

The Best Gift Ever

The Buymore Shopping Mall has a contest - tell what the best Christmas gift is, and WIN that gift! The shoppers have many unique gift ideas - toys, candy, new teeth, slippers, and baking. But it's the Charity Bell Ringer that has the best gift idea - a Christmas meal for the homeless. The best gift is one that brings hope, peace and joy to all.

Setting: The Best Gift Ever is set in the Buymore Shopping Mall. Hang a sign at the entrance to your gym/theater with the name: "Buymore Shopping Mall" Create storefronts decorated for Christmas inside the gym. Use store names that you have where you live. The mall administration office is on stage right in front of the curtains. A desk and a sign indicates that this is the mall office.

The scene opens with Mr. Sellmore, Mr. Buymore and Miss Perky entering the mall administration office and having a business discussion.

Mr. Sellmore: (*pointing to his business statement*) Look at these figures! It's already September 15 and our Christmas Sales are looking glum.

Mr. Buymore: The Buymore Shopping Center takes pride in being the Mall with the MOST! We always have the best Christmas sales in town. Come now Mr. Sellmore - surely we can come up with a marketing campaign that will bring the shoppers in.

Miss Perky: Let's have a contest! Shoppers LOVE contests!

Mr. Sellmore: Miss Perky - you're brilliant!uh...what kind of contest?

Miss Perky: Let's have a Christmas gift contest - have the shoppers tell us....in 50 words or less....what the best Christmas gift is. I'll judge the entries, and the best entry wins the gift that they want!

Mr. Sellmore: Little ones can enter by visiting our Shopping Mall Santa.

Mr. Buymore: Stupendous idea Miss Perky! Start advertising right away!

Curtain opens onto shoppers. Everyone on stage holds shopping bags & boxes, some gift wrapped. Some shoppers can enter through the audience. The shopping mall Santa is seated in the center of the stage. The charity bell ringer stands on Stage left. Mr. Sellmore, Mr. Buymore and Miss Perky exit through the stage.

Shoppers sing Song #1: Give us a Gift

*** start tape**

Give us a Gift

Give us a gift for Christmas, a gift that will last all year
Something to treasure, something to hold, a gift that will keep your love near.

A toy that will brighten the eyes of a child and bring out the child in us all.
Everyone tries it to make sure it works and finally the child gets his turn.

Give us a gift for Christmas, a gift that will last all year.
Something to treasure, something to hold, a gift that will keep your love near.

Some candy and chocolates for Grandma, almost as sweet as her smile.
As soon as she opens the box disappears. Her smile will be there for a while.

Give us a gift for Christmas, a gift that will last all year.
Something to treasure, something to hold, a gift that will keep your love near.
A sweater, a scarf or or a warm pair of mitts for mother or father or friend.
They warm the hands, they warm the heart, with the message of love that they send.
Give us a gift for Christmas, a gift that will last all year.
Something to treasure, something to hold. a gift that will keep your love near.

*Shoppers exit, except for Ashley and Mom. Kindergarten enters. *stop tape*
Bell ringer asks one shopper for a donation as he/she leaves the stage.

Bell Ringer: Would you like to donate to our Christmas Charity?

Shopper: Not now - I'll catch you next time.

Mom points out the shopping mall Santa.

Shopper Mom: Look Ashley! There's Santa - you can tell Santa what you want for Christmas.

Santa: HO HO HO. Come and sit on Santa's knee! What's your name little girl?

Ashley: My names Ashley.

Santa: And have you been a good girl this year?

Ashley: Of course!

Santa: And what do you want for Christmas Ashley?

Ashley? (*wiggling tooth*) Santa - do you have any idea what it's like to try to talk or sing or eat when you're missing teeth? All I want for Christmas this year is some new teeth!

Kindergarten sings song #2: New Teeth for Christmas! ***start tape**

New Teeth for Christmas

Santa can't you bring me just one thing?
I'm really getting tired of this lispng.
It's hard to whistle (blow) and its hard to sing.
Santa can't you bring me new teeth?

I wiggled, and I jiggled till I pulled it loose.
I wiggled and I jiggled till bed.
I wiggled, and I jiggled till I pulled it loose.
And now I have a hole in my head.

Santa can't you bring me just one thing?
I'm really getting tired of this lispng.
It's hard to whistle (blow) and its hard to sing.
Santa can't you bring me new teeth?

I wiggled, and I jiggled till I pulled it loose.
I wiggled and I jiggled till bed.
I wiggled and I jiggled till I pulled it loose
And now I have a hole in my head.

Santa can't you bring me just one thing?
I'm really getting tired of this lispng.
It's hard to whistle (blow) and its hard to sing.
Santa can't you bring me? Santa can't you bring me?
Santa can't you bring me new teeth?

***stop tape**

*Kindergarten, Mom and Ashley exit.
Bell ringer asks Mom for a donation as she leaves the stage.*

Bell Ringer: Would you like to donate to our Christmas Charity?

Mom: Sorry - I just have my credit cards with me.

Grade 1's, Dad and David enter.

Dad: David - go tell Santa what you want for Christmas.

David: I don't need to tell Santa what I want.

Dad: Why not?

David: I always get what I want for Christmas.

Dad: How do you get what you want if you don't tell Santa?

David: Grandma always gives me what I want - slippers!

Grade 1 sings Song #3: Love my Slippers

*** start tape**

Love my Slippers

Every year my Grandma gives me just the same thing.
I never have to wonder what I'm opening.
I never have to shake the box I'm sure of what's inside.
'Cause every year it's just the same, it's just a different size.

Love my slippers, my furry slippers, that Grandma gives me each year.
Those furry faces keep me in stitches I grin from ear to ear.
Oh I love my slippers, my furry slippers that Grandma gives me each year.
I love them on, they keep my tootsies warm, and they bring me Christmas cheer!

You put your left slipper in, you put your left slipper out,
You put your left slipper in, and you shake it all about.
You put your right slipper in, you put your right slipper out,
You put your right slipper in, and you shake it all about.
You do the slipper pokey and you turn all about
And that's what it's all about!

Oh I love my slippers, my furry slippers, that Grandma gives me each year.
Those furry faces keep me in stitches I grin from ear to ear.
Oh I love my slippers, my furry slippers That Grandma gives me each year.
I love them on, they keep my tootsies warm, and they bring me Christmas cheer!

*Dad, David and Grade 1's exit
Bell ringer asks Dad for a donation as she leaves the stage.*

***stop tape**

Bell Ringer: Would you like to donate to our Christmas Charity?

Dad: I don't give to charity - I pay enough taxes.

Grade 2's, Mother and Jamie enter

Mother: Jamie - do you want to go visit Santa?

Jamie: Is he going to ask me if I've been good?

Mother: He usually does.

Jamie: Uh oh. Will Santa know if I make something up?

Mother: Probably.

Jamie: Do you think Santa knows about the fish, and the water gun, and skipping school?

Mother: Maybe.

Jamie: Then I'm not going. All I'm going to get for Christmas this year is rocks.

Grade 2's sing Song #4: Rocks for Christmas

***start tape**

Rocks for Christmas

Someone broke the crystal dish, put the blame on me.

Someone ate the pet goldfish, put the blame on me.

Someone ate the chocolate cake, someone pushed Dad in the lake,

It was just a small mistake, put the blame on me

I'm getting rocks for Christmas. I'm not getting any gifts.

I'm getting rocks for Christmas, 'cause I didn't get on Santa's list.

Someone got the neighbor wet with my water gun.

Didn't think he'd move that fast. He could really run!

I let Jason's hamster out. Boy his father sure can shout!

I'm in trouble there's no doubt, put the blame on me.

I'm getting rocks for Christmas I'm not getting any gifts.

I'm getting rocks for Christmas, 'cause I didn't get on Santa's list.

Paid my friend to eat a worm, said he wouldn't tell.

Put sardines in teachers desk. Boy did that stuff smell!

Thought I needed time to play. Just skipped school for half a day.

Teacher wants me put away, put the blame on me.

I'm getting rocks for Christmas. I'm not getting any gifts.

I'm getting rocks for Christmas, 'cause I didn't get on Santa's,

No I'm not on Santa's, didn't get on Santa's list!

***stop tape**

* substitute names of children in your class for the underlined names

Grade 2, Mother and Jamie and Santa exit.

Bell Ringer asks Mother to donate as she leaves the stage.

Bell Ringer: Would you like to donate to our Christmas charity?

Mother: Not today - I've got bills to pay.

Mike ,Andrew and Grade 3's enter.

Mike: (*Sniffs*) Can you smell that?

Andrew: (*Sniffs*) Smell what?

Mike: (*Sniffs again, sniffing left and then right*) Cream cheese, raisin, buttery cinnamon buns. Boy does that smell good!

Andrew: There must be a bake sale in the mall. Are you going to enter the Christmas gift contest?

Mike: The one where you write about the best Christmas gift?

Andrew: The winner will receive their gift. You could write about a Corvette....or a billion dollars.

Mike: I can't think about anything but those cinnamon buns. My perfect Christmas gift would be that bake sale - cinnamon buns, gingerbread men, cookies, squares..

Andrew: You'd rather have gingerbread men than a Corvette? You must be really hungry!

Mike: I think I just like the Spice.

Andrew: You like Spice? I like the Spice girls!

Grade 3's sing Song #5: Christmas Spice

***start tape**

Christmas Spice

Love the Christmas baking fills the house with warmth.
Gingerbread and cinnamon makes the house a home.
Just can't wait to visit and share it all with you.
We'll have happy memories to last the whole year through.

Stay right here. Time to relax.
Christmas time should be all laid back.
Don't move! Don't run away!
Time for a visit you just have to stay.
do do

Love the Christmas turkey. Dressing tastes just right.
Now's no time diet. Just give up the fight.
Just can't wait to dig in, with my fork and knife.
Christmas time's the best time to spice up your life.

Stay right here. Time to relax.
Christmas time should be all laid back.
Don't move! Don't run away!
Time for a visit you just have to stay.
do do

Stay right here. Time to relax.
Christmas time should be all laid back.
Don't move! Don't run away!
Time for a visit you just have to stay.
do do

Mike ,Andrew and Grade 3's exit

***stop tape**

As they leave, the Charity Bell Ringer asks Mike & Andrew to donate.

Bell Ringer: Would you like to donate to our Christmas charity?

Mike: Sorry - I need all my money for the bake sale.

Bell Ringer: This is so frustrating! Why can't they see that giving is what Christmas is all about?

Bell Ringer sings song #6: Why can't they see?

***start tape**

Why can't they see

Why can't they see the Christmas in me?
Caught up in buying & wrapping their stuff.
Things they don't need for folks they don't see.
Why can't they look and see Christmas in me?
Shopping and buying and wrapping all have a place I guess.
But shopping and buying and wrapping don't have a meaning unless
you look inside and like what you see.
Share it with others you share it with me.
Why can't they see The Christmas in me?
Why can't they look and see Christmas in me?
Why can't they look and see Christmas in me?

***stop tape**

*Bell Ringer goes back to Stage Left.
Sara, Lucas and Grade 4's enter*

Sara: Are you going to enter the Christmas Gift contest Lucas?

Lucas: Sure - you just say what the best gift is, right?

Sara: So - what would your best gift be?

Lucas: (looks at his full shopping bags) Actually....I've got all the gifts that I need. What I really could use is someone to wrap them all for me!

Sara: Are you looking for help wrapping your gifts?

Lucas: Well....if you're offering to wrap them for me,..... thank you! Let's get some Christmas wrap.

Grade 4's sing song #7: The Christmas Wrap Rap

***start tape**

The Christmas Wrap Rap

There are songs about peace. There are songs about love.
There are songs about stars that shine from above.
Children sing about Santa driving a sleigh,
and they sing about Jesus asleep on the hay.
Every part of Christmas has been in a song,
except for Christmas wrap and we think that's wrong!
Christmas wrap, Christmas wrap, we use it every year
Red and gold tied up with bows, we hope we've made it clear that
Christmas wrap, Christmas wrap brings us Christmas cheer
So let's go out and buy a roll, I'll meet with you at Sears!
Gift Bags made of paper, gift bags made of cloth.
But the gift bag's never big enough.
Paper rolls are now passé,
recycled wrap is a better way.
Tie it with a ribbon, put on a fancy bow
And the Christmas gift is ready to go!
Christmas wrap, Christmas wrap, we use it every year
Red and gold tied up with bows, we hope we've made it clear that
Christmas wrap, Christmas wrap brings us Christmas cheer
So let's go out and buy a roll, I'll meet with you at Sears!

Christmas wrap, Christmas wrap, we use it every year
Red and gold tied up with bows, we hope we've made it clear that
Christmas wrap, Christmas wrap brings us Christmas cheer
So let's go out and buy a roll, I'll meet with you at Sears! ***stop tape**

Sara: Well, that should wrap it up.

*Sara and Lucas exit.
Brian and Stacy enter, with the Grade 5's 'Blues Brothers'*

Stacy: Have you heard about the Contest? You tell what the best Christmas gift is. The best entry wins the gift! I'd like to win a new house - with a swimming pool!

Brian: I'd be happy if I could find a parking place! I drove around the parking lot for 15 minutes until someone pulled out. I had to walk a mile to get here!

Grade 5's sing song #8: Christmas Shopping Blues ***start tape**

Christmas Shopping Blues

Christmas shopping just can't wait. I swear next year that I won't leave it this late.
It's now December twenty four, so grab my list head out the door.
Hit the mall without delay - Christmas shopping blues.

I drive around for half an hour, can't find a place to park my car.
The lot is full there is no space, I cannot find a parking place.
I'll grow old before I park - Christmas shopping blues.

Optional improvised solo

Spent all my money, my credit card is maxed.
Spent all my money, my credit card is maxed.
Work all year to pay the bills - Christmas shopping blues.
Work all year to pay the bills - Christmas shopping blues. ***stop tape**

*Brian and Stacy exit, with the Grade 5's 'Blues Brothers'
Mr. Buymore, Mr. Sellmore and Miss Perky enter with the Grade 6's
The Grade 6's are 'shoppers' at the mall.*

Mr. Buymore: Miss Perky - the Christmas gift contests has been a huge success. Our

Sorry - we can't give the ending to the play, or no one would buy it! (Remember - public performance rights are only given to the school when the play is purchased)

The teacher guide also includes:

- * choreography suggestions*
- * costume ideas*
- * piano/vocal scores (Piano accompaniments are interesting, but not too difficult.)*

The CD for this play is recorded with a full performance, and then with accompaniments only. The accompaniments are fully orchestrated. (not just piano)