

DON'T WAIT UNTIL CHRISTMAS SKETCH**SCENE ONE:****THE CLASSROOM****(One week before the Christmas concert)**

The whole class is on stage seated around their teacher Miss Watson, the teaching assistant Mrs Moore, and Mr Andrews, the music teacher. The three teachers are sitting on chairs. Mr Andrews is holding a small acoustic guitar. There is a screen or partition on stage that the placards are placed behind - out of sight of the audience. {If the stage has wings then the placards can be stored out there instead.} The scene should be set so that the audience can see the faces of the children and the teachers. The teachers should be upstage centre with the children on either side sitting on the stage but fanned out, slightly facing forward. A small Christmas tree is placed somewhere on the stage, purely for decoration.

- CHILD ONE:** Miss Watson, what songs are we going to be singing in the Christmas concert next week?
- MISS WATSON:** Well, we will be singing some of the Christmas classics like "The Holly And The Ivy" and "Silent Night".
- CHILD TWO:** **(Complaining)** But Miss we *always* sing those songs!
- CHILD THREE:** Yes Miss. Can't we sing some of the newer Christmas songs?
- MISS WATSON:** We will also be performing Slade's "Merry Christmas Everybody" and "Wonderful Christmastime" by Paul McCartney and Wings.
- CHILD FOUR:** But those songs aren't exactly new are they Miss? I mean, Paul McCartney is absolutely *ancient* now!
- CHILD FIVE:** Did you buy that song when it came out Miss?
- MISS WATSON:** Oo, you cheeky monkey. I wasn't even *born* when that song was a hit!
- CHILD SIX:** Any *other* songs Miss?
- MRS MOORE:** Yes, we have a brand new song.
- CHILD SEVEN:** What's it called?
- MRS MOORE:** It's called "Don't Wait Until Christmas" and it's been written by Mr. Andrews here, our music teacher. **(She opens out her hand in his direction to indicate him)**
- CHILD EIGHT:** **(Intrigued)** "Don't Wait Until Christmas"? That's a funny name for a song!
- CHILD NINE:** Yes Sir. Why *is* it called that?
- MR ANDREWS:** The chorus begins, "Don't wait until Christmas, to show that you care". Does that give you a clue?
- CHILD TEN:** I can't wait until Christmas to get all my presents!

(Everyone laughs)

- MR ANDREWS:** In this song we will be singing about how lovely we are to each other at Christmas when we are feeling especially happy and generous.
- CHILD ELEVEN:** I love Christmas Day when I'm at home with all the family and we're nice and cosy. My Mum and Dad always make Christmas such a wonderful time for me.
- MR ANDREWS:** That's right, but we should carry the kindness of Christmas beyond December and into the New Year and we will be singing about that in the song.
- MRS MOORE:** Yes, we should be loving and caring throughout the year, not just at Christmas.
- CHILD NINE:** So *that's* what the song's about. We should be good to each other all through the year and not just when we are receiving cards and presents.
- MRS MOORE:** Yes you're right. This can apply to our friends, our parents, our grandparents, our neighbours....
- MISS WATSON:** .. *and* our teachers!

(The children all laugh and nod in understanding. The Caretaker walks in slowly with a pile of "heavy" boxes which he is obviously struggling with. He proceeds to drop them on the floor. Child Twelve rushes over to help him stack the boxes at the rear of the stage.)

- CARETAKER:** *(To Child Twelve whilst rubbing his back)*. Thank you, that was really kind! Oh my poor aching back! *(The caretaker exits with a smile on his face)*
- MISS WATSON:** *(To Child Twelve)* That was kind of you and it demonstrates the message in our new song perfectly!
- MRS MOORE:** Yes, and we're not even halfway through December!
- MISS WATSON:** Now before we have our lunch, I am going to tell you about a special task that I am going to ask you to do that will help get the message of our new song across to our audience.
- CHILD THIRTEEN:** What's that Miss?
- MISS WATSON:** I want you to come up with twelve lovely things, one for each month, that we can do for people throughout the year.
- MRS MOORE:** Yes, we're going to make placards and hold them up to the audience just before we sing the song.
- CHILD FOURTEEN:** What's a placard Miss?
- CHILD FIFTEEN:** *(Eagerly, putting their hand up)* Ooh, Miss, Miss, I know, I know!
- MISS WATSON:** Go on then!
- CHILD FIFTEEN:** A placard is like a huge sign that people hold up to advertise something.
- MISS WATSON:** *(To Child Fifteen)* Well done! I wonder if Mrs Moore can give us an example?