

Please note that most of the following scenes have been written using characterisation of a stereotypical family set-up. However, the script and song lyrics can be easily adapted to represent a range of families. Mums and dads can be substituted for grandparents, aunts and uncles or siblings, depending on the circumstances you wish to represent.

Scene 1

*(To one side of the main stage is a smaller stage, on which stands a bench – **see staging suggestions/scenery p23**. The main stage has school chairs and perhaps two or three tables to represent a classroom. The school children enter, carrying bags, coats, hats, scarves etc. They sit on, stand on, and dance around the chairs and tables whilst singing the opening song.)*

Song Ring The Bell *(tracks 1 & 9, lyrics p15)*

(School Children supported by whole cast)

*(When the song finishes, play the **intro music (track 10)** to allow the main stage to be cleared of the tables and chairs. All but five children exit. Fade the music when ready.)*

Child 1 I can't believe it! It's the end of term!

Child 2 Which means...(thinking)...now how does the bloke on that song say it?
(with an enthusiastic Noddy Holder impression) IT'S CHRIIIIIIIISTMAS!

Child 3 We'll be hearing that song a hundred times over the next few weeks!

Child 4 Are you guys walking home? Shall we go across the park?

(They move towards the side stage.)

Child 5 OK, but can we have a sit down? I'm exhausted. It's been a long term!

(They sit on the park bench.)

Child 1 Well, I can't stay here too long. We're putting our Christmas tree up this evening, and I wouldn't miss it for the world! It's one of my highlights of the year.....

*(The action, to feature Family 1, moves to the main stage. Sally and Joe enter, carrying a box of tree decorations, and kneel centre stage. Dad enters, carrying the top half of an artificial Christmas tree in a stand – **see staging suggestions/props p24**. He stands the tree between the children then kneels down with them. The tree should be about head height when all are kneeling.)*

Dad There! Our Christmas tree! Woken up from its hibernation in the loft, carefully put together, and brought downstairs to add some glamour to the room! It's a beauty, isn't it?

Sally If you say so! *(scrutinising the tree)* Dad, has it shrunk since last year?

Dad Of course it hasn't, Sally! You've just grown a lot!

- Joe** Dad, it's definitely shrunk! We'll never fit all these decorations on it!
- Dad** It's exactly the same size as it's always been, Joe! Now come on, let's get decorating!
- Sally** *(carefully placing a bauble)* I love all this! Getting out the baubles and tinsel and carefully putting them on the branches.
- Joe** *(haphazardly throwing tinsel at the tree)* Me too! It takes precision and concentration!
- Dad** *(holding up a decorative model fairy)* Look! The fairy! Why don't you take a wing each and pop it on the top of the tree.
- (Sally and Joe take the fairy and stand up. They are taller than the top of the tree!)*
- Sally** It's definitely shrunk! Last Christmas I had to stand on tiptoe to reach the top!
- Dad** I'm telling you, this tree has not shrunk!
- Joe** In which case I've grown nearly a metre in a year! As if!
- Dad** Well, I always say your mum feeds you too much!
- Sally & Joe** DAD!!
- Dad** *(still kneeling)* Look! For the last time, there is absolutely no way that this tree is a single centimetre shorter than it was last year, or the year before that, or the year before that! I should know. Every Christmas I carefully lay out the pieces then lovingly put them together one by one. I know this tree like the back of my hand!
- (During this rant Mum has entered, unnoticed by Dad, holding the bottom part of the tree!)*
- Mum** *(stifling a giggle)* Errm...I found this in the loft, love! I thought it might come in useful!
- (Dad turns and gives a classic double-take! Sally and Joe laugh and hand him the fairy.)*
- Sally** Here you are, Dad. You can do the honours this year – you deserve it!
- (As the opening bars of the next song begin, and the whole cast stand to sing, the family laugh together and a smiling Dad puts the fairy on top of the tree!)*

Song Our Christmas Tree *(tracks 2 & 11, lyrics p16)*

(Family 1 supported by whole cast)

*(When the song finishes, play the **intro music (track 12)** to allow the main stage to be set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 2

(One half of the main stage now represents the living room of 'Family 2', with a sofa and two armchairs – simply put throws over single school chairs for the armchairs, and a larger throw over 3 school chairs for the sofa. There is a coffee table and a decorated Christmas tree – proper size if possible - with presents under it. The other half of the stage, or a space in front of it, has two beds – each simply a pillow and child's duvet, to represent a bedroom. The action begins back on the park bench.)

- Child 1** Our tree's been up since November! My mum gets a bit eager where Christmas is concerned.
- Child 2** Most grown-ups do. It's a chance to relive their childhoods, I reckon!
- Child 3** And to let their hair down!
- Child 4** It's sherry, mistletoe and endless singing along to those old songs.
- Child 5** Yep! Certainly sounds like Christmas Eve at our house.....

(The action moves to the main stage. Two children, Katie and Ali, sit on the sofa in dressing gowns. Mum and Dad sit in the armchairs. NB – if you're short on numbers this could be the same family as in scene 1 – simply change the names.)

- Katie** I can't wait for tomorrow morning, Ali. I wish I could make the clocks go faster!
- Ali** Christmas day will be here soon enough, Katie. Well it will be for me – I'm planning on getting up at 3 o'clock in the morning!
- Dad** Ahem! I don't think so! I don't want anyone downstairs before 8 o'clock! That's when Christmas Day officially starts in this house.
- Mum** Besides, Uncle Ted and Auntie Rita are coming round this evening for a couple of drinks, so.....
- Katie** So you'll need a lie-in!
- Ali** You always have a lie-in when they've been round for a drink! Why?
- Mum** Don't be so cheeky! *(We hear a knock at the door)* Ooh! Here they are!

(Uncle Ted and Auntie Rita 'explode' onto the stage! They are wearing paper hats and blowing party whistles! Ted has presents under one arm and a bottle in the other hand. Rita lets off a party popper!)

Ted & Rita MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dad And to you too! Come on kids, off the sofa. Let Ted and Rita sit down.

Ted *(putting the presents and bottle on the table)* Hang on! Before we sit down.....
(he takes some mistletoe out of his pocket and holds it above his head).....who's for a Christmas smacker?!

(Katie and Ali give an exaggerated yawn, pretending to be tired! They back out of the room!)

Katie Oh, is that the time? Come on Ali, we should have been in bed ages ago!

Ali Errrrr....yes....(*pretending to yawn again*)...early to bed, early to rise!

Dad Not too early, remember! Night night!

(They all say 'Goodnight' Ted and Rita sit down and Katie and Ali come to front of the stage.)

Song I Wish That Time Could Fly

(tracks 3 & 13, lyrics p17)

(Pyjama-wearing kids and party-goers, supported by whole cast)

(As the song finishes Katie and Ali lie down in the beds. The grown-ups pour themselves a drink. Mum and Dad put party hats on.)

Mum Well, that's the children out of the way!

Rita You won't hear a peep out of those two 'til morning now. They looked exhausted. Anyway (*raising her glass*). Cheers everyone! Bottoms up!

*(The lights are dimmed and we hear **harp music (tracks 14)** to show the passage of time. The lights come up again and the adults are asleep in uncomfortable positions. Ted snores and the children sit up in bed.)*

Ali Katie, are you still awake?

Katie Uncle Ted's a very loud snorer.....of course I'm still awake!

Ali What do reckon was in those parcels they brought round?

Katie Well, I guess we'll find out in the morning.....if morning ever comes!

Ted (*suddenly waking up*) Eh! What! Where am I? (*smiling to himself*) Great party! (*whispering*) Rita! Rita! It's nearly midnight. Time to go.

Rita (*waking up*) Eh! What! Where am I? (*then smiling to herself*) Great party!

(They exit, slightly unsteadily! Mum and Dad are still asleep.)

Ali Katie, are you still awake?

Katie Yes, Ali. Of course I am!

Ali Well, it's quiet downstairs, so they must have gone! Come on....!

(They tiptoe across to the living room towards the presents, and cautiously reach for one each. Just as they are about to touch them, Mum and Dad wake up and both say.....)

Mum & Dad BED!

*(As the **intro music** plays (**track 15**), Mum and Dad exit unsteadily and the children return to bed! The stage is re-set for the next scene. When ready, fade the music.)*

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