

## Slow Down Christmas

By Lois Walker

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### Rhythm

To find and establish the proper rhythm for this piece, first read-aloud and clap through the sections 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 these sections during performance.

The script involves 5 to 30 readers, depending on how many students you want to involve. Starting on Page 3, the reader parts are not numbered. This has been done so that you may assign the lines to as many readers as will work for your group. You might divide all remaining lines up between the initial 5 readers, or add five more, ten more, etc., up to thirty!

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READER 1:                      Slow down Christmas,

READER 2:                      Slow and steady,

READER 1:                      I haven't shopped,  
So I'm not ready.

READER 3:                      Don't have a gift

For the dog and cat,

Or mom and dad,

READER 4: Just imagine that!

READER 5: There is no time  
For a shopping spree,

READERS 1,2,3,4,5: Can't we celebrate Christmas  
In January?

**ALL OTHER READERS: NOOOOOOOOOOO!**

**CHORUS (ALL):** Tic Tock,  
Stop the clock!  
Time moves on  
And it won't stop.  
Even so, we'll  
Take some time,

Take some time

For a holiday rhyme!

READER                      Slow down Christmas,

READER                      Slow and steady,

READER                      No wrapping paper  
Is out and ready.

READER                      It's tucked away  
With holiday tags,

READER                      Stored somewhere  
In shopping bags.

READER                      No chance for joy  
Or Christmas cheer,

READERS                      Can't we celebrate Christmas  
  
                                      *(Pause one beat)*  
  
                                      Next year?

**ALL OTHER READERS:        NOOOOOOOOOOO!**

**CHORUS (ALL):**            Tic Tock,  
  
                                      Stop the clock!  
  
                                      Time moves on  
  
                                      And it won't stop.  
  
                                      Even so, we'll  
  
                                      Take some time,  
  
                                      Take some time  
  
                                      For a holiday rhyme!

READER                      Slow down Christmas,

READER                      Slow and steady,

READER                      No Christmas tree  
  
                                    Is up and ready.

READER                      Found one, but it  
  
                                    Was tall, tall, tall!

READER                      The second fell  
  
                                    And hit the wall.

READER                      Of course, the third  
  
                                    Was way too small.

READERS                      Can't we celebrate Christmas  
  
                                    In the fall?

**ALL OTHER READERS:**      **NOOOOOOOOOOO!**

**CHORUS (ALL):**              Tic Tock,  
  
                                    Stop the clock!