

TECHNO OR NO TECH?



Here is a preview of the play, “Techno or No Tech?” There are seven scenes in total and three in this preview, Scenes I, IV, and V. The characters in this play are listed first.

The play booklet comes with the script and notes, plus some other great tools, such as an optional Nativity ending, guidelines for costuming, a Sample Letter to Parents, and Artwork for your programs.

Characters: **Santa:** The traditional Old St. Nick, a little baffled by the new technology, but always compassionate and loving!

The Elves:

Ollie: Giddy, perky little elf looking for fun!

Trixie: Bossy and very capable--definitely thinks he is in charge

Bernie: Cool headed until he falls in love with Siri on his iPhone.

Elvin: The brainy one, who brings technology to the Pole.

Kringle: A little absent minded, but good at heart!

The Reindeer:

Blitzen: Definitely the lead reindeer, most concerned about being ready for the big night!

Rudy: Lovable, funny, and a little full of himself. Always calls the GPS a PGS!

Mrs. C.: Always loving and wants to do the right thing, but forgets herself when she becomes addicted to Facebook!

The Nerds:

Harold: Very intelligent, loves the nerdy side of technology—spreadsheets, calculations, and formulas. Also in complete awe of Santa!

Irene: No Christmas spirit here! Bossy and cantankerous!

Siri: Usually just a voice on the smart phone, but here she comes alive with her own personality

Extras: Although these characters do not speak any lines, you can add extra Elves, Reindeer, or Nerds in the scenes so that every child is included.

Scenery

Suggestions:

Stage Left: On the wings of stage left, create Mrs. C’s kitchen with a stovetop, and some kind of little table or desk where her computer will go.

Stage Right: On the wings of stage right, create Santa’s workshop with toys, dolls, and bicycles that the elves are working on. Add a Christmas tree and any other Christmas decorations to make it look festive. At one end, you may want to add a reindeer stall by using a bale of hay and maybe a mock rail fence.

Music:

The selection of music is entirely up to you. A good way to open the program is with an upbeat, fun number performed by either a special group of students or by one of the older classes. From there, decide how you want to place your groups of singers. The script combined with five or six grade levels performing two songs each makes a program lasting about an hour, which is a good length. If there are not that many groups, just tie a couple of the scenes together and run them back to back. I usually begin with my youngest group and end with the oldest, but you can decide that. That’s the beauty of these scripts--you have the freedom to choose the music you want, so go for it!!

***Two suggestions for music are as follows:

GROUP SIX SONGS: “Believe” from the Polar Express---arr. Mac Huff

CLOSING SONG: “The Night Before Christmas” arr. by Ruth Artman

****One Fun Idea:** For this play, we added a “teacher—staff performance” as a surprise. I teach at two different schools and each school made up their own Nerd Herd dance to music they chose themselves. Our costumes were like the Nerds in our play—white shirts and dark pants, goofy Christmas socks, and big red bows around our necks along with black framed glasses. We worked hard to keep it a secret and the surprise was a hoot—our kids couldn’t believe teachers could dance like that (neither could some of us!) This took some extra practice time, but it was really worth it.

SCENE I *(Santa's workshop is bustling with activity)*

Ollie: *(going through the Christmas list)* Ivy Parks . . . Stompies; Jacob Craig . . . Playstation 3; Caden Cook . . . Nerf gun; Sophie Thomas . . . Furbie *(after each name is called with the correct toy, all elves say "Check!")*

Trixie: No, Ollie, Ivy Parks gets the Furbie and Caden Cook asked for a horse again, for the fourth year in a row . . . wish his dad would approve it *(shakes head as he goes through stack of letters)* Wait a minute. . . that's not right . . . Ivy wants Caroline Abbot, our new American Girl doll, and Jacob Craig already has a Playstation. *(throws up the letters)* Oh, good grief, I don't know who wants what! This master list is a mess!

Blitzen: *(rushing in)* Where's the Boss? We need to nail down the route for Christmas Eve. I'm getting really nervous about that no-fly zone. And the guys are starting to grumble about who gets to take the lead this year.

Trixie: Take ten, Blitz. If we don't get this list corrected, you may be spending Christmas Eve at home, watching "It's a Wonderful Life" and drinking hot chocolate. *(turns to the elves)* Now, for the last time, who gets the Furbie?

Bernie: Oh, come on now, Trixie, chill out . . . you know this happens every year. Let's have a cup of cider and sort this out.

Blitzen: Well, whatever . . . just send Santa my way if he comes by here. Only fourteen days left!

Elvin: *(answers the phone)* Merry Christmas, North Pole! . . . Who? . . . What? . . . How much memory do I have? . . . well, I think I still have it all . . . hot spots? . . . isn't that a little personal? . . . Really? . . . Well, we are having some problems . . . you could? . . . Well, sure, when can you be here?

SCENE IV *(workshop, where the elves are busy playing with their smartphones instead of working. Siri is either backstage or on the front row with a microphone)*

Trixie: Is the Oklahoma bag ready to go? We've paced most of the Midwest, but I don't see anything for Oklahoma or Texas. *(Bernie and Ginger seem to just ignore Trixie)* Uhh, Earth to Bernie. . . Earth to Ollie. . . is anyone aware that Christmas Is coming and the goose is getting fat?

Bernie: Oh, hey Trixie . . . yeah, yeah, I'm working on it. Hey, have you met Siri?

Trixie: Siri? Who is Siri?

Bernie: WHO IS SIRI? Well, (*stammers*) uh, well. . . she's the girl on my smartphone. . . oh, she is beautiful! I just love her voice. Siri, are you there?

Siri: Happy Holiday!

Bernie: Oh, Happy Holiday to you, beautiful! Listen, I have a little time off tomorrow night. I'd love to meet you face to face . . . how about dinner and dancing? Siri, may I have this dance?

Siri: I found six dance clubs . . . the closest two are The Silver Pony in Moose Creek and Let's Boogie in Espoo, Finland.

Bernie: Well, let me check with Rudolph—maybe he can take me to Moose Creek. (*yells out*) Hey, Rudy!

Siri: Rudy? Rudolph?? Like “Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer?” Oh, I'd blush if I could! Oh, that is my **all time** favorite Christmas song! . . . Christmas? Yes, you have 10 shopping days 'til Christmas.

Ollie: Hey, I wanna talk to her! (*grabs phone away from Bernie*) Hey, Siri, do you like my voice.

Siri: I really have no opinion.

Santa: (*comes in*) Trixie, where are the batteries for the remote . . . Bernie, what are you doing here? Have you got the handlebars on those bicycles yet? Kringle, I thought I told you to finish cutting those puzzles. All of you, put those smartphones down and get to work before I go ballistic and you have to watch my hard drive get torched. I need assistance, stat!

Siri: Assistance, assistance? Hello, I am Siri. How may I help you?

SCENE V (*Mrs. C is in the kitchen, looking at Facebook on her computer while the smell of burnt cookies fills the air.*)

Santa: (*comes in mumbling to himself*) Ten days 'til Christmas and no one is ready. Blitz and the other guys spend all day long playing Find a Reindeer with their GPS, while that goofy Bernie is lovestruck with some silly voice on his smartphone. We'll never be ready in time . . . we'll never be ready.

Mrs. C.: *(completely ignores Santa)* Well, whaddya know? It's Charlie Cheer . . . whatever happened to all that wavy black hair? Someone should tell him to ditch the combover. My, my! Oh, and look who he's friends with? Nicole Noel! How does she stay so young looking? No saggy chin? No gray hairs?

Santa: All I have is gray hairs! And they are falling out by the minute! What in the world are you looking at? *(obviously annoyed)*

Mrs. C.: *(quite embarrassed)* Oh, Nicky, I didn't hear you come in. Just checking out my friends on Facebook. I have 533, you know. And Cupid's mother, Valentine, has invited me to be her friend, so that will make 534.

Santa: Oh, for heaven's sake . . . you, my darling, are beloved around the world just as you are. You don't need Facetime to tell you that.

Mrs. C.: Facebook! You really should have your own page. It's a great way to stay connected. Well, lookie here . . .there's Suzy Snowflake. . . didn't you once have a crush on her?

Santa: Suzy Snowflake? Of course not . . . where is she? *(both of them peer at the computer and then Santa starts sniffing—smells something burning)* Dear, is something burning in the oven?

Mrs. C.: *(hiding something)* No, it's just that well . . . well, I just love seeing all my friends on Facebook and I didn't hear the timer a couple of times and well. . .

Santa: *(takes the bag that Mrs. C. is hiding)* Burnt cookies?! From the woman who puts Paula Deen to shame in the kitchen? *(picks up an empty lunch bag)* What about the sack lunches for the reindeer?

Mrs. C.: Oh, my . . . I completely forgot! Let me get my apron!

