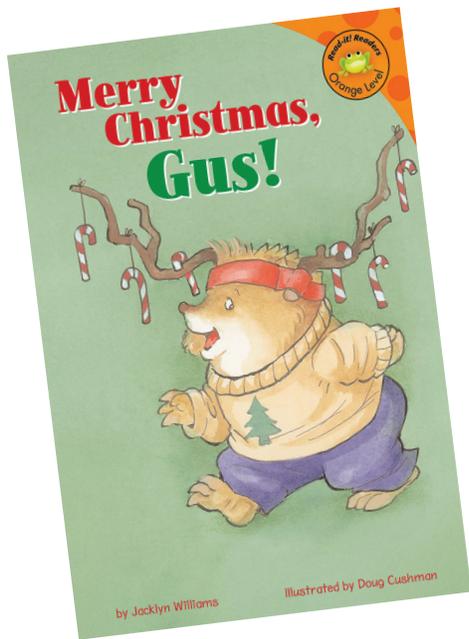


CREATIVE DRAMATICS

Picture Window™
Books



Merry Christmas, Gus! by Jacklyn Williams

Characters:

Gus
Bean
Santa

Props:

Antlers (made with a headband, construction paper, popsicle sticks, and glue or tape)
A drawing of what each child wants for Christmas (to give to Santa during the story)

Genre:

Realistic Fiction

Ages:

4-6

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NOTES TO THE LEADER OF THE CREATIVE DRAMATICS SESSION

Before acting out the story, read *Merry Christmas, Gus!* to the entire class.

The leader/narrator of the creative dramatics session needs to give clear, simple clues to the children who are acting out the story. First, select the children who will be playing the separate parts. Gus and Santa can be played by two individuals or by a group. The same goes for the other characters.

The leader might want to ask the children to describe the characters before the session begins. For example, "What are words to describe Gus? What are some words to describe Santa?" Answers could include nervous, kind, smart, patient, excited, etc.

The children can act out the story from their chairs, sitting on the floor, or by standing in clearly marked places where the action will take place. The front of the room could be the line. It is always a good idea to make sure that all the characters and locations (if you decide to use them) are clearly established before the play session begins.

Narrator: *(Narrator can instruct all students to stand in a line looking excited or nervous about seeing Santa. Student or students playing Gus and Bean can pace back and forth across the front of the room nervously.)*

Gus and his best friend, Bean, are waiting in a long line at Santaland. They say, "We can't wait to see Santa!"

Gus and Bean: We can't wait to see Santa!

Narrator: They are trying hard to wait for their turn. Bean tells Gus, "We have to be patient."

Bean: We have to be patient.

Narrator: *(Narrator could prompt, "Is there a time when you had to wait your turn for something? What were you waiting for? Was it hard to be patient? What did you do to pass the time?")*

Gus brought a picture of a super duper, bright blue Fast Peddle Bike. "That's what I'm going to ask Santa for," Gus says.

Gus: *(Holding a piece of paper)* That's what I'm going to ask Santa for!

Narrator: Gus says he is nervous Santa won't remember him.

Gus: I am nervous Santa won't remember me.

Narrator: *(This is a good place to practice facial expressions and emotions. Narrator could prompt children, "Can you show me how you would act if you were nervous? How about excited? What kinds of faces would you make?")*

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- Narrator:** Gus felt an icky feeling creep into his stomach. He cried, “What if Santa forgets who I am?”
- Gus:** What if Santa forgets who I am?
- Narrator:** Gus was worried that Santa wouldn’t remember him with so many kids there. He said, “I’ve got to think of a way to make Santa remember me!”
- Gus:** I’ve got to think of a way to make Santa remember me!
- Narrator:** *(Narrator could prompt, “What do you think are some ways Gus could help Santa remember him? Let’s give him some ideas! What would you do?”)*
- Just then, Gus had a very good idea. “Holy cow!” he said. “That’s it!”
- Gus:** Holy cow! That’s it!
- Narrator:** Gus pulled out a pair of antlers he had made. *(Have Gus put on the antlers made during craft time or have him hold up his hands like antlers.)*
- “I can’t believe you’re wearing antlers,” Bean said.
- Bean:** I can’t believe you’re wearing antlers.
- Narrator:** “Just like Santa’s reindeer,” said Gus. “Now he’ll remember me for sure!”
- Gus:** Just like Santa’s reindeer. Now he’ll remember me for sure!
- Narrator:** *(Narrator could prompt, “Who can tell me the names of some of Santa’s reindeer? What do reindeer act like? What do they eat? Do you think antlers will help Santa remember Gus?”)*
- At last, Gus reached the head of the line. “Ho! Ho! Ho!” said Santa.
- Santa:** Ho! Ho! Ho!
- Narrator:** *(Narrator could prompt, “Who can describe Santa for me? What else does he say? What are some things you do for Santa at Christmas? Let’s all say ‘Ho Ho Ho!’ like Santa!”)*
- “I wanted you to remember me,” said Gus.
- Gus:** I wanted you to remember me!
- Narrator:** Santa said, “I am Santa Claus. I never forget anyone.”
- Santa:** I am Santa Claus. I never forget anyone.

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Narrator: “Besides, you are Gus,” Santa said. “Who could ever forget you?”

Santa Claus: You are Gus. Who could ever forget you?

Narrator: Let’s all wish Gus a Merry Christmas!

All: Merry Christmas, Gus!

THE END