music & Lyrics
by

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CHARACTERS

Speaking Parts

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Grandfather
Jenny
Keeper 1
Keeper 2
Tree 1
Tree 2
Tree 3
Tree 4
Present 1
Present 2
Present 3
Present 4
Food 1
Food 2
Food 3
Food 4
Cracker 1
Cracker 2
Cracker 3
Cracker 4
Snowman 1
Snowman 2
Snowman 3
Snowman 4
Snowflake 1
Snowflake 2
Snowflake 3
Snowflake 4
Elf 1
Elf 2
Elf 3
Elf 4
Santa 1
Santa 2
Santa 3
Santa 4
Angel 1
Angel 2
Angel 3
Angel 4

Miming Parts

Mary
Joseph
Shepherd 1
Shepherd 2
Shepherd 3
Wiseman 1
Wiseman 2
Wiseman 3

CAST ALTERATIONS

This musical has originally been set for 51 children, but simple adaptation will make it suitable for as few as 30 children or as many as 138 children.

Cast Reduction

Split each group (eg. trees) between two parts instead of four, have just one narrator and two shepherds and perhaps an adult to play the Grandfather. This gives a cast number of thirty children.

Cast Extension

Split each group (eg. trees) between eight parts instead of four, with four extra non-speaking parts in each group (except angels). Have fourteen different narrators for each piece of narration and add three inn-keepers, three wisemen's pages and a star to the nativity scene.

These are simple suggestions to adapt the musical, but any imaginative teacher could make their own adaptations to suit their particular situation.

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THE STORY~

The musical begins with two children, Jenny and Jake, asking their Grandfather what Christmas is all about. He gives them a small wooden box to help them answer the question themselves. When they open it, two Keepers of the Box appear and take the children on a magical adventure.

They visit a German forest to meet the Christmas Trees and the presents. They shrink and visit a banqueting table set for a Christmas feast and meet different types of food and some crackers. They visit their local park to see a snowman party and meet the Snowmen and the Snowflakes. They visit the North Pole and meet different Santas from different countries and the helping Elves. Finally they travel to Bethlehem to hear the angels tell the Nativity story.

At each place they visit, they learn interesting things about Christmas traditions and also receive a piece of jigsaw puzzle. Throughout the musical these gradually build up a Christmas picture, the final central piece being found at the Bethlehem stable.

The musical ends with the children finally understanding the true meaning of Christmas.

SCENE ONE - THE BEDROOM

Song One - 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.)

- Verse 1: 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!
- Verse 2: 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!
- Chorus: 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 and 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.

Song Two - Little Box

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, Trees enter and 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!

Song Three - I'm A Little Christmas Tree

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 which 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!

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

Song Four - Little Box

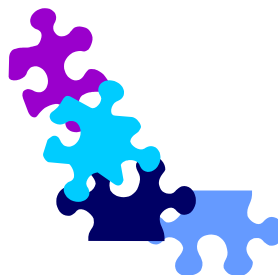
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All of the secrets you hide so well?
Little box, magic box,
Held in my hand,
Help me to understand.

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!

(Taking in a deep breath.)

Jake: 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.

Food 4: Christmas is an extra-special celebration so there are lots of special foods that we eat.

Food 1: In olden days people ate peacocks, geese and pigs for Christmas dinner.

Food 2: In Germany and Denmark, they eat goose while in America and England we often eat turkey.

Food 3: In many countries the meal is eaten on Christmas Eve, including lovely desserts like Christmas log or Christmas pudding.

(Crackers enter and take their places for the song.)

Food 4: Look - here come the crackers to finish the table off! Now we can sing our song!

