



THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER

Based on “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” by Barbara Robinson

Classroom Guide Grades K - 1

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How to Use This Guide

This classroom guide for *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is designed for Texas students in Grades K and 1. It offers activities to help you integrate a performance of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* into English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, social studies, music, art, and theatre curricula.

All activities in this guide are linked to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) content standards.

For students outside Texas, this guide’s ELA and math activities also are linked to Common Core standards. At the back of this guide, you will find a list of the guide activities and their related Texas and Common Core standards.

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1: Discussion Questions

Before the Performance

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever is a stage play. What is a stage play?

- How is a play similar to a TV show or movie?
- How is it different?

Who performs the parts (roles) in a play?

- What kinds of skills do you think performers need to have to perform in plays?
- Who else works on plays? (Remember: you may not see them on stage!)

The play is based on a story called *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

- Have you read *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as a class or by yourself?
 - Based on what you read, what do you think may happen in the play?

During the Performance

When you watch a play, you are a member of the audience. What kinds of things should you do as an audience member? Examples:

- Pay attention
- Laugh when something funny happens
- Clap if you enjoy something

What kinds of things should you *not* do as an audience member? Examples:

- Talk to your neighbor
- Use a cell phone during the performance
- Yell at the actors (unless they ask you to!)

After the Performance

What did you think of the play?

- If you read *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* beforehand, how was the play similar to the book?
- How was it different?

Describe the performers in the play.

- What did they do to make their characters special (different from the other characters)?
- How did they use their bodies to play their characters (using voice, movement, etc.)?
- Did you see anyone else who worked on the play besides the performers on stage?

Describe the characters' costumes.

- What did each character's costume tell you about that character?
- Did any of the performers change costumes?
 - If so, why do you think they needed to change costumes?

Describe the set of the play.

- Did it have a lot of locations?
- Did it look like a place you've been to before?
- How did different lighting change how the set looked for different scenes?

Did the play have music in it?

- If so, was it only in the background, or did it help tell the story?
- What instruments did you hear in the music?

If you were going to direct *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* how would your production be different than the play you saw by Magik?

2: Magik Must-Reads

For each of our main stage productions at The Magik Theatre, we choose a theme related to the show. Then we create a list of Magik Must-Reads on that theme.

The reading theme for *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is Don't Judge a Book.

The Magik Must-Reads (Grade K - Grade 1) are:

The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney

Chicken Big by Keith Graves

The Christmas Show by Rebecca Patterson

The New Bear at School written by Carrie Weston, illustrated by Tim Warnes

Read them as a class or let students choose two or more to read. Then use these questions for discussion or book reports:

Theme

How did the theme of Don't Judge a Book show in each book? Explain.

Setting

Describe the settings of each book.

- What details can you remember?
- Were the settings similar to a place you know or a place you've visited?

How were the settings similar to each other? How were they different?

How were the settings related to the theme of Don't Judge a Book? Explain.

Characters

Who were the main characters of each book?

Did any characters show up in more than one book?

Were the characters of one book similar another book's characters in any other ways?

Plot

What did the main characters of the books want most?

Did anyone or anything stand between the main characters and their goals?

Did the main characters get what they wanted? How?

How were the plots of the books similar? How were they different?

3: Write and Illustrate Your Own Story

In *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, the community puts on their yearly holiday play. If you could put on a play about a holiday, what would it be about? As a class, brainstorm a play. Then have everyone draw one picture from the story you create. When you are done, put the pictures together to make your very own book.

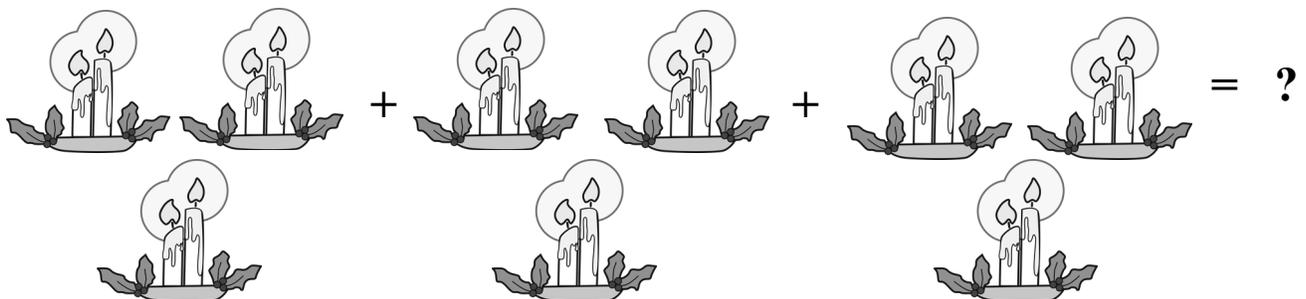
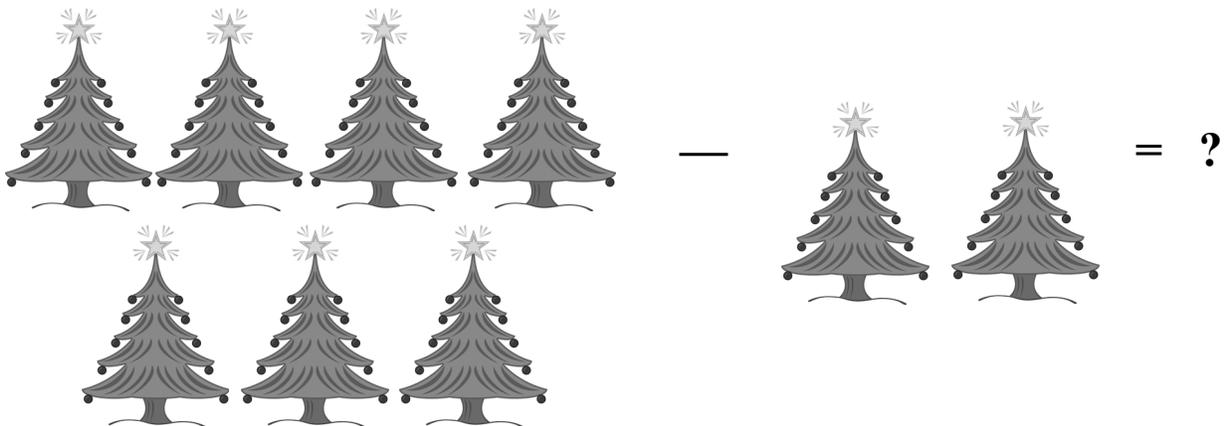
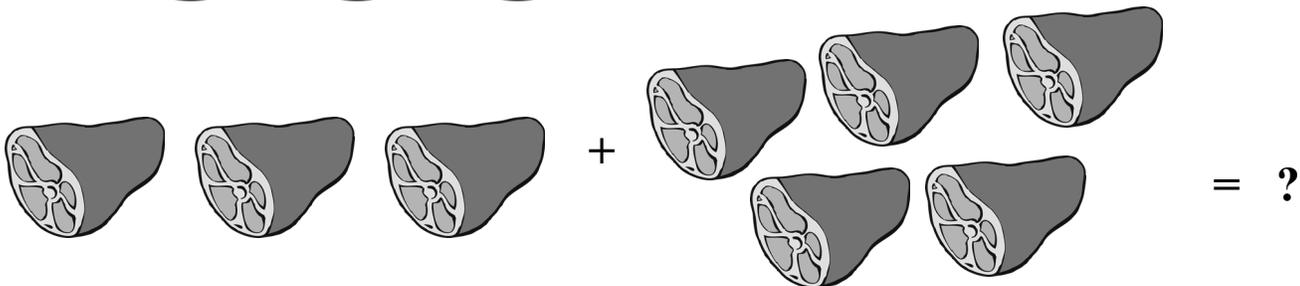
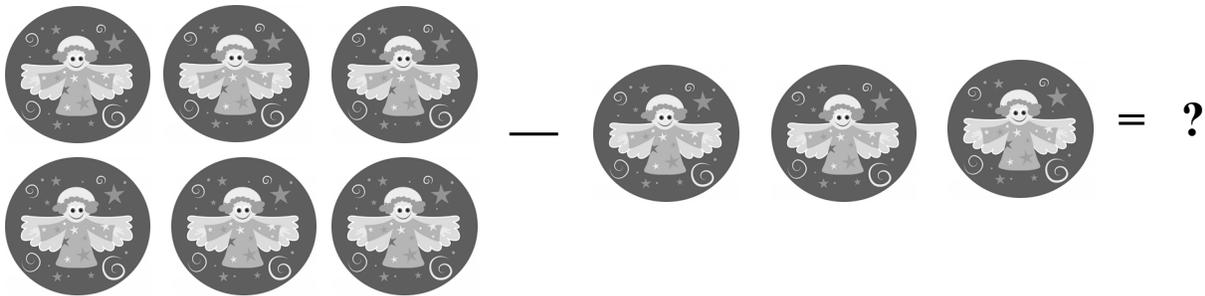
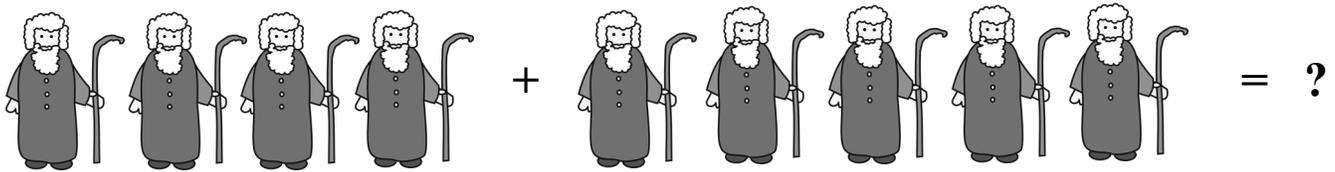
Answer these questions as you write your story:

- What holiday is your play about?
- Who is your main character?
- Who are your other characters (if any)?
- What does your main character want?
- What is keeping your main character from what he or she wants?
- How does your main character tackle the problem?
- How does your story end?
- Did your main character learn anything?

In the space below, draw a picture to illustrate your story.



4: Picture Problems



7: Card Creation

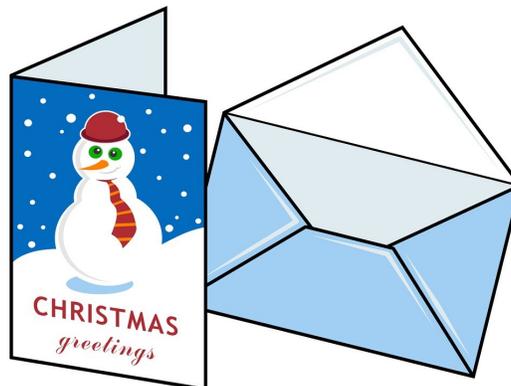
In *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, the Herdman children learn about the traditions of Christmas as they rehearse and perform in the church pageant. One typical holiday tradition is making cards to give to people you care about. Today you'll get to do just that! Using the materials provided, create a holiday card (for any holiday!) to give to someone you care about.

Materials

- Construction paper (to be folded in half)
- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Extra things to decorate the card with (glitter, pom poms, etc.)

Procedure

- 1) Fold the sheet of paper in half.
- 2) Using crayons, markers, or colored pencils, draw something related to your holiday on the front of your card. It could be presents, a tree, Santa, a snowman, or even snowflakes!
- 3) Once you've finished drawing, write a quick note on the inside of your card wishing the person you care about happy holidays!



8: Caroling

In the pageant in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, the choir sings several songs about Christmas. Now it's your turn! As a class, rehearse a carol. Then you can perform it for another class! Below are a few song options, but you can choose whichever carol you'd like!

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bob tails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to laugh and sing
A sleighing song tonight

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh

Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Tis the season to be jolly
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Don we now our gay apparel
Fa la la, la la la, la la la
Troll the ancient Yule tide carol
Fa la la la la, la la la la

See the blazing Yule before us
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Strike the harp and join the chorus
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Follow me in merry measure
Fa la la la la, la la la la
While I tell of Yule tide treasure
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Fast away the old year passes
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Sing we joyous, all together
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Heedless of the wind and weather
Fa la la la la, la la la la

TEXAS

Kindergarten

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Standard(s)</u>
1	Fine Arts 117.4.b.5
2	ELA 110.11.b.5
3	ELA 110.11.b.13-14
4	Math 111.12.b.1, 3-4
5	Science 112.11.a.4.A-B; 112.11.b.2.B-E; 112.11.b.4.A,B
6	Soc Studies 113.11.b.2-3, 14-15; ELA 110.11.b.13, 15
7	Fine Arts 117.2.b.1-2, 4
8	Fine Arts 117.3.b.1-2, 4

Grade 1

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Standard(s)</u>
1	Fine Arts 117.7.b.5
2	ELA 110.12.b.6
3	ELA 110.12.b.17-18
4	Math 111.13.b.1-3
5	Science 112.12.a.4.A-B; 112.12.b.1.A-B; 112.12.b.2.A-E; 112.12.b.4.A-B
6	Soc Studies 113.12.b.17.A-C; 113.12.b.18.A-B; 113.12.b.19.A-B
7	Fine Arts 117.5.b.1-2, 4
8	Fine Arts 117.6.b.1-2, 4

COMMON CORE

Kindergarten

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Standard(s)</u>
2	ELA L.K.1
3	ELA W.K.3
4	Math K.OA.1-2

Grade 1

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Standard(s)</u>
2	ELA L.1.1
3	ELA W.1.3
4	Math 1.OA.1-2, 5, 7-8