

# Santa's Little Helper

**Express Children's Theater**

**PK-5**

## ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

*When the Winter Witch casts a snowy spell on Christmas Eve to stop Santa from delivering his presents, a young girl sets out on a quest to convince the Witch otherwise. Along the way, she collects some pals to help her, including a certain flying reindeer and Santa Claus, himself! Featuring singalongs of holiday songs, this rousing family adventure dramatizes the power of love and generosity toward all creatures!*

## TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Theater	Language Arts	Social Studies	<b>The Students Will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances.</li> <li>• Practice listening and speaking.</li> <li>• Practice sharing and cooperation.</li> <li>• Write/tell stories to express ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>K</b>	2, 4	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 8, 11	11, 13, 14	
<b>1</b>	1, 3, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	14, 16, 17	
<b>2</b>	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	12, 14, 15	
<b>3</b>	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	10, 12, 14, 15	
<b>4</b>	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	17, 19, 20	
<b>5</b>	3, 5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	20, 21, 22, 23	

## STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

Reading Comprehension skills in Grades 3, 4, and 5  
Writing skills in Grade 4

## Academic Vocabulary:

Santa Claus	A figure from Western Christian culture who is said to bring gifts to children on Christmas Eve. It is said he keeps a yearly list of "naughty" and "nice" children and only rewards the "nice" ones. Many families leave cookies and milk for him to eat when he visits their home. Other names for him include Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle and Santa.
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer	A character developed by Robert L. May. Santa's youngest reindeer, initially shunned by the others but finally appreciated for using the light from his nose to guide them through a dark night.
Frosty the Snowman	A snowman built by children who comes to life. Book by Annie Lee Bedford. Song sung by Jimmy Durante, Nat King Cole and others.
Mrs. Claus	Santa's wife, portrayed in an old movie by Angela Lansbury.

Grinch	A character created by Dr. Seuss who tries to steal Christmas but ends up growing a bigger heart.
The Mouse King	A character from "The Nutcracker" composed by Tchaikovsky and presented as a ballet every Christmas season.
Yule	Another word for Christmas.

## CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

### ***Before the performance***

- What do you know about Christmas celebrations?
- What do you know about Santa Claus and other Christmas characters?

### ***After the performance:***

- What did you like best about the presentation?
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part.

### **Language Arts:**

- Write about, act out, illustrate, or create a poem, rap or song about the saying: "Tis better to give than to receive."
- Read famous books or watch movies about Christmas. Act out, illustrate, or express as a poem, song, or rap. Ideas:

*A Charlie Brown Christmas*  
*A Christmas Carol*  
*Elf*  
*Frosty the Snowman*  
*Gift of the Magi*  
*Grinch Who Stole Christmas*  
*Home Alone*  
*It's a Wonderful Life*  
*Krampus the Yule Lord*  
*Little Match Girl*  
*Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*  
*Nightmare Before Christmas*  
*Nutcracker*  
*Olive, the Other Reindeer*  
*Polar Express*  
*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

**Math:**

- Play “Christmas Tree” NIM: Draw or paste a simple Christmas tree onto a piece of 8 ½ x 11 paper or card stock. Collect 10 bottle caps to serve as ornaments. Two people play and take turns. On your turn, add 1 or 2 ornaments to the tree. The person who adds the last ornament wins. Undecorate the tree by taking turns again and removing 1 or 2 ornaments from the tree. The person who removes the last ornament loses. For younger children play with fewer ornaments. For older children play with more ornaments. Can you figure out how to win?

**Social Studies:**

- Write, draw, act out, or create a song, rap, or poem about how your family likes to celebrate. Use a calendar to remember different holidays during the year, as well as birthdays, graduations, and anniversaries.
- Recreate a celebration from another culture or country in the world.

**Science:**

- Research connections between celebrations and science:  
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=celebrations+and+science&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

**Resources:****Christmas:**

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=traditional+christmas+celebrations&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=christmas+around+the+world&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

For over 30 years, Express Children's Theatre has been Houston's largest multicultural theatre company dedicated exclusively to creating and performing work for children and their families in the Greater Houston area. All shows are interactive where kids can participate from their seats. This dynamic allows for great social and emotional learning where children have a voice in the experience and a stake in the outcome. In addition to performing over 200 shows a year at schools, day care centers, museums and hospitals (including 6 annual shows at Miller

Outdoor Theatre) they also lead theatre arts workshops from one day to entire semesters. We are proud to have been a member of the Young Audiences roster since 2017. At Express, they don't only provide innovative entertainment, they strive to build self-esteem and promote good choices to help children become more positive participants in their families, schools and society-at-large.