



## **SAMPLE PAGES: WHY THE YULETIDE EVERGREEN TREES KEEP THEIR LEAVES**

A Well-Known Legend Re-Told As A Christmas Story

Choral Reading/Speaking

By Lois Walker

### **FORMATTING:**

This script was written as a choral reading/speaking piece and is formatted for ALL, ALL GIRLS, ALL BOYS and lines for 7 SOLO READERS.

### **ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM:**

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.

**NOTE:** A free mp3 sound file is available to help you establish the proper beat and rhythm for this script. After purchase, simply email Lois and ask that the free file be emailed to you as an attachment.

ALL:           It was cold, we're told, a long time ago,  
                   Then "shivered" and "quivered" by winter's first snow,  
                   The birds did their thing, as each took wing,  
                   And flew away south to wait for spring.

ALL GIRLS:   One worried bird stayed, afraid, you know –  
                   Couldn't fly in the sky, had to stay below.

ALL BOYS: An absurd little bird with a broken wing,  
Afraid to think what winter might bring.

ALL: North wind will blow, we will have snow,  
 And what does a little bird then, poor thing?  
 Find a kindly tree who might agree  
 To guarantee lodging, 'til spring!

ALL GIRLS: That's how it began, the plan, the design.  
 We agree that a tree could suit the bird fine,

ALL BOYS: But finding a tree to agree caused the trouble.  
 For this bird was broken - all stubble and rubble.  
 He cried...

SOLO 1: "A tree just for me, that's the key.  
 By Yuletide a place to reside – something free!  
 No, I won't give up. I'll keep trying, keep looking  
 And hope some kind tree will consider a booking."

SOLO 2: "No!" said birch tree, "You blind? Can't you see?  
 I need to be free to take care of me!  
Yuletide or not, thanks a lot, I'm no shelf.  
 You can't perch on me, go take care of yourself."

ALL: North wind will blow, we will have snow,  
 And what does a little bird then, poor thing?  
 Find a kindly tree who might agree  
 To guarantee lodging, 'til spring!

ALL GIRLS: Next came the oak, solid bloke of thick trunk.  
 He seemed ready and steady, a large solid hunk.

ALL BOYS: But he swore and he roared, loud as Yuletide horns:

SOLO 3: "You're not welcome here. No! You'll eat my acorns!"

ALL GIRLS: The bird fluttered and hopped, then stopped near a willow  
 Whose leaves on display, seemed to sway and to billow.

ALL BOYS: And being polite, the bird asked if he might  
Sleep in those leaves by Yuletide night.

ALL: North wind will blow, we will have snow,  
 And what does a little bird then, poor thing?  
 Find a kindly tree who might agree  
 To guarantee lodging, 'til spring!

SOLO 4: "No, indeed," said the tree, "And please don't proceed!  
 A stranger means danger - I live by that creed.

Yuletide or not, I won't see you again.

SOLO 4: So be on your way then, goodbye and amen!”

SOLO 1: “What a mess, this is hopeless”, the little bird cried,  
“The trees won’t protect me and I cannot fly.”

ALL GIRLS: But a spruce tree nearby soon heard his cry,  
And called...

SOLO 5: “You need leaves? Well, I have a supply!”

ALL: North wind will blow, we will have snow,  
And what does a little bird then, poor thing?  
Find a kindly tree who might agree  
To guarantee lodging, ‘til spring.

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