

**Playstage
Junior**

www.schoolplaysandpantos.com

THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI



**A short Nativity play based on the
poem by T.S.Eliot**

**Written by
Lynn
Brittney**

THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

A short play

For 7 boys and 11 girls

CAST

Caspar's Servant

Caspar

Melchior

Balthazar

Tavern keeper

5 people in the tavern

Herod's servant

Herod

Herod's wife

Soothsayer

Priest

Mary

Joseph

Angel

THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

A NATIVITY PLAY

(The scene opens with the three Magi sitting on big cushions while their servant pours drinks for them. They talk quietly while the servant comes to the front of the stage and speaks to the audience.)

SERVANT

The man in the middle here is Caspar, my master, and these are his friends, Melchior and Balthazar. My master is a Magus – that's a wise man, who knows everything there is to know about science and philosophy. His friends are wise men too, although they have not studied as long as my master and they are guided by him in everything that they do. He's been studying the sky a lot in the last few months. So wrapped up in his star-gazing that he has hardly eaten. I have begged with him to come indoors and eat but always he says "No, no, this is too important. I have to make my charts." And so he made his charts and sent messages to his friends to come and join him. Now they are going off on a journey and where it will end I do not know. They talk and talk, the three of them and now they are sending me off to prepare their camels and supplies.

They don't know how long their journey will take or where they are going. It's a worry. It really is.

(The servant exits and the three wise men stand up)

CASPAR

So you see my friends. The star tells me that this great king will be born and my heart tells me that we must be there for this wonderful

event. All my charts show that this may be the most important thing to happen for thousands of years.

MELCHIOR

Have you prayed to the gods for guidance Caspar?

CASPAR

I've lost my taste for praying to all these gods. Something tells me that this new king will be greater than all the gods we have worshipped up to now.

BALTHAZAR

But you say that you do not know exactly where we can find this king?

CASPAR

I only know that this new bright star is slowly moving across the sky, quite unlike any other star has moved before. I believe that if we follow this star it will lead us to the king.

MELCHIOR

We trust you Caspar. We will come with you on this great adventure.

CASPAR

Even though it might be dangerous?

BALTHAZAR

What is a little danger when we could be present at the birth of a new god?

CASPAR

I am not sure that he will be a new god. Who knows? The signs say he will be great, of that I am sure.

MELCHIOR

God, king, what does it matter? We go as friends to seek enlightenment. It is an honourable journey to make.

(The servant enters with three cloaks and helps the men to dress)

SERVANT

The camels are loaded master and your servants are waiting to start .

CASPAR

**Come, we must go. A deep breath my friends before we take our
journey into the unknown.**

(Caspar steps forward)

CASPAR

**A cold coming we had of it
Just the worst time of the year for a journey
And such a long journey
They ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter,
And the camels galled, sore-footed and refractory,
Lying down in the melted snow.**

(Melchior steps forward on the other side of the stage.)

MELCHIOR

**There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling and running away.
And the night fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and demanding high prices
A hard time we had of it.**

(Balthazar steps forward into the centre of the stage.)

BALTHAZAR

**At the end we preferred to travel all night
Sleeping in snatches,**