

THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS



Study Guide



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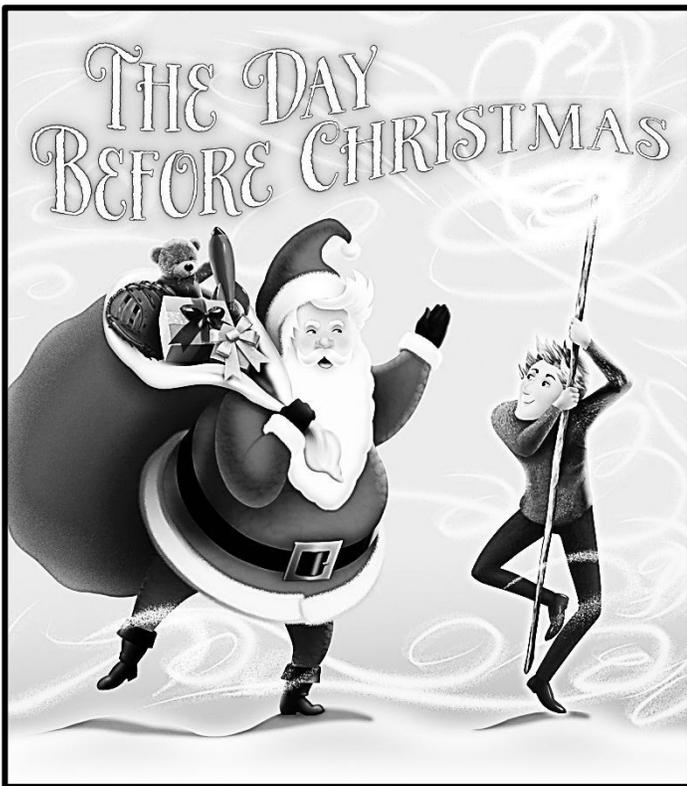
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A Brief Synopsis

There is a flurry of activity at the North Pole. Santa and Mrs. Claus, the elves, the reindeer, the forest animals and even the toys themselves prepare for the biggest night of the year!

It takes a lot of planning and hard work to get a sleigh off the ground and deliver toys to children around the world, but

Santa's team is ready and willing. Or at least they think they are before a tricky Jack Frost decides to try to stop the Christmas Festivities with a little comical chaos and calamity!

This festive new show mixes improvisation and slapstick comedy with holiday music and a heartwarming story of friendship, dreams and wintry wonder. Thank you for spending part of your holidays with us. Enjoy the show!

HELLO TEACHERS!

We at The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati hope you use the activities and worksheets in this study guide to enhance your students' understanding and enjoyment of our show. Please be sure to encourage your students to participate in the question-and-answer segment at the end of every TCTC production, so the actors can have a chance to encourage more projects and investigation. Thank you!

ACTIVITY IDEAS BY GRADE LEVEL

DECORATE YOUR TREE (preK-3rd grade)

Many families at Christmas in the North Pole would have decorated trees with unique lights, garlands, and ornaments. What if you were going to decorate your own tree? You can make your own Christmas tree in minutes!

Materials Needed:

- Construction Paper (green, various colors)
- Glue
- Drawing materials
- Scissors

- 1) Cut your green construction paper into a triangle about 6 inches in diameter.
- 2) Take your other paper and draw some shapes to create decorations. Does your tree need lights? What about strings or bulbs? Are there triangles, circles or squares? Which are bigger or smaller?
- 3) Cut out the shapes, perhaps with an adult's help.
- 4) Take the pieces of decorations and attach them to the green triangle to make a tree with glue. Use as many as you can fit!
- 5) Glue your tree onto a white piece of paper.
- 6) Be sure to draw presents under the tree, too! Now your tree is complete!

STANDARDS MET

Art, Geometry (Analyze, compare, create shapes)

NORTH POLE: HERE OR THERE? (4th-8th grade)

The Day Before Christmas takes place in the present time but at the North Pole. There are many similarities and differences between how people in the North Poles live and how you might live in your part of the world.

Materials Needed:

- Paper/Pencil
- Access to research materials (Books, Internet, etc.)

- 1) Create a Venn Diagram of the North Pole and your hometown. In each year's circle, write something that was unique to life in that place, but where the circles overlap, write something that both places have in common.
- 2) Based on your Venn Diagram, now make a list of some Pro's and Con's of living in the North Pole. What would you like about it? What would you dislike? Discuss with your classmates.
- 3) Imagine that you were on a serious expedition to the North Pole. Would you travel by boat, hiking, or plane? Can you think of other ways to get there?
- 4) Write a journal of at least 3 entries about your imaginary trip to the North Pole. Keep a record of what you observe and what challenges you overcome, and share with your class.

STANDARDS MET

History, Social Studies, Creative writing, English, Critical thinking, Comparison of climates, Geography

MELTING A COLD HEART (9th-12th grade)

Jack Frost, one of the main characters in *The Day Before Christmas*, is a troubled young man who has lost the warm feeling of the holidays. Just before the biggest day of the year, Jack Frost sabotages everything with sudden storms dropping temperatures, and blocks of ice. But in a single day, Jack has a change of heart. This is a parable, because it teaches a moral lesson: Generosity can melt even the coldest of hearts. Do we have parables in modern America? You can teach a moral lesson based on today's current events and your own personal experiences.

Materials Needed:

- Paper/Pencil

- 1) Watch The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's production of *The Day Before Christmas*. Who are the "good" characters, and who are the "bad"? Do they stay that way, or do they all learn new things in the story? Why?
- 2) In small groups, invent your own characters and plot for a new holiday parable. Take turns presenting your original, local parables to the class! BONUS: You can even make it into a play!

STANDARDS MET

Literature, English, Creative writing, Public speaking, Local history, Geography, Social studies, Research

YOU ARE SANTA'S ELF!

In *The Day Before Christmas*, there are many elves who work for Santa. Some have goofy names, some are quirky, and some even dress differently from everyone else. Each elf is unique!

People are unique, too. If YOU were to become one of Santa's elves, what would be your goofy name? What quirky things would you do? How do you dress? What tools/technology do you use?

In the box below, DRAW A PICTURE of yourself as an elf. Use as many colors as you like, and show what kinds of toys your elf would make. Have fun!

BONUS: Cut out a picture of your face and paste it on top of your elf below. Now it REALLY looks like you could work at the North Pole!

Your Elf Name: _____

THE NORTH POLE BULLY

Have you ever been bullied? Have you ever seen bullying taking place and weren't sure what to do about it? Have you ever been the bully? Sometimes, bullying takes a different form than name-calling or shoving. Sometimes, bullying occurs when someone uses their talents and abilities to ruin things for others.

Jack Frost, the antagonist in *The Day Before Christmas*, lets his emotions get the better of him when he decides to cancel Christmas. He uses his ability to control the weather to make it impossible for Santa, the reindeer, and the elves to get their work done in time.

This worksheet is an opportunity for you to write about bullying from your point of view. We encourage you to talk with your teachers, parents and counselors, to discuss ways of stopping bullying in your school. What you write on this page could be the start.

What is bullying? Use your own words and observations.

Describe a time when you witnessed someone being bullied.

What are three kinds of bullying that you see happening at your school?

Watch The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's production of *The Day Before Christmas*. Would you consider Jack Frost to be a bully? Why or why not?

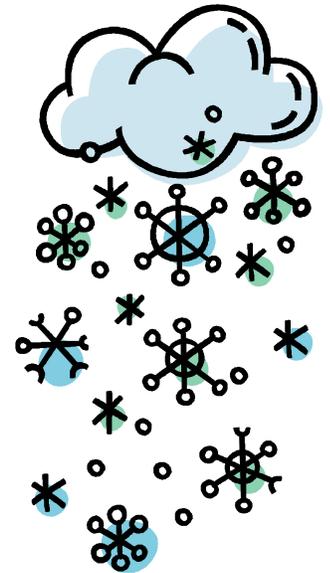
Standards Met: English, Writing, Critical thinking, Social studies, Creative reflection/expression

HOLIDAY SCIENCE

Jack Frost, the antagonist in *The Day Before Christmas*, lets his emotions get the better of him when he decides to cancel Christmas. He uses his ability to control the freezing and thawing of water, to make the work of Santa, the elves, and the reindeer, almost completely impossible. Obviously, this story is a work of fiction. However, the physical changes from ice to water to vapor are a big part of the plot.

Below are some examples of physical and chemical changes. You must circle “P” for Physical Changes, or “C” for Chemical Changes.

Refer to the definitions on the right to tell the difference.



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| P | C | 1) A piece of paper is crumpled up and thrown in the trashcan. |
| P | C | 2) Eggs are cooked on the stove. |
| P | C | 3) A wooden log burns in a fire. |
| P | C | 4) Ice melts. |
| P | C | 5) A fork and knife are used to cut a holiday turkey. |
| P | C | 6) A juicy steak is digested in the body after being eaten. |
| P | C | 7) Cookie dough is baked in the oven to make cookies. |
| P | C | 8) A puddle of water evaporates and turns into water vapor. |
| P | C | 9) A window was broken because a rock was thrown through it. |
| P | C | 10) A banana browns because it sat on the counter too long. |

Physical change:
Any change in a substance that does not produce a new or different substance.

Chemical change:
A change in a substance that produces a totally new and different substance.

JACK FROST BY DEGREES

In *The Day Before Christmas*, Jack Frost can control the temperature by increasing or decreasing the level of frost in the air. When Jack feels less of the Christmas spirit, he causes it to get very, very cold, and the temperature drops to below freezing! Remember that the freezing point is 32° Fahrenheit, or 0° Celsius.

Read and solve the word problems below. Use your math skills and conversions to find the solutions. Be sure to check your work.

$$^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5} + 32 = ^{\circ}\text{F}$$

$$(^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times \frac{5}{9} = \text{C}^{\circ}$$



BONUS: On the back, create your own word problem about the climate in the North Pole, and use multiplication to find the solution!

- 1.) Jack Frost tries to get revenge on the North Pole reindeer by making it even colder than it usually is. He causes the temperature to change from 36° F to -3° C. How many degrees colder or warmer is it, in both Celsius and Fahrenheit degrees?
- 2.) When Jack Frost lowers the outdoor temperature to below 10° F, the thermometer inside Santa's Toy Shop reads 60° F. What is the ratio of outdoor-to-indoor temperature in Fahrenheit?
- 3.) The Polar Bear and the Penguin are struggling to adapt to the new temperatures in their habitat. The winter has gotten too cold at its current temperature of -40° F. The Polar Bear and Penguin estimate that they would be more comfortable if the temperature rose to at least -25° C. How much higher, in both Fahrenheit and Celsius, does Jack Frost need to raise the temperature to make the environment warm enough for the animals?

Standards Met: Math/Science Skills (Conversions, Temperature, Basic climate, Ratios, Fractions)

WORKSHEET ANSWER KEYS

JACK FROST BY DEGREES

1.) Start temperature = $36^{\circ}\text{F} = x^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $x^{\circ}\text{C} = (36-32)(5/9) = 2.222\dots^{\circ}\text{C}$

End temperature = $-3^{\circ}\text{C} = y^{\circ}\text{F}$
 $y^{\circ}\text{F} = (-3)(9/5) + 32 = 26.6^{\circ}\text{F}$

$26.6^{\circ}\text{F} - 36^{\circ}\text{F} = -9.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ drop
 $-3^{\circ}\text{C} - 2.222^{\circ}\text{C} = -5.222\dots^{\circ}\text{C}$ drop

2.) $10:60 = 1:6$ ratio $^{\circ}\text{F}$

3.) Start temperature = $-40^{\circ}\text{F} = x^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $x^{\circ}\text{C} = (-40 - 32)(5/9) = -40^{\circ}\text{C}$

End temperature = $-25^{\circ}\text{C} = y^{\circ}\text{F}$
 $y^{\circ}\text{F} = (-25)(9/5) + 32 = -13^{\circ}\text{F}$

$-13 - -40 = 27^{\circ}\text{F}$ increase
 $-25 - -40 = 15^{\circ}\text{C}$ increase

HOLIDAY SCIENCE

- 1.) P
- 2.) C
- 3.) C
- 4.) P
- 5.) P
- 6.) C
- 7.) C
- 8.) P
- 9.) P
- 10.) C

STUDY GUIDE SURVEY

We value your input! Please take a moment to let us know how we are doing.

School _____ Grade levels of your students _____

Show title _____

How much of this study guide did you use? All A lot Half Only a little

Please circle the appropriate response:

6 = strongly agree; 5 = agree; 4 = somewhat agree; 3 = somewhat disagree; 2 = disagree; 1 = strongly disagree; N/A = does not apply

For me, this study guide enhanced the play 6 5 4 3 2 1 N/A

The lessons offered fit my curriculum 6 5 4 3 2 1 N/A

Overall, I found this study guide useful 6 5 4 3 2 1 N/A

Did you get the study guide from The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's website? Y N

Was there a specific lesson/activity that you really liked or did not like? Why? _____

What would you like to see offered in future study guides? _____

We appreciate any further comments. Please use the back if necessary. _____

Your name (optional) _____ Position/Title _____

Email (optional) _____

Please add me to your email list so I can receive updates about ArtReach and The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati!

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