



PUT ON A CHRISTMAS PLAY

“Hey, Balthazar,” Jasper and Roland hollered. “Want to be in our Christmas play?”

“Sure. What kind of play is it?”

“Uhh, well ... Christmas.” Jasper stammered.

“I mean is it a musical, reader’s theater, drama, or comedy.”

“Well, maybe musical drama with readers?” Roland looked puzzled.

“What does all of that mean?” asked Jasper.

Balthazar cleared his throat and got ready to explain.



EARN THIS NUGGET

Have a family meeting to decide what kind of play to do. Look at Balthazar’s planning list to get ready for a play.

Trailblazers: Make invitations to invite people to see the play.

Rockhoppers: Take the invitations to the people being invited. Ask your parents if you should have someone go with you.

Cragzman: Write a Christmas play. Ask your family if they would like to act in your play.

A musical has music. It might be all music and singing or just a few songs. An opera is a play where everything is sung.

In a reader’s theater, several people read something about the theme like Christmas. The people in the play read from a script, rather than memorize the lines. The actors may stand or sit. There are typically very few decorations on the stage. Sometimes a reader theater has people read different things they have written, like a poem or short story.

A drama is a serious play. Sometimes it can seem very sad, but usually has a happy ending, and then there is a Comedy which is a funny play. They tend to be my favorites

“Musical, drama, and comedy plays have sets, which is the way the stage is set up to look like where the story of the play is happening. The actors memorize the lines of the play and usually wear costumes.” Balthazar went on. “Now, do you know what kind of play you’re going to do?”



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Roland gave his idea. “I was thinking about having the story of the nativity, after all it is Christmas.”

“I thought everyone was going to sing a song,” said Jasper.

“Have you thought about a neighborhood variety show? That way everyone who wants to be part of the show can pick what they want to do; sing a song, play an instrument, read a poem, or tell a story.”

“That’s a great idea! Roland, why didn’t we think of that?” Jasper said. “Balthazar, do you want to be in our Christmas neighborhood variety show?”

“I sure do. Let’s go make our plans.”



Roland had another question, “What kind of plans do we need to make?”

“Well that’s the easy part...”

- Pick out a couple of dates. You need some options so more people can come. After talking to your parents and other people, select one date.
- Decide where it will be. Because it may be cold, a garage or family room is a good place.
- Will the play only have your family members in it or will others be in it?
- Are you going to have rehearsals? When?

“You’re right, Balthazar. We better get started,” said Roland, “Let’s go.”



Resources

Reader’s Theater Scripts and Plays

<http://www.teachingheart.net/readerstheater.htm>

Free Christmas Plays for Kids

<https://www.dramanotebook.com/plays-for-kids/christmas-plays-for-kids/>