

THE TOP OF THE TREE SKETCH

*The idea is to create a circular pattern of cast members with the “Top Of The Tree” at the centre. Thus it is very important that the children are arranged on the stage correctly and this will, of course, entail some forward planning. By all means create your own stage plan, perhaps on different levels. At the start of the sketch the stage is empty apart from a small, undecorated Christmas Tree upstage-centre (or perhaps on the floor in front of the stage) and The Top Of The Tree dead-centre. The broken fairy wand should be secretly placed behind this. The clock, if used, should be placed out of the way, either at the back or the side. The cast should be led on-stage in the following order: The Bossy Fairy, The Star, The Wooden Soldier, Father Christmas, The Christmas Pudding, The Green Ball, The Red Ball, The Gold Ball, The Snowman, The Gingerbread Man, The Robin, The Reindeer and The Angel {these children should be positioned near the centre of the stage around The Top Of The Tree}. The Paper Chains and then The Lights (holding hands) should come on last and form a complete circle (if possible) round the outside of the stage enclosing the other cast members. If the Paper Chains and the Lights are holding hands they should let go when they reach their places on the stage. The children should be seated until everyone is on stage and then lie flat on their backs or sides when a teacher gives them a cue (a double hand-clap?). The idea is that the decorations are in their box waiting to be placed on the tree the following morning. The Sun, Mother, Susie and Archie all appear later in the sketch and should be off-stage at this point.*

TRACK 3:SFX MIDNIGHT CHIMES

- BOSSY FAIRY:** *(Stands up, stretching and then jumps up and down)* I'm so excited. It's December 1<sup>st</sup> and once again the lady of the house will be down in the morning to decorate the tree. **(Boastfully)** As usual, I shall be at the top!
- STAR:** *(Stands up, quickly)* Not so fast Fairy! Everyone knows that the Star should be at the top of the tree. It's traditional you know!
- BOSSY FAIRY:** *(Annoyed)* Don't be silly! Anyway, I'm far prettier than you!
- WOODEN SOLDIER:** *(Stands up)* That's quite enough of that, thank you very much.
- FATHER CHRISTMAS:** *(Stands up)* Well I'm fed up with always being in the same place. **(Points at the Christmas tree upstage)** **(Wearily)** There I am, year after year, fourth branch down, right hand side - seeing my reflection in that Green Ball for 36 days!
- GREEN BALL:** *(Stands up)* **(Indignant)** **(To the Father Christmas)** You should be glad that I am so shiny and beautiful. You wouldn't be able to see your ugly mug otherwise!
- RED BALL:** *(Stands up)* Green Ball, you're such a big-head. Aren't you ashamed to be so full of yourself?
- GREEN BALL:** *(In a superior voice)* Not really darling. At least I don't look like a metal tomato!

*(The Red Ball looks upset.)*

**TRACK 4:                      SFX ONE O’CLOCK CHIMES**

***At this point all the characters start to stir – perhaps a teacher should help cue this. The outside ring of Lights and Paper Chains should only sit up or kneel, otherwise the audience’s view of the central characters will be blocked. Generally, try to make sure that everyone can be seen. Cast members should kneel or sit down when they are not saying their lines or involved in a conversation.)***

- STAR:**                      Well I don’t see why we always have to be in the same place every year. *I fancy a change!*
- BOSSY FAIRY:**            *You would!* Just because you want to take my place at the top of the tree!
- WOODEN SOLDIER:**      ***(To The Bossy Fairy and The Star)*** Let’s not fall out over this. Surely we can sort this out ourselves.
- LIGHTS:**                    ***(In a superior tone)*** Well, without *us*, *none* of you would be seen!
- PAPER CHAINS:**        ***(Proudly)*** We were around long before *any* of you!
- PUDDING:**                ***(Waddles over)*** How about having *me* at the top of the tree?  
***(Everyone looks shocked)***
- BOSSY FAIRY:**            ***(Sarcastically)*** I don’t think so dear!

***(The Christmas Pudding waddles back looking disappointed.)***

- PUDDING:**                Okay, okay – it was just an idea!
- GOLD BALL:**              ***(Regally)*** I am made of pure gold and should be at the top of the tree!
- SNOWMAN:**              ***(to the Gold Ball, wisely)*** All that glitters is not gold. You’re not really made of gold you know - no more than *I* am made of snow.

**TRACK 5:                      SFX THREE O’CLOCK CHIMES**

- WOODEN SOLDIER:**      ***(Crossly)*** We’ll have to sort this out soon or we’ll run out of time! Ok, Lights, arrange yourselves on the tree first.

**TRACK 6:                      THE MARCH OF THE LIGHTS**

***(There is a count-in on the track in the form of a two-bar snare drum pattern which The Wooden Soldier can mime to. The Lights stand up, hold hands and march around clockwise in a complete circle, ending up where they started.)***

- WOODEN SOLDIER:**      Now *you* Paper Chains.