



SCRIPT SAMPLE

Scene 1

(As intro music plays (track 8) the cast members enter and take their places for the opening song – see staging suggestions.)

Song What Does Christmas Mean To You?

*Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 9 - backing track
Lyrics p16*

(As intro music plays again (track 10) the cast members sit. A smaller stage to one side is set up to represent a Christmas classroom – see staging suggestions/ scenery. Six children sit at tables, while a teacher stands.)

- Teacher** Children, as you know, we've only a few days left until school finishes for the Christmas holidays.
- Children** Yessssssss!
- Teacher** Now, I know you're excited, but we do still have work to do.
- Children** Nooooooooooooo!
- Teacher** I'm afraid so. Today we'll be doing some writing with the following title – 'What Christmas Means To Me'. So, let's discuss some ideas. Who'd like to start things off?
- Child 1** *(raising a hand)* Well, what's there to discuss? It's easy – Christmas means presents! Loads and loads of presents!
- Child 2** *(raising a hand)* And loads and loads of food!
- Child 3** *(raising a hand)* And loads and loads of cool stuff to watch on the telly!
- Child 4** *(raising a hand)* And loads and loads of kisses under the mistletoe!

All Eurgh!

Child 5 *(raising a hand)* It means getting all excited on Christmas Eve, watching the clock and wishing it would go faster!

Child 6 *(raising a hand)* You’re all wrong! It means getting dragged round town doing last minute Christmas shopping! I said to Mum, “Don’t worry, I’m sure Santa’s got it covered.” Does she listen? No. Christmas Eve will be a mad race round the shops watching her get more and more worked up! I can’t wait.....

(The action moves to the main stage. Three shoppers, holding baskets, stand in a queue at a checkout – see staging suggestions/scenery. A checkout assistant sits at a till, struggling to scan one of the items of Shopper 1, who has a child with her.)

Assistant *(calling for help and holding up a large bag of Haribo sweets)* Can I get a price check on an item? *(to Shopper 1)* Sorry for the delay, Madam.

Shopper 1 *(surprised)* Hang on a minute, I don’t remember.....*(to child)* Ooh, you little...! How many times have I told you about taking things off shelves and putting them in mummy’s basket when she’s not looking?! Well, okay, seeing as it’s Christmas, you can have them.

Shopper 2 *(impatiently to Shopper 3)* I’ve got a shopping list as long as my arm to get through before the end of today. I’ve still no turkey for Christmas dinner tomorrow. They’re all sold out here, so I need to get to ASDA before it closes, but it looks like I’ll be stuck in this queue ’til New Year!

Shopper 3 I’ve still got Christmas presents to buy! Oh, why do I never learn? It’s the same every year. I always leave it until the last minute! I should be more like my sister – she does all her Christmas shopping in the January sales!

(A man, Shopper 4, enters carrying a basket. He speaks into a mobile phone.)

Shopper 4 Hello...it’s me...Yes I know this is the sixth time in ten minutes, but I can’t find it...Yes I’ve looked everywhere...I don’t want to ask, everyone seems so busy....Yes, I know it’s for your mother, but couldn’t we just give her a box of chocolates? They’ve got a wide selection here...But I’ve told you, I can’t find it...Yes, near the deli counter, I’ve looked there...What?...Which shop?! Well, why didn’t you say? Right! I’ll pay for this stuff then I’ll go there...No, I won’t forget the sprouts. Where are they again? *(holding the phone away from his ear and wincing in pain)*...No need to shout...What was that? Sorry, dear, *(pretending)* it’s a bad signal...I’ll have to go. Bye! *(closing his phone and joining the queue)* Phew!

(Shopper 5 enters, looking quite relaxed, and joins the end of the queue.)

Assistant *(still holding up the sweets and calling out)* Still waiting for a price check!

Shopper 1 *(to Shopper 5)* I hope you’re not in a hurry? This is taking forever!

Shopper 5 No, not at all. I’ve just finished off some last-minute present-buying. Everything on the list ticked off – a stress-free Christmas shopping trip!

Shopper 2 How do you manage that? You can’t have many people to buy for.

Shopper 5 Actually, I have a very large family and a wide circle of friends.

Shopper 3 So what’s your secret?

Shopper 5 Socks! *(taking a handful of different pairs of socks from her/his basket)*

Shoppers 1, 2, 3 & 4 Socks?

Shopper 5 The best present in the world! I buy socks for everyone. Thermal socks for my parents, football socks for my nephew, Barbie socks for my god-daughter, woollen bootees for the baby, ski socks for my brother and his wife, a 3-pack of black socks for my cousin who works in the bank....it’s easy. I’m in and out of the shop in no time.

Shopper 3 Well, I’d never have thought of that. What a great idea.

Shopper 4 *(speaking into phone)* Hello, it’s me again. Listen, how about we get your mother some socks? They’ve got lots here to choose from and....*(holding the phone away from his ear and wincing in pain)*....Okay, okay, no socks! *(closing his phone)*

Assistant *(still holding up the sweets and calling out)* Still waiting for a price check!

*(The shoppers impatiently tut. We hear a **store announcement - track 11**)*

Announcement Ladies and gentlemen, the store will close in ten minutes. Please would you proceed to checkout. Thank you, and merry Christmas!

(Suddenly, lots more shoppers rush on and all jostle for position in the queue. Shoppers 1, 2, 3, & 4 look annoyed.)

Shopper 2 This is ridiculous! Nobody can move! Do you know what they should do...and I can’t believe nobody’s thought of this...to stop all this chaos, why can’t they just move Christmas to a time when the shops aren’t so busy!

Song I’d Rather Stay At Home

Track 2 - vocal demo
Track 12 - backing track
Lyrics p17

*(To **intro music (track 13)** all exit. The stage is set up for the next scene.)*

Scene 2

Teacher I’d like to think some of us are a little more organised than that when it comes to Christmas shopping. Ok, what else does Christmas mean to you?

Child 1 The music!

Teacher Ah yes, Christmas carols.

- Child 1** Well, actually, I was thinking more about the pop charts. All those bands bringing songs out, trying to get the Christmas number one spot!
- Child 2** My Gran’s favourite is....oh, what’s his name....Rich Clifford. Apparently he used to always release a song at Christmas, every year without fail.
- Child 3** Well, my *Great* Gran loves Rich Clifford! She always talks about having a crush on him when she was at school!
- Child 1** Is he that old? No wonder he doesn’t release songs anymore.
- Child 2** Hang on, didn’t I hear that he was making a comeback this Christmas....

.....END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE.....