

Playstage
Junior

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THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MINCE PIES



A Jolly Christmas Whodunnit with songs



Written by
Helen Nelson

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MINCE PIES

CAST

Mum/Mrs Berry

Dad/Mr Berry

Lizzie Berry

George Berry

Josh Berry

Rover, the dog

Grandpa Holmes

Grandma Marple

Father Christmas

Mrs Christmas

Police Sergeant

Policemen (possibly 5)

Elfie

Elf Edna

Elf Eric

Rudolph

Reindeer (possibly 6)

Snowmen (possibly 4)

Children (possibly 4)

34 speaking parts. Unlimited non-speaking/singing parts.

Running time approximately 40 minutes.

MUSIC and SPECIAL EFFECTS

Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD or memory stick for performance. Songs can be trimmed to whatever length required. Free sound effects sources are given in the Production Notes at the end of the play. Videos of the songs below can be found on You Tube for rehearsal purposes in class. We have given the relevant links.

SONGS:

1. Rockin around the Christmas tree
 Backing track: <https://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/brenda-lee/rockin-around-the-christmas-tree.html>
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNW82LvHCos>

2. Where's the mince pies gone? (sung to the tune of Chirpy, Chirpy, Cheep, Cheep)
 Backing track: <https://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/middle-of-the-road/chirpy-chirpy-cheep-cheep.html>
 YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_ENFi4QQHI

3. I wish it would be Christmas Everyday
 Backing track: <https://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/wizzard/i-wish-it-could-be-christmas-everyday.html>
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65vE77Ezh4Q>

4. Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
 Backing track: <https://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/dolly-parton/rudolph-the-red-nosed-reindeer.html>
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hega-GxyW6o>

5. Frosty the Snowman
 Backing track: <https://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/the-ronettes/frosty-the-snowman.html>
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0QqQNIpeiw>

6. Jingle Bells

Backing track: <https://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/children-s-chorus/jingle-bells.html>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CWJNqyub3o>

7. We wish you a Merry Christmas

Backing track: <https://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/children-s-chorus/we-wish-you-a-merry-christmas.html>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0DWwxlrBt8>

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MINCE PIES

SCENE 1.

The setting is a living room with a couple of armchairs and a decorated Christmas tree. THE WHOLE CAST comes onstage to sing and dance:

SONG 1. ROCKIN AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Rocking around the Christmas Tree
at the Christmas party hop
A mistletoe hung where you can see
Every couple tries to stop
Rocking around the Christmas Tree
Let the Christmas spirit ring
Later we'll have some pumpkin pie
and we'll do some caroling
You will get a sentimental feeling
When you hear voices singing
"Let's be jolly; Deck the halls with boughs of holly"
Rocking around the Christmas Tree
Have a happy holiday
Everyone dancing merrily
In a new old fashioned way
You will get a sentimental feeling
When you hear voices singing
"Let's be jolly; Deck the halls with boughs of holly"
Rocking around the Christmas Tree
Have a happy holiday
Everyone's dancing merrily
In a new old Fashion way

(Take applause and all the cast leave, except MUM, DAD, LIZZIE, JOSH, GEORGE and ROVER)

GEORGE

I can't believe it is Christmas day, Lizzie!!

ROVER

Woof Woof!

LIZZIE *[rubbing her tummy]*

I know, but Mum, I'm so hungry...

JOSH

So am I! Mum, where are those mince pies you made last night? I could just eat one of those. Actually, I could eat *all* of those.

LIZZIE/GEORGE

Me too!

(LIZZIE, GEORGE, JOSH nod and agree with each other.)

DAD

Lizzie, Josh, George, you have each just eaten a huge Christmas dinner! Surely you are not still hungry, are you?

LIZZIE

Yes, we are, we are starving!

JOSH

And we all can't wait to try Mum's award-winning mince pies

GEORGE

They smelt so nice coming out of the oven.

DAD

Award-winning? Do you mean she has followed your Grandma's recipe again? Grandma's mince pies were world famous.

(CHILDREN look quizzically at DAD)

ROVER

Woof! Woof!

DAD

Well, they were famous in our home town. The local newspaper wrote many an article about them.

MUM

No, I didn't follow Grandma's recipe this year, I decided to change her recipe, add in a few bits, take out a few bits...

(CHILDREN, DAD all gasp in shock)

DAD

Oh dear, Grandma won't be happy!

MUM

Well, this year, I made the very mince pies that I made for Paul Hollywood, from The Great Bake Off, when he came to judge the School Bake Off.

LIZZIE

Ah yes, of course. Your mince pies won the school bake off!

LIZZIE

And the judges said that the principal's mince pies had a soggy bottom!

(The CHILDREN all giggle)

DAD

You know all this talk of mince pies has made *me* a little bit peckish now. Go on then, let's have a mince pie! It is Christmas after all! Where are they, dear?

MUM

Just over there on the table, perfectly made and covered in a light dusting of icing sugar!

(The CHILDREN go over to the table to look for the mince pies and only find an empty plate. The pick it up, shocked to find nothing on it.)

LIZZIE

Ma....they're gone! Your Paul Hollywood award-winning mince pies have gone! Vanished into thin air...

MUM

But they were there! All 12 of them!

JOSH

Well, they're not there now. Where can they have gone?

GEORGE

Has someone taken your mince pies?

DAD

And who would take your Mother's mince pies?

MUM

And *why* would they take my mince pies? Although they are of course, award-winning...

DAD

We must call for the police!

(There is a blast on a whistle. POLICEMEN and SERGEANT enter the stage and all sing (to the tune of Cheepy, Cheepy, Cheep, Cheep). This tune/song can be repeated as much as required.)

SONG 2: WHERE'S THE MINCE PIES GONE

POLICEMEN

Where's the mince pies gone?, Where's the mince pies gone?

Wheres the mince pies gone?, Wheres the mince pies gone?

Wheres the mince pies gone?, Wheres the mince pies gone?

Far far Away

(LIZZIE GEORGE JOSH DAD can join in or let the POLICEMEN all sing these lines)

Last night I saw my Mummy bake some mince pies

Ooh yeah, lots and lots of mince pies

Woke up this morning, to this awful surprise

All gone, lots and lots of pies gone!

(Repeat the top chorus again)

(POLICEMEN, FAMILY take applause and a bow. SERGEANT steps forward.)

SERGEANT

Now then, now then, what's going on 'ere then?

MUM

Someone has stolen my Paul Hollywood award-winning mince pies! They won the School Bake Off you know!

POLICEMAN 1

That is indeed terrible news, we must investigate at once.

POLICEMAN 2

Has anything else gone missing?

DAD

No, I don't think so, just the mince pies.

POLICEMAN 3

How strange. At Christmas time, we have had many things going missing, toys, gifts....

POLICEMAN 4

But we have never investigated missing mince pies before.