

PLACE:
Sunday School Room.

TIME:
Christmas Eve.

CHARACTERS:

Jack Frost.....
Snow Flakes.....
Christmas Fairy.....
Evergreens.....
Stars.....
Turkeys.....
Pop Corn.....
Christmas Tree Toys.....
Big Santa Claus.....
Junior Santa Clauses.....
Messenger.....
God of Sleep.....

[This playlet for Sunday schools is not difficult to prepare, and its presentation would make a great hit at Christmas time.]



THE costumes may be effectively made by using crepe tissue paper or tarlatan, both materials being of slight cost.

The superintendent tells the children of a wonderful secret that he has learned. It is how Santa Claus manages to trim so many trees in one night. He advises them to keep their eyes open, as they will soon see some remarkable things in this room. Suddenly he is interrupted by a hurried entrance of a district messenger boy, in regulation costume, buttons etc., complete. He hands a book to the superintendent, who signs it. The boy takes it and rushes out. Then the superintendent reads:

North Pole, Dec. 24, 1932.
Dear Children—Am just leaving home and cannot reach Sunday school until late. I had to pay a visit to Fairyland on important business, which delayed my starting.

SANTA CLAUS.
After commenting briefly upon this message, the superintendent should mention that it is growing cold in the room and ask some one to see if there is not a door open somewhere. Before the request can be carried out a boy about six years old, dressed to represent Jack Frost, dances in. His costume should be of white in summer pique suit will answer, and some cotton batting sewed on will add to the frost effect; a sprinkling of the powder used to make Christmas trees sparkle will prove a good suggestion for frost. He recites:

I'm Jack Frost; all you grown folks surely know me.
The merriest little fellow in all the world about.
The children know and love me and are always glad to see me.
For I bring fun and frolic and make them laugh and shout.

Good Santa's growing pretty old, so I'm to represent him.
And find out if these children deserve a Christmas tree.
Tell me, superintendent, do you think they've earned the good things Santa's worked all year in making that they should have?

Superintendent nods in the affirmative.
You think they do? I'm glad indeed to carry news so cheering.

Then telegraph to Santa, who awaits my message, telling
How many toys and presents he must bring with him tonight.

While I feel strong and mighty I can't do all to my liking.
But must summon to assist me my little flakes of white.
They and I will try our very best to make a splendid snowfall.
For Santa and his helpers to travel here this night. (Exit Jack Frost.)

The superintendent descends from the platform remarking, "I must come down at once and see all the marvelous things that are going to happen here."

Some one plays a few bars on the piano to cover any awkwardness the children may feel upon first viewing the audience.

Four tiny girls from the infant class appear dressed to represent Snow Flakes. Their costumes should be of white, with caps, hoods and muffs. Tufts of cotton sewed on suggest snow. Each child in turn recites one of these verses:

We have come a long way from our home in the north,
Where the ice and the snow ever stay.

The SANTA CLAUS HELPERS

A CHRISTMAS PLAYLET FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS

By
MINERVA
SPENCER
HANDY

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Jack Frost gave his order: "Hasten! Whiten the earth this eve of Christ's coming." We flew to obey.

While not very big, we have learned this great lesson: That small folks can do greater deeds than you'd dream. By our patient endeavor to help one another, See how like a bride we have made the world seem!

At first we were timid, then thought of our mission To make Christmas time a season of merrit. Santa never could get here if we failed in making A deep fall of snow cover old Mother Earth.

If little Snow Flakes are given the pleasure To wish merry Christmas to folks great and small,

North Pole, Dec. 24, 1932.
Have been again delayed in getting off. I found so much to do at the last minute. Had all the drums to head and the hobby-horses to tail, and your candy boxes had to be stuffed a little fuller. I still hope to reach you tonight.

SANTA CLAUS.
The Fairy now lifts her wand and summons the Evergreens, who enter to the music of the piano—four girls dressed in green, their gowns trimmed with holly berries in any fanciful way desired. A spray of the same should be in their hands or in little baskets. They recite in turn:

We've braved the cold and biting blast And tried not to succumb; Hold heads and berries high aloft, 'Till Christmas time should come.

The earth, we're told, would dreary be At this time of the year; If holly, moss and mistletoe Should fall to reappear.

form, executing various military movements. Even the simplest will prove effective as the pretty colors of their costumes mingle. At the end they arrange themselves into a star with the Fairy in the center. "The Star Spangled Banner," which the children sing, is played on the piano, the Fairy unfurling a United States flag over the tableau, which she has up to this time concealed.

Six retire to one side of platform and six to the other.
Then speaks the Fairy:
"The Snow Flakes, Evergreens and Stars have certainly done their share in making nature beautiful. Is there any one else that would like to add good cheer to Christmas?"

Four boys enter, dressed to represent turkeys. Red tails and combs made of

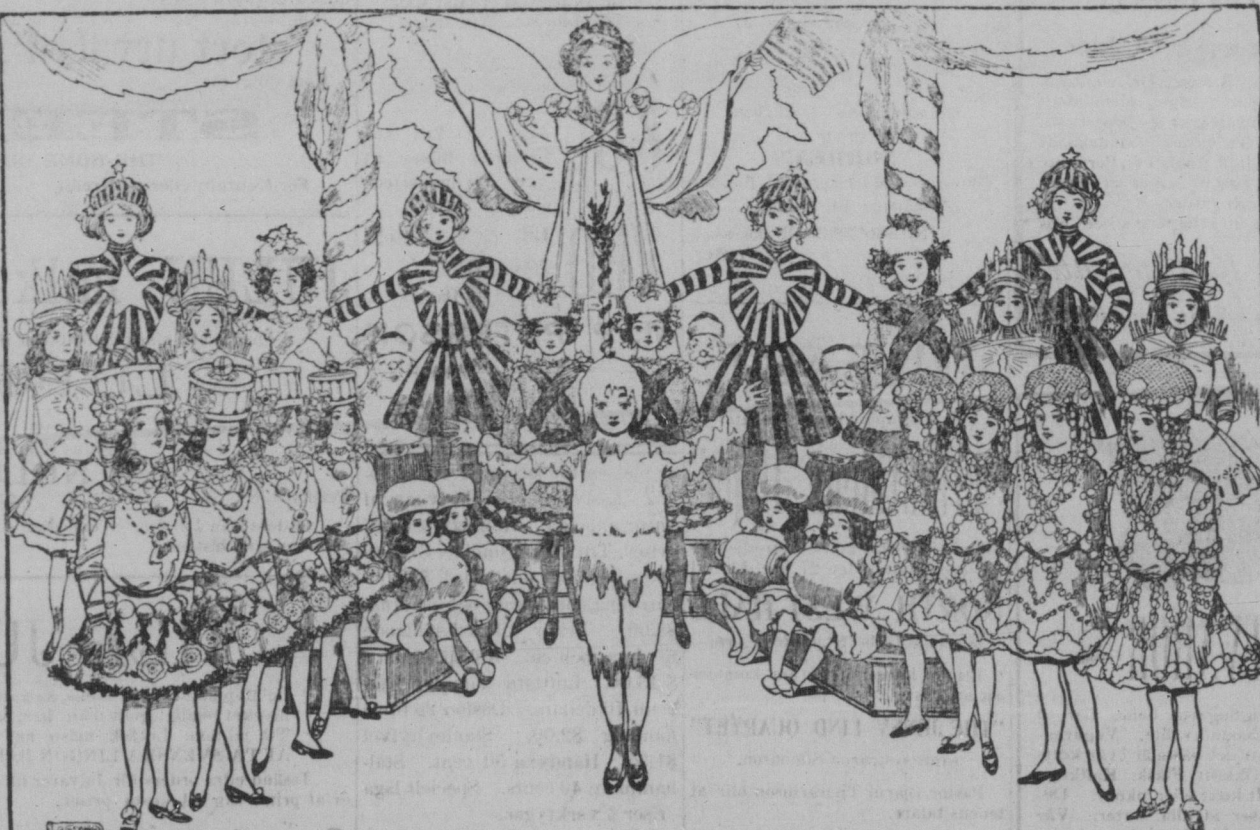
we heard of Christmas, wished that we could help to make it merry.

SECOND.
The Queen of all the Fairies heard And said—"Be not despairing; If you've the will, I'll make the way; In joy all must be sharing."

THIRD.
We hopped and popped and never stopped. We laughed and burst in glee. Till here we are quite ready now To drape your stately tree.

FOURTH.
The fairies strung us all in rows. "Folks like you so," they said. And Santa ordered, "Get a lot of popcorn, white and red!"

Messenger boy reappears. Superintendent reads the following telegram:
Greenland, Dec. 21, 1932.
Dear Children—Was afraid I could not reach you tonight, as Francer and Vixen



GRAND TABLEAU OF THE SANTA CLAUS HELPERS.

We wish it with will, and we wish it with might.
A glad, joyous Christmas to each one, to all!

[Withdraw to right of platform.]
Enter Christmas Fairy. A girl of fourteen is preferable. Her costume is yellow, her hair loose. She carries a wand and has gold slippers and wings. These may be easily fashioned of gold paper. She says:

"I have just returned from a visit to Santa Claus, and he told me to be sure to tell you that all good children should soon see how Christmas trees are made. He ordered me to call on all Fairyland for helpers, and I have done so. We both want you to remember that Christmas is not merely a time for present getting and giving, but is a time to make others happy. Christ, whose birthday we are celebrating, said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive,' and I hope you will all strive to make some one less fortunate than yourselves happy tonight."

Enter district messenger, doing as he did in the first instance. Superintendent reads to school this message:

Perhaps our reds and brilliant greens
May help the Christmas cheer,
For merry hearts and willing hands
Go with us year by year.

We deck the homes and churches fair
That celebrate the birth
Of him who came to share the sin
And sorrow of the earth.
[Withdraw to left of platform.]

The next group of children represent Stars. Four girls compose the group and wear striped gowns and big silver stars cut from paper. A star is arranged on their breasts and one fastened to a crown on their foreheads. At their entrance the children already on the platform sing to the melody used in the kindergarten book called "Songs and Games for Little Ones":
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How we wonder what you are,
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

The Stars respond:
We are travelers in the dark,
Sending out a tiny spark,
Helping men to look above
To the God of peace and love.
Then the Stars, Evergreens and Snow Flakes march round the plat-

form, and strings of cranberries round their necks, with bouquiers of celery, render them picturesque. They recite:

We may not be so handsome
As our sisters sweet and dear,
But 'twould be a dull old Christmas
If the turkeys were not near.

We've stuffed ourselves to bursting
For a month before the time
And had a heap of trouble
To keep ourselves in line.
Thanksgiving season threatened,
Then the parson came to fear;
We feared another Christmas
We nevermore should see.

But here we are and hope that you've
Prepared for all a store
Of puddings, celery, cakes and pies.
Could mortal wish for more?
They arrange themselves among the children as effectively as possible. Enter four girls representing Pop Corn. They are dressed in pink, draped with strings of white popcorn. They recite each in turn:

FIRST.
Not long since we were grains of corn,
Not fair nor useful very.

shied at a polar bear and spilled out all your toys. If this snowfall continues, I hope to be with you soon.

SANTA CLAUS.
Four little girls enter, representing the glittering ornaments used in decorating Christmas trees. Any colored gown will answer, so long as gilded balls, toys and shimmering tinsel be employed. They recite in unison:

We're beautiful toys
For girls and boys.
So lovely, you'll surely agree:
No place upon earth
Gave us our birth;
From the land of the fairies came we.

We glitter and shine
By night and day time
So brilliant you'd surely think we
Were made of pure gold
And jewels untold.
But we're not—only toys for your tree.
To brighten the way
And make the hearts gay
Of children who love Christmas day.
Our beauty we lend,
Best efforts expend;
Do you think we shall be in the way?
"No, indeed," the Fairy assures them, "Just take your places with the other

helpers," motioning to the rear of the platform.

Enter four boys representing Santa Claus in miniature. They must present jolly, round stomachs, wear white beards and wigs and have red cheeks and noses. Small packs, with protruding toys and tiny Christmas trees, should be carried on their shoulders. They sing to the tune of "Jingle Bells" (chorus):

Beards as white as driven snow,
Noses red as noses red,
Clad in furs from head to toe,
Lips that whistle merrily.

[Whistle in interlude.]
Trumpets, whips and drums and noise,
Tops and dolls and puzzles queer;
Jumping jacks and other toys,
Jolly Santa Claus is here.

Messenger enters, as before; superintendent reads telegram:

[Some Place Near], Dec. 24, 1932.
Dear Girls and Boys—Good, stiff breeze is blowing. Have found my way again. Will be with you shortly.

SANTA CLAUS.
One of the Junior Santa Clauses turns to Fairy and says: "Santa Claus is almost here. We've no time to lose. Is all ready? Are all the helpers here?" (Looks around.) "Why, where are the candles?"

Four little girls appear dressed as candles. They each wear a different color, carrying candles and having toy candles arranged about them in any fanciful way desired. They recite in unison:

All the earth has lent its beauties
That Christ's coming may be bright.
Some place surely waits our coming;
Dark the tree without our light.

Our sole talent lies in showing
Glories of your Christmas tree,
Christ himself was proud to do this;
Should we not, then, happy be?

Where he was no darkness shadowed;
Sin and evil flew away;
May we ever strive to imitate
Peace and light upon our way.

[Withdraw and mingle with other children, who may stand or be seated, as desired.]

Another of the Junior Santa Clauses addresses the Fairy, saying: "I do not think Santa will appear while the children are awake. You would better summon the God of Sleep."

The Fairy stretches out her wand, saying, "Enter the God of Sleep." There appears a tall boy, wrapped in a dark gray cloak thrown over his face, almost concealing it. He throws imaginary dust from beneath his cloak into the children's eyes, the piano playing softly, "Our Balls Are Going to Bye-low-land." (Music in kindergarten book of "Songs and Games for Little Ones.") All rub their eyes, and slowly swaying from side to side in time to the music sing:

Children must go to Bye-low-land;
Their drooping eyes are filled with sand,
Rocking so gently to and fro,
All little ones to sleep must go.
Bye-low, Bye-low! Going to rest in Bye-low-land.

The song dies away in silence and the piano continues softly playing for a few minutes. Then outside faintly sound sleighbells, growing more distinct and louder until a commotion is heard; with vigorous stamping of feet Santa Claus bounds in. The children awake and form two circles around Santa Claus. To the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" they sing:

Jolly Santa Claus is here,
Claus is here, Claus is here;
Jolly Santa Claus is here,
And it is Christmas morning.

Santa smiles approvingly upon the children and jokingly tells them he was mighty afraid he was not going to get here at all, but he did, thanks to the snow the little fairy flakes made for him. "Now I am here, what do you want me to do for you? Give you presents and candy and a Christmas tree? That's a good joke. Ho, ho, ha! Ha, ha, ha!" (Shakes with laughter.)

"First, let me thank the Christmas Fairy who has sent so many of her subjects to help me. And my little Santa Clauses—aren't they fine little chips? Everything is ready, I see, so it will only take me a few minutes to put on the finishing touches."

To the music of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush," to which the children sing as before, "Jolly Santa Claus is Here," Santa disappears, followed by the children that are taking part. To fill in the pause the congregation could sing "Antioch," "Joy to the world, the Lord has come," when the tree is displayed. Whether a large or small one be employed, it must have been concealed until now.

Santa appears as if in the act of descending, and the Junior Santa Clauses are then handed by him to the Juniors, who distribute them to the school.

