

Christmas Rhyme

Infant 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 Character

Santa (31)

Narrators

Narrator 1 (5)

Narrator 2 (2)

Narrator 3 (2)

Narrator 4 (2)

Announcer (2)

Speaker (7)

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty (6)

King (14)

Man 1 (1)

Man 2 (1)

Man 3 (1)

Man 4 (1)

Nurse (3)

Doctor (6)

Little Bo Peep

Bo Peep (12)

Walker 1 (1)

Walker 2 (1)

Walker 3 (1)

Walker 4 (1)

Walker 5 (1)

Mary, Mary Quite Contrary

Mary (9)

Gardener 1 (1)

Gardener 2 (1)

Gardener 3 (1)

Gardener 4 (1)

Gardener 5 (1)

Sun (0)

Jack Frost (0)

Little Miss Muffet

Miss Muffet (8)

Spider 1 (3)

Spider 2 (3)

Parrot (1)

Polly Put The Kettle On

Polly (6)

Sukey (2)

Customer 1 (1)

Customer 2 (1)

Customer 3 (1)

Customer 4 (1)

N.B. In addition to the characters listed a chorus of Sheep, Kings Men and Flowers will be required.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

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

Santa	31
King	14
Bo Peep.....	12
Mary.....	9
Miss Muffet	8
Speaker	7
Humpty	6
Polly.....	6
Doctor	6
Narrator 1	5
Nurse	3
Spider 1	3
Spider 2	3
Narrator 2	2
Narrator 3	2
Narrator 4	2
Announcer	2
Sukey.....	2
Man 1.....	1
Man 2.....	1
Man 3.....	1
Man 4.....	1
Walker 1	1
Walker 2	1
Walker 3	1

Walker 4	1
Walker 5	1
Gardener 1	1
Gardener 2	1
Gardener 3	1
Gardener 4	1
Gardener 5	1
Parrot.....	1
Customer 1	1
Customer 2	1
Customer 3	1
Customer 4	1

CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

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

Announcer	2
Bo Peep	12
Customer 1	1
Customer 2	1
Customer 3	1
Customer 4	1
Doctor	6
Gardener 1`	1
Gardener 2	1
Gardener 3	1
Gardener 4	1
Gardener 5	1
Humpty	6
King	14
Man 1	1
Man 2	1
Man 3	1
Man 4	1
Mary	9
Miss Muffet	8
Narrator 1	5
Narrator 2	2
Narrator 3	2
Narrator 4	2

Nurse	3
Parrot.....	3
Polly.....	6
Santa	31
Speaker	7
Spider 1	3
Spider 2	3
Sukey.....	2
Walker 1	1
Walker 2	1
Walker 3	1
Walker 4	1
Walker 5	1

Non speaking roles:- Sun, Jack Frost, chorus of Sheep, King's Men and Flowers.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE

Scene One

Announcer
 Chorus of King's Men
 Doctor
 Humpty
 King
 Man 1-4
 Narrators 1-4
 Nurse
 Santa

Scene Two

Announcer
 Bo Peep
 Chorus of Sheep
 Narrators 1-4
 Santa
 Walkers 1-5

Scene Three

Announcer
 Chorus of Flowers
 Gardener 1-5
 Jack Frost
 Mary
 Narrator 1
 Santa
 Speaker
 Sun

Scene Four

Announcer
 Miss Muffet
 Narrators 1-4
 Parrot
 Santa
 Spiders 1 & 2

Scene Five

Announcer
 Customers 1-4
 Polly
 Santa
 Speaker
 Sukey
 Entire cast for final song

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Scene One**

Wall.....	Scene Prop
First aid kit	Nurse
Large medical bag	Doctor
Stethoscope.....	Doctor
Huge syringe	Doctor
Sack.....	Santa
Huge tube of superglue	Santa

Scene Two

Sack.....	Santa
Bells.....	Santa

Scene Three

Watering can	Mary
Sack.....	Santa
Huge flowering cactus (made from cardboard)	Santa

Scene Four

Picnic hamper.....	Miss Muffet
--------------------	-------------

Scene Five

Huge old fashioned kettle	Polly
Tray with a Christmas cake, cups and saucers on it	Sukey
Tables and chairs	Scene Props
Sack.....	Santa
Electric kettle	Santa

HELPFUL HINTS AND TIPS

Give your children their words to learn first – enlist the help of parents here. Set a date by which they should know them; you cannot hope to rehearse movement or introduce props until words and cues are learnt.

If sending home words to learn, send cues (the preceding line or two) as well, so children not only know what to say but when to say it!

Songs are best learnt separately (it helps to keep the blood pressure down for all concerned).

Once rehearsing begins on stage, introduce any flats (free standing scenery) as soon as possible, so that children have their positions correct from the start. And don't forget to have one or two rehearsals with props, microphones (and lights if using) before the official dress rehearsal to allow time for children to get used to them.

Finally – this may seem obvious but is often forgotten – don't forget to practise your cast bows (arms across tummies or not?) and the order in which they should lead off stage. All too often a super show ends in foot shuffling embarrassment because no one knows quite what to do when the applause ends.

PRODUCTION NOTES

STAGING

Depending on the facilities available this show can be as simple or complex as you want. Just remember, this is not supposed to be a West End production. All most parents want to see is their child on stage. All most teachers want is to survive unscathed. So feel free to add, subtract or completely change the ideas below. And don't forget to send your comments and pictures to kate@musicline-ltd.com.

Scene One: Humpty Dumpty

A wall needs to be placed at centre stage for Humpty to sit on during Track 1. This can be made simply by covering a gym bench, or similar, with brown material.

Scene Two: Little Bo Peep

Dead easy. Just make sure that there is enough room on stage for Bo Peep to guide her Sheep around the stage.

Scene Three: Mary, Mary Quite Contrary

During the Speakers lines at the beginning of this scene, three groups of Flowers enter and take their positions to create Mary's garden. Silver Bells enter and crouch stage right, Cockle shells centre stage and Pretty Maids stage left.

Scene Four: Little Miss Muffet

Again, very simple. Miss Muffet enters with a picnic hamper and sits at centre stage.

Scene Five: Polly Put The Kettle On

Two small tables or one large table and four chairs will need to be brought on stage for the Customers to sit at during this scene. At the end of the dialogue the table and chairs will have to be removed to make room on stage for all the cast to assemble for the finale.

BACKDROPS

You may have the facilities for changing backdrops, in which case go to town – a wintery outdoor scene for Scenes one, two, three and four and the inside of a café with festive décor for Scene five.

If this is not practical the outdoor winter scene would be suitable throughout.

COSTUMES

Santa should wear his traditional red and white suit, hat and black boots. Some extra padding for his tummy is quite comical.

The Narrators, the Announcer and the Speaker can wear school uniform or smart clothes with a tinsel headdress.

Humpty Dumpty can wear a white, padded top with a red or blue waistcoat, hat and bow tie. White tights would complete the look.

The King should wear smart clothes, a robe and a crown.

The King's Men can wear smart military jackets and trousers. Fake moustaches would complete the look.

Little Bo Peep could wear a blue dress with a white apron and bonnet. She should also carry a shepherd's crook.

The Walkers can wear T shirts, shorts and walking boots.

Mary can wear a frilly, flowery dress with a straw hat.

The Gardeners should wear wellington boots, casual clothes and gardening gloves.

The Sun should wear bright yellow clothing.

Jack Frost should wear white or light blue clothing.

Little Miss Muffet can wear a frilly dress, apron and mop hat.

The Spiders should wear black clothing. Fake legs attached to their top would look effective.

The Parrot should wear green clothing and have a yellow beak.

Polly and Sukey could wear long dresses with an apron tied around their waists.

The Customers can wear every day casual clothes.

The Sheep should wear white clothing and masks.

The Flowers should wear bright colours. Petal headdresses would complete the look.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Track 1: It's Christmas Time

During the song Humpty enters and sits on a wall placed centre stage. He could sway from side to side throughout the song.

Track 2: Humpty Dumpty

During this song the Kings men march in military style around the stage in time to the music.

Track 3: Woolly Friends

Bo Peep leads her sheep around the stage for the duration of this song.

Track 4: Big Black Spiders

At the start of the song Miss Muffet could position herself at centre stage. The Spiders can circle her slowly making exaggerated arm movements towards her. Miss Muffet should act scared, occasionally throwing her arms in the air or covering her eyes.

Track 5: Clever Santa

During the song Santa walks proudly around the stage carrying his sack over his shoulder.

Track 6: Hooray For Christmas

As this is the final song, the entire cast should be on stage with Santa at the front. Raised arms when the lines 'Hooray for Christmas' are sung is effective.

SCENE ONE: **HUMPTY DUMPTY**

ANNOUNCER: Hello everybody. Welcome to our school play, Christmas Rhyme.

TRACK 1: **IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME**

(During the song Humpty enters and sits on a wall placed centre stage.)

ALL: IN THE LAND OF RHYME IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME,
THERE'LL BE SUCH FUN FOR EVERYONE;
IN THE LAND OF RHYME IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME,
LET'S GO ALONG AND SEE.

CHRISTMAS BELLS RING, EVERYBODY SING,
CHRISTMAS BELLS RING,
IN THE LAND OF RHYME THIS CHRISTMAS TIME.

IN THE LAND OF RHYME IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME,
THERE'LL BE SUCH FUN FOR EVERYONE;
IN THE LAND OF RHYME IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME,
LET'S GO ALONG AND SEE.

CHRISTMAS BELLS PLAY, ON THIS HAPPY DAY,
CHRISTMAS BELLS PLAY,
IN THE LAND OF RHYME THIS CHRISTMAS TIME.

IN THE LAND OF RHYME IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME,
THERE'LL BE SUCH FUN FOR EVERYONE;
IN THE LAND OF RHYME IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME,
LET'S GO ALONG AND SEE.

CHRISTMAS BELLS CHIME, HAVE A LOVELY TIME,
CHRISTMAS BELLS CHIME,
IN THE LAND OF RHYME THIS CHRISTMAS TIME.

NARRATOR 1: Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall...

NARRATOR 2: Humpty Dumpty had a great fall...

(Humpty falls off wall.)

NARRATOR 3: All the King's horses and all the King's men...

NARRATOR 4: Couldn't put Humpty together again.

ANNOUNCER: It's Christmas time in the Land of Rhyme.

KING: *(Enters with his men. In a stern voice)* Humpty, have you fallen off that wall again? You naughty egg. I told you not to climb on to it anymore.

HUMPTY: *(Rubbing head)* Oh, my head hurts. It must be cracked.

KING: *(Turning to his men)* Well men, can you mend Humpty's cracked head?

MAN 1: *(Inspecting Humpty)* This is a very bad crack. Too hard for me.

MAN 2: Sorry King, this is the worst crack I've every seen.

HUMPTY: *(Rubbing his head)* Oh, my head hurts. I won't do it again.

KING: *(Speaking to Man 3, in loud voice)* Send for the nurse.

MAN 3: *(Looking off-stage. In a very loud voice)* SEND FOR THE NURSE.

NURSE: *(Enters carrying first aid kit)* Did somebody send for the nurse?

KING: *(Pointing to Humpty)* Humpty has fallen off the wall again. Can you mend his cracked head?

HUMPTY: *(Rubbing his head)* Oh, my head hurts. I won't do it again.

NURSE: *(Looks at his head and tries to find a pulse in wrist)* I'm afraid I can't find a pulse, he must be dead.

HUMPTY: I'm not dead! I've cracked my head.

KING: *(To Man 4, in loud voice)* Send for the doctor.

MAN 4: *(Looking off-stage. In very loud voice)* SEND FOR THE DOCTOR.

DOCTOR: *(Enters carrying large medical bag)* Did somebody send for the doctor?

KING: *(Pointing to Humpty)* Humpty has fallen off the wall again. Can you mend him? I'm afraid none of my men can help.

DOCTOR: *(Taking stethoscope from bag. Listening to chest)* I'm afraid I can't hear him breathing. He must be dead. The medical term for this is..... scrambled egg.

HUMPTY: *(Rubbing head)* I'm not a scrambled egg. My head hurts.

DOCTOR: *(Taking a huge syringe from his bag)* Well, this will help with the pain. *(Humpty recoils)*

NURSE: Poor Humpty. What a thing to happen at Christmas time.

SANTA: *(Santa enters with his sack)* Did I hear the word Christmas? *(Sees Humpty)* Oh dear, what's happened here?

KING: *(Very pompous voice)* Humpty has cracked up. The medical term is... scrambled. He's had a great fall from the wall. He definitely will not be going to the Christmas ball.

SANTA: *(Rummages in his sack)* Well, it's lucky I came along. I've got just the perfect Christmas present for Humpty. Superglue! That will fix this scrambled egg.

(He gets a huge tube of superglue out of his sack and gives it to the Doctor.)

HUMPTY: Oh thank you Santa.

SANTA: Well, I'd better be on my way, I've lots more presents to deliver.
Christmas cheer to you all.

(Exit Santa.)

DOCTOR: *(Taking Humpty by the arm)* Come on Humpty, I'll perform the operation in my surgery.

(Exit Humpty, Nurse and Doctor.)

KING: Come along men, it's time to decorate the Christmas tree.

(All exit.)

TRACK 2: HUMPTY DUMPTY

(The King's Men could march around the stage in time to the music before they exit.)

ALL: HUMPTY DUMPTY, HUMPTY DUMPTY,
HUMPTY DUMPTY, HUMPTY DUMPTY,

OH DOCTOR, OH DOCTOR, HE BROKE WHEN HE FELL,
PLEASE CAN YOU BANDAGE HIS SHELL,
'CAUSE ALL THE KING'S HORSES AND ALL THE KING'S MEN,
COULDN'T MAKE HUMPTY GET WELL.

HUMPTY DUMPTY, HUMPTY DUMPTY,
HUMPTY DUMPTY, HUMPTY DUMPTY,

OH DOCTOR, OH DOCTOR, HE BROKE WHEN HE FELL,
PLEASE CAN YOU PLASTER HIS SHELL,
'CAUSE ALL THE KING'S HORSES AND ALL THE KING'S MEN,
COULDN'T MAKE HUMPTY GET WELL.

HUMPTY DUMPTY, HUMPTY DUMPTY,
HUMPTY DUMPTY, HUMPTY DUMPTY,

OH DOCTOR, OH DOCTOR, HE BROKE WHEN HE FELL,
PLEASE CAN YOU STITCH UP HIS SHELL,
'CAUSE ALL THE KING'S HORSES AND ALL THE KING'S MEN,
COULDN'T MAKE HUMPTY GET WELL.

HUMPTY DUMPTY, HUMPTY DUMPTY,
HUMPTY DUMPTY, HUMPTY DUMPTY.

SCENE TWO:**LITTLE BO PEEP**

NARRATORS: Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep
and doesn't know where to find them.
Leave them alone and they'll come home
wagging their tails behind them.

ANNOUNCER: It's Christmas time in the Land of Rhyme.

(Bo Peep enters leading her Sheep. She turns to speak to them.)

BO PEEP: Now listen carefully you lot. Do not get lost today. Stay close behind
me at all times. Do you understand?

SHEEP: Baaa!

(Bo Peep turns and walks on, with the Sheep following her. They circle the stage, and then a group of people enter walking the opposite way. When the Sheep see the people, they jump up and down.)

WALKER 1: *(Pointing to the Sheep)* Nice woolly jumpers Bo Peep.

WALKER 2: Are you taking them to be shorn?

BO PEEP: Not today. We're going to play in the meadow.

SHEEP: Baaa!

(Walkers exit. Bo Peep does another circuit. More walkers enter.)

WALKER 3: We do like your sheep Bo Peep.

WALKER 4: Are you taking them to market?

BO PEEP: Not today. We're going to play in the meadow.

SHEEP: Baaa!

(Walkers exit and Sheep follow them without Mary noticing. The final Walker enters.)

WALKER 5: Hello Bo Peep. Where are your sheep today?

(Bo Peep turns and sees that her Sheep are gone.)

BO PEEP: Oh, those naughty sheep. Wherever can they be?

(Santa enters with the lost Sheep.)

- SANTA:** Hello Bo Peep. Are these sheep yours by any chance?
- BO PEEP:** Oh yes, thank you Santa. **(Turns to Sheep)** You naughty, naughty sheep, I've told you not to go off with strangers.
- SHEEP:** Baaa!
- BO PEEP:** I don't know what to do Santa. My sheep are always getting lost. They never come home by themselves like the nursery rhyme says. I'm out hunting for them all the time.
- SANTA:** **(Rummages in his sack)** Well, it's lucky I came along. I've got just the perfect Christmas present for you Bo Peep. **(Pulls out bells)** Bells! Just fasten these around their necks and you will always know where your sheep are.
- BO PEEP:** Oh thank you Father Christmas. What a lovely present.

(She gives him a big kiss and takes the bells.)

- BO PEEP:** Come on sheep, let's go and try on your bells.
- SHEEP:** Baaa!
- SANTA:** Well, I'd better be on my way I've lots more presents to deliver. Christmas cheer to you all.

(Exit Santa.)