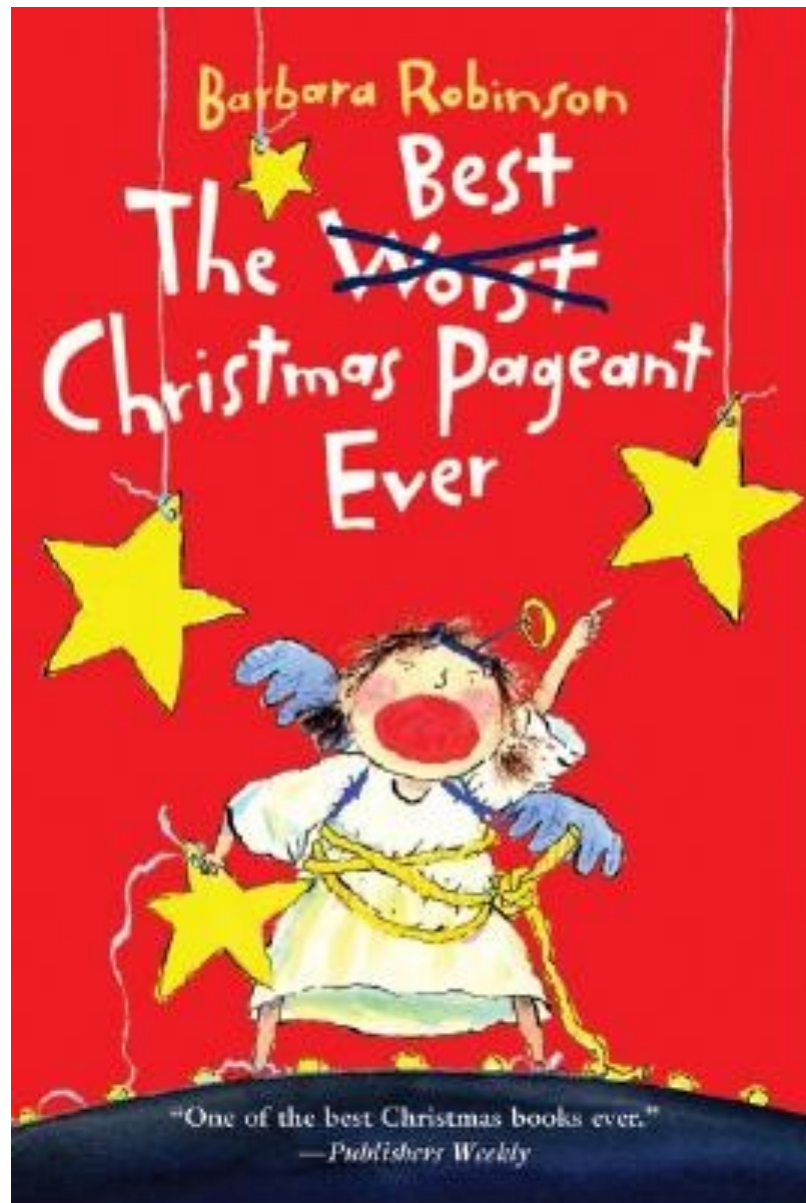


The Best Christmas Pageant Ever



Based on a book by Barbara Robinson
The Magik Theatre
Study Guide- Fall 2009

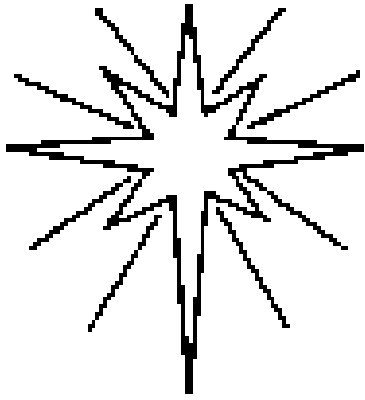
Summary

"The Herdmans were the worst kids in the whole history of the world." So begins one of the most popular books ever written. This comedy is about the holiday pageant that's held at the school each year. This year, the director, Mrs. Armstrong, breaks her leg, and volunteer Grace Bradley finds herself directing the show. The Herdmans show up to audition after they hear that all the kids in the pageant get candy at rehearsal. Grace is forced to cast the Herdmans in leading roles. Chaos ensues, and the resolution that follows makes for one of the most hilarious and touching experiences you'll ever have in the theatre. The pageant that should be doomed to failure becomes a rich story about the human spirit and the ability in times of crisis to become bigger and better than we think we are. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever will truly make you laugh until you cry .

Discussion Questions

- 1) Who are the main characters in the story?
- 2) Use 8 adjectives to describe the Herdman family.
- 3) Which Herdman is most like you? Why?
- 4) How do the Herdmans get to be in the pageant?
- 5) If the Herdmans decided to make a holiday card what would it look like? Make this card.
- 6) What happens when the Herdmans bring their cat to Show and Tell?
- 7) Make a sign for the Herdmans' front yard that warns people about the cat.
- 8) Where does this story take place? How do you know?
- 9) What do you think should have been done about the Herdmans? Do you think it was fair for them to be in the pageant?
- 10) Have you ever gotten to perform in front of other people? Tell me about the experience.





Math Fun !

Educator– some students may need manipulatives to complete these problems.

1) If Imogene is 12 and the baby is 2 how many years older is Imogene?

2) The Herdmans take 6 candies from the candy dish and 7 candies from the Sunday School room. How many candies do the Herdmans have all together?

3) On Monday 10 baby angels make it to rehearsal for the pageant. On Wednesday only 7 baby angels make it to rehearsal. How many missed rehearsal on Wednesday?

4) For the pageant we need 8 shepherds, 10 baby angels, Mary and Joseph, the Angel and 3 wise men. How many people do we need for the pageant?

5) If rehearsal for the pageant is held for 2 hours a day each day for a 7 day week, how many hours will the kids be in rehearsal?

[MA III.12, III.13, III.14, III.15, III.16, III.17]

Other Books by Barbara Robinson

The Best Halloween Ever

The Best School Year Ever

Holiday Stories

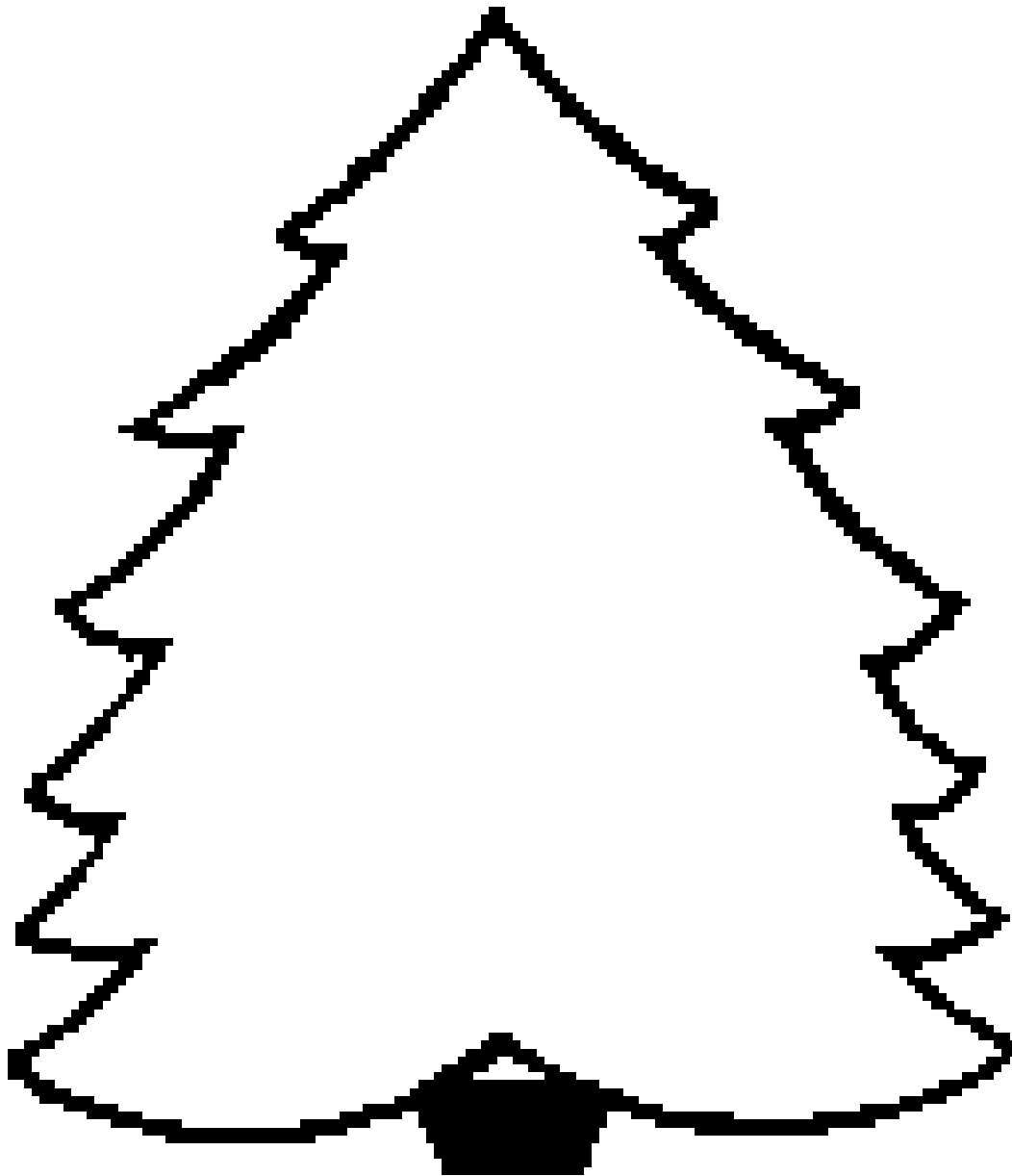
How the Grinch Stole Christmas- Dr. Suess

Latkes, Latkes, Good to Eat– Naomi Howland

Lights for Gita– Rachna Gilmore

Seven Days of Kwanzaa– Melrose Cooper





Several TEKS (117.4, 117.7, 117.10, 117.13, 117.16, 117.19) are covered just by attending a production at The Magik Theatre, including:

The learner will

- identify appropriate audience behavior;
- respond to and evaluate dramatic activities;
- identify the use of music, creative movement and visual components in play; and
- observe the performance of artists and identify theatrical vocations.