

Scene 1

(To opening intro music the cast enters, and stands main stage for the first song.)

Song Going Crackers! – see page 18 *(whole cast)*

(The cast move from the main stage to the seating areas. To one side, on a separate staged area Mr Humbug is sitting on a swivel chair, at his desk in his office. In front of him is a computer and lots of sheets of paper. A bookcase bulges with files. A graph entitled ‘Achievement’ is on the wall. Three narrators stand to the other side.)

Narrator 1 ~ It’s Christmas! Yeah! A time for making merry, having fun,
When a blanket of goodwill is wrapped round everyone,
When smiles and joyous laughter light up everybody’s face.
And yet, here at St Ebenezer’s School, that’s not the case.

Narrator 2 ~ Headteacher, Mr Humbug, is not a Yuletide fan.
In fact, it’s fair to say he is the world’s grumpiest man.
He can’t abide those jingle bells, or crisp and even snow...

Mr Humbug ~ So what if they all think that I’m a rotten so and so!
Children should be shouted at! The staff have books to mark.
What is it I’m running here? Not an amusement park!
All this merry making, all this pa-rum pum pum pum,
Is nowhere to be found in my ideal curriculum.

Narrator 3 ~ And each time he encountered evidence of festive mirth (**CD-track 10**)
He would clench his fists in rage and holler.....

Mr Humbug ~ WHAT ON EARTH.....!?! *(looking at watch)*
Why are they not working hard at maths or literacy?
Is nobody taking anything I say seriously?

(There is a knock at his door, and Miss Palette, a flamboyantly dressed art teacher enters with a smiling, yet apprehensive look on her face.)

Miss Palette ~ Just to let you know, I’ve overspent on my art budget,
On lots of shiny, glittery things. I hope you don’t begrudge it.
Now each class can make some super Christmas decorations,
And really add some sparkle to our festive celebrations.

Narrator 3 ~ But the look on Mr Humbug’s reddening face was not
A look of joy. He screwed his eyes up and yelled.....

Mr Humbug ~ YOU’VE DONE WHAT?
Now listen here, Miss Palette. You can send the whole lot back!
St Ebenezer’s money won’t be wasted on such tack!

(Miss Palette exits shocked and upset. She passes five cooks who are also approaching Mr Humbug’s office.)

- Cook 1 ~** I have to admit, Betty, you’re idea is pretty good.
- Cook 2 ~** Yes indeed, a new one pound coin in each Christmas pud!
- Cook 3 ~** Well, thanks. I just thought every table needs a little treat,
To take their minds off all those brussel sprouts they have to eat!
- Cook 4 ~** This could be the best school lunch that there has ever been.
- Cook 5 ~** Even Mr Humbug can’t say no – he’s not that mean!

(The cooks approach, and explain their idea to Mr Humbug.)

- Narrator 1 ~** But yes, you’ve guessed it folks, they did not get a warm reception.
Mr Humbug threw a wobbly at such a suggestion.
- Mr Humbug ~** WHAT! POUND COINS! No way José. And as for the menu,
Turkey drummers and spaghetti hoops will have to do!
- Narrator 2 ~** The cooks, upset he didn’t think Betty’s idea a winner,
Vowed to spit on Humbug’s chips when next he had school dinner!

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