

AT CHRISTMAS TIME!

Written and Formatted for Readers Theater
By Lois Walker

Reader parts: READER 1/MOTHER, READER 2, READER 3, READER 4, READER 5/FATHER, READER 6, READER 7, READER 8, READER 9, READER 10/TEACHER, READER 11. (NOTE: READER 11 has only one line, but is asked to do some dramatic movement and a bit of acting).

This script may also be read by 6 readers by doing away with READERS 7-11 and re-assigning their parts to READERS 1 through 6.

To find the proper rhythm, first read-aloud and clap through the piece as you go. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout the entire piece during performance.

VERSE I

1 ALL READERS: Mother said,

**2 READER 1
MOTHER: Go shopping!**

(Three triangle beats are sounded here in time with your rhythm or beat: ding, ding, ding!)

3 ALL READERS: And she said,

**4 READER 1
MOTHER: No stopping!**

(Three triangle beats are sounded here in time with your rhythm or beat: ding, ding, ding!)

5 Have to fill each stocking

(No pause)

6 With gifts for one and all.

7 READER 2: **So we shopped all through the mall,**

8 READER 3: **Buying gifts for one and all.**

9 READER 4: **We shopped until we dropped**

10 ALL READERS: **AT CHRISTMAS TIME!**

VERSE II

11 ALL READERS: **Father said,**

**12 READER 5
FATHER:** **Find a tall tree!**

(NOTE: "tall tree" above is said rapidly as though it is one word. Emphasis is on the word "tall").

(Three triangle beats are sounded here in time with your rhythm or beat: ding, ding, ding!)

13 ALL READERS: **And he said,**

**14 READER 5
FATHER:** **No small tree!**

(NOTE: "small tree" above is said rapidly as though it is one word. Emphasis is on the word "small").

(Three triangle beats are sounded here in time with your rhythm or beat: ding, ding, ding!)

15 **Something bushy, not paltry.**

(No pause)

16 **Need a tree to make us proud!**

17 READER 6: **So we pushed right through the crowd,**
18 **Tailing trees to make us proud.**
19 READER 7: **We pushed 'til we were bushed**
20 ALL READERS: **AT CHRISTMAS TIME!**

VERSE III

21 READER 8: **Teacher said, "Good-bye November"!**
*(Three triangle beats are sounded here in time
with your rhythm or beat: ding, ding, ding!)*

22 READER 9: **And she said, "Hello December"!**
*(Three triangle beats are sounded here in time
with your rhythm or beat: ding, ding, ding!)*

23 READER 10
TEACHER: **"Concert's coming, so remember**
24 **We must practice every day".**

25 READER 1: **So we practiced just that way,**
26 **Practiced two, three times a day.**

27 READER 2: **Rehearsed 'til we near burst**
28 ALL READERS: **AT CHRISTMAS TIME!**

VERSE IV

29 READER 3: **But with the shopping and the dropping,**
(softly)

(Three SNARE DRUMBEATS are sounded here in time with your rhythm or beat: tap, tap, tap!)

30 READER 4: **The pushing and the bushing,**
(louder)

(Three CYMBAL crashes are sounded here in time with your rhythm or beat: crash, crash, crash!)

31 READER 5: **Rehearsing all to bursting,**
(even louder)

(Three loud BASE DRUMBEATS are sounded here in time with your rhythm or beat: boom, boom, boom!)

32 ALL VOICES: **We were too pooped to pop!**
(full volume)

(No pause)

33 READER 6: **Then a single voice said,**

(Reader 11 runs across the reading area and stops in front of readers, and faces audience while delivering the following line):

34 READER 11: **“STOP! SLOW DOWN! GET A GRIPPPPPPPPP!**

(Reader 11 looks around disgustedly and stomps out of sight)

(Readers look around at each other, smile, then nod their heads in agreement. They finally “see the light”)

35 READER 7: **There’s a reason for this season,**

36 READER 8: **Rise above the push and shove.**