

# The Santa Surprise

**Express Children's Theater**

**Grades: PK-4**

## ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

*The Holly Jolly Man himself brings a sackful of surprises to your students! He'll lead singalongs of Santa songs, tell fun holiday stories, let every kid in the audience pick their own holiday sticker and tell him what they want for Christmas. You can take class photos, too!*

## 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>• Participate in an American/world holiday.</li> <li>• Write/tell stories to express ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>K</b>	3, 4	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 8, 11	11, 13, 14	
<b>1</b>	5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	14, 16, 17	
<b>2</b>	5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	12, 14, 15	
<b>3</b>	5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	10, 12, 14, 15	
<b>4</b>	5, 6	1, 2, 4, 5	1, 6, 7, 8, 12	17, 19, 20	

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

Reading Comprehension skills in Grades 3 and 4  
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.
Christmas elves	Are said to make toys and other gifts for children in Santa's workshop at the North Pole.
Flying reindeer	Are said to pull Santa's sleigh full of gifts on Christmas Eve.
Jolly	Happy

## CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

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

- What do you know about Santa Claus?
- Does your family engage in the Christmas tradition of Santa Claus? How?
- Does your family engage in another tradition in December? What is it like?

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

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

### **Language Arts:**

- Act out or draw pictures to illustrate parts of a story or rhyme, such as *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* by Clement Clark Moore or *Night Before Christmas--In Texas, That Is* by Leon A. Harris.

#### **'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house**

**Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;**

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!  
On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

- Make a list of things that are red and/or white, like Santa Claus. Ideas: candy canes, snow, flags, stop signs, sports teams, cardinals, apples, tomatoes, etc. Create a poem or story using as many of the words as possible.

**Math:**

- Play “Cookies for Santa (More Than>Less Than).” Two children play and each has a paper plate. They take turns rolling one or two dice (depending on their age) and putting that many “cookies” (or pretend cookies) on their plate. They estimate which plate has the most cookies and then count and repeat. For older students, use 3 or 4 dice.

**Social Studies:**

- Plan a holiday celebration, including with a budget of real or play money.
- Read Cuadros de familia/Family Pictures. Act out or make a song about some of the traditions. Create your own family picture and story.

**Science:**

- Compare animals that can fly to reindeer.

**Resources:****Things to make for Christmas:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mr\\_MARi74nw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mr_MARi74nw)

[https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&sca\\_esv=cc1c4a1f7d117633&rls=en&q=Christmas+for+kids+decorations&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjpr6Ou\\_LSOAxWc4skDHRjplRQQ1QJ6BAhUEAE&biw=783&bih=518&dpr=2#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:45265bd1,vid:jCtWbIFA3nk,st:0](https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&sca_esv=cc1c4a1f7d117633&rls=en&q=Christmas+for+kids+decorations&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjpr6Ou_LSOAxWc4skDHRjplRQQ1QJ6BAhUEAE&biw=783&bih=518&dpr=2#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:45265bd1,vid:jCtWbIFA3nk,st:0)

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/article/how-to-make-a-gingerbread-house/>

**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 at 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.