

# Musical Plays for Special Days by Gil Srote

Recorded by Children from P. S. 63, Queens, New York City

The Great Bullfight / New Suit for Easter / School is a Useful Tool / I Believe in Santa Claus

Scholastic Records SC 7560



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The Great Bullfight  
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Library of Congress Catalogue No. R61-1835  
Produced by Folkways Records, N.Y. ©1961  
Distributed by Scholastic Records, 906 Sylvan Avenue,  
Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632

Descriptive Notes are Inside Pocket

SCHOLASTIC SC 7560

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# MUSICAL PLAYS FOR SPECIAL DAYS

Four plays with music, recorded by New York City school children  
under the direction of author-composer Gil Słote.

## "THE GREAT BULLFIGHT"

FROM

MUSICAL PLAYS FOR SPECIAL DAYS

BY

GIL SŁOTE

(The waiter goes to get the drinks. He returns, places the drinks on the table, and leaves.)

JOANNE:

My, Linda. Wasn't that bullfight thrilling? I've never been so excited in all my life! And Manolete, wasn't he marvelous? How could he stand up to that ferocious bull? Why, he could have been killed! I'm so excited! I wish they had bullfights in America!

LINDA:

Well, I'm certainly glad they don't. I don't want to see another bullfight, again! I can't stand all that blood! And that poor, poor bull. Why, he doesn't even stand a chance! First, the picadors come on their big horses and jab at the bull with their sharply pointed poles. Then the banderillos come, and they stab the bull with their banderillas. And then the matador comes with his sword and he stabs the bull, too. How cruel! Don't they have an ASPCA in Mexico?

JOANNE:

But you know, Linda, they say that the bull that dies in the ring has led a much better life than the bull that dies in the slaughter house.

LINDA:

How is that?

JOANNE:

Well, up until the time the bull enters the ring he's led a king's life. He's been well fed and allowed to roam around in the pasture, pretty much as he pleases. But the ordinary bull - well - he's not treated too nicely. Both bulls die, but the bull that dies in the ring has led a much better life. And do you know what, Linda?

LINDA:

What?

JOANNE:

The bullfighter, or matador, as they refer to him is compared to a ballet dancer!

LINDA:

A ballet dancer! What a joke that is! How do you explain that?

JOANNE:

It's because his footwork is so graceful. To really appreciate a bullfight you must watch the matador's footwork. I think a bullfight is the most thrilling sport in the world!

LINDA:

Well, I hate it!

Song - "I LOVE (HATE) TO WATCH A BULLFIGHT" Sung by Joanne (LOVE) then by Linda (HATE)

JOANNE:

I LOVE TO WATCH A BULLFIGHT.  
IT THRILLS ME THROUGH AND THROUGH.  
I LOVE TO WATCH A BULLFIGHT,  
AND A HANDSOME MATADOR, TOO.

OH, I WOULD BE WILLING  
TO SIT THROUGH A THRILLING,  
EXCITING BULLFIGHT EVERY DAY.  
I'D SCREAM RIGHT OUT LOUD

## BACKGROUND

The Great Bullfight is a musical play based upon the life of that famous Spanish matador, Manolete. Manolete was actually killed in Spain but in The Great Bullfight the locale is changed to Mexico. The children in my class preferred it that way because the play was to be used as part of the school's observance of Pan American Day.

It is interesting to note that the Miguel of my play, better known in real life as Luis Miguel Dominguin, or simply Dominguin, eventually went on to become Spain's prince of the matadors.

At the time of the writing of this play, Dominguin, though retired, was challenged for world supremacy, by a younger matador named Antonio Ordenez. Dominguin, just as Manolete did when challenged by him some years before, accepted. I don't believe, however, that the same fate befell him.

## "THE GREAT BULLFIGHT"

ACT I Sunday evening in a typical Mexican cafe.  
ACT II The following Sunday evening in the same cafe.

The cast includes: Announcer  
Waiter  
Joanne  
Linda  
Mario  
Manolete  
Miguel  
Juan

The songs include: "I LOVE (HATE) TO WATCH A BULLFIGHT" sung by Joanne and Linda.

"MANOLETE'S SONG" sung by Manolete.

"PRIDE" sung by Linda, Joanne, and the waiter.

## "THE GREAT BULLFIGHT"

ACT I

ANNOUNCER:

It is Sunday evening in a typical Mexican cafe. Two American tourists, who have been their first bullfight, enter and take seats at a table. The waiter goes over to attend to them.

WAITER:

Tequila, señoritas?

JOANNE:

Oh no! That's much too strong. We'll have a Coca Cola.

WAITER:

Si, Señoritas.

WITH THE REST OF THE CROWD:  
"OLE, BULLFIGHTER, OLE.  
OLE, OLE, OLE, BULLFIGHTER, OLE!"

LINDA:

I HATE TO WATCH A BULLFIGHT.  
IT MAKES ME WANT TO SCREAM.  
FOR WHEN I WATCH A BULLFIGHT,  
IT'S LIKE HAVING A VERY BAD DREAM.

I WOULD RATHER JUST GO  
AND LEAVE OLD MEXICO,  
THAN TO SEE A BULLFIGHT ANYMORE.  
IT'S CRUEL AND IT'S MEAN.  
IT'S A BLOOD THIRSTY SCENE,  
AND IT SHOULD BE PROHIBITED BY LAW.  
AWAY, AWAY, AWAY BULLFIGHTER AWAY.

(The girls then do a dance in the style of La Raspa, while the piano plays the accompaniment. Upon completion of the dance the girls then sing their own parts, against each other. Linda's part is exactly the same but Joanne's is changed slightly, for the sake of a better balance. Joanne's part, when the two girls sing against each other, is as follows:

JOANNE:

I LOVE TO WATCH A BULLFIGHT.  
IT THRILLS ME THROUGH AND THROUGH.  
I LOVE TO WATCH A BULLFIGHT,  
AND A HANDSOME MATADOR, TOO.

OH, I WOULD BE WILLING  
TO SIT THROUGH A THRILLING,  
EXCITING BULLFIGHT EVERY DAY.  
I'D SCREAM RIGHT OUT LOUD  
WITH THE REST OF THE CROWD.  
IN MY BOOMING VOICE, WITH IT I'D SAY,  
"OLE, OLE, OLE, BULLFIGHTER, OLE!"

When the girls complete their song, they sip their drinks. At this point Manolete and a friend enter the cafe. They look around and go to a table within view of the two American tourists).

LINDA:

Look Joanne! Isn't that Manolete sitting over there?

JOANNE:

I'm sure it is. I'd recognize his face anywhere!

(The voices of the two American tourists fade and we now hear those of Manolete and his friend).

MARIO:

You were magnificent today, Manolete. The crowd adored you!

MANOLETE:

I am pleased, Mario, because I fight the bull no more!

MARIO:

What do you mean?

MANOLETE:

I am retiring, Mario. For ten years I fight the bull, and for ten years I please the crowd. Now, I please myself. I am still young and rich and I want to enjoy life.

(A busboy comes to Manolete's table and begins to clean it).

JUAN:

Excuse me, Manolete, while I clean your table.

MANOLETE:

How is bullfight school, little Juan?

JUAN:

Bullfight school is fine and I am doing very well. Someday, I will be brave and great like you, Manolete!

MANOLETE:

I'm sure you will.

(Juan leaves and Manolete says to Mario:

MANOLETE:

They think that a bullfighter's life is magnificent. They think it is wonderful being a famous bullfighter. That is because they do not know what it is like. For ten years I fight the bull and for ten years I live in fear. Everytime I have entered the ring I was afraid. Little did the crowd know that every time I was in the ring I expected to die. But I have been lucky. Twice I was badly hurt, but I am still alive. I'm a human being, Mario. And I hate to live in fear!

Song: "MANOLETE'S SONG" Sung by Manolete.

PEOPLE THINK 'CAUSE I STAND UP TALL  
IN THE MIDST OF A TERRIBLE FIGHT:  
THAT I'M BRAVE AND STRONG,  
BUT THEY'RE REALLY WRONG,  
'CAUSE INSIDE I'M JUST SHAKING WITH FRIGHT.

YOU CAN NEVER TELL, FROM A PERSON'S FACE,  
WHAT IS GOING ON IN HIS HEAD.  
FOR WHEN I'M IN THE RING,  
I AM SHIVERING,  
AND I WISH I WERE HOME SAFE IN BED.

WHEN I WALK DOWN THE STREET THEY SAY,  
"HERE COMES MANOLETE! VIVA, MANOLETE!"  
THEY ADMIRE ME SO,  
BUT THEY DON'T KNOW -  
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN FEAR,  
EVERY DAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR,  
NOT KNOWING IF IT'S WILLED -  
THAT I'M TO BE KILLED!

THOUGH I'M TREATED LIKE A GREAT GRECIAN GOD,  
I MUST STATE THAT I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY.  
FOR I'M JUST LIKE YOU,  
I AM HUMAN, TOO,  
AND CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO DIE.  
I LOVE LIFE AND I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

Manolete's voice fades and now we hear the Two American tourists).

JOANNE:

Isn't it exciting, Linda - being in the same cafe with Manolete? I'd give anything to meet him. I'm going to ask the waiter if it can be arranged.

(She calls the waiter over).

Waiter, may I ask of favor of you?

WAITER:

Si, senorita. What is it?

JOANNE:

Could we meet Manolete? (She slips him a few pesos).

WAITER:

I don't know. He is a very famous man.

JOANNE:

Oh, please.... (She slips him a few more pesos).

WAITER:

Well, I will see what I can do.

(He goes to Manolete's table. At first Manolete is hesitant, but the waiter finally succeeds).

LINDA:

Look! Manolete and his friend are getting up. The waiter is bringing them here!

WAITER:

Senoritas, I'd like to introduce you to Manolete and Mario.



ACT II.

ANNOUNCER:

It is the following Sunday - the day of the great match. The two American tourists are seated in the same cafe.

LINDA:

I'm glad we came here instead of going to the bullfight. I can't bear to see that match between Manolete and Miguel.

JOANNE:

Oh, I do hope Manolete wins the match. What time is it?

LINDA:

(Looks at watch). It's eight o'clock.

JOANNE:

The match should be over by now.

LINDA:

Look! Here comes Miguel.

(Miguel enters the cafe. He sits down at a table. He is badly shaken up).

WAITER:

(he runs over to Miguel's table followed by the two girls). Miguel, what happened? Where is Manolete?

MIGUEL:

Manolete is dead!

ALL:

Dead!

MIGUEL:

The greatest bullfighter of them all is dead!

JOANNE:

How did it happen?

MIGUEL:

Manolete was superb! His footwork was beautiful! The crowd cheered him. He was making me look foolish. I had to do something! When my turn came, I got too close to the bull. I tripped and fell. The bull charged at me, and would surely have killed me - but Manolete leaped in between us and tried to save me. He succeeded, but was killed, himself!

(Miguel stands up and staggers out saying:

Manolete!! Manolete! Forgive me! I will never fight the bull again!

WAITER:

You know senoritas, Manolete was a great man! But he had one weakness, and that weakness was his downfall.

LINDA:

What was that?

WAITER:

He suffered from too much pride. A man must learn to control his pride. If Manolete had learned to control his pride he would still be alive today.

LINDA:

Well, I guess it's time to leave.

JOANNE:

We won't be seeing you anymore. We're going back to the states tomorrow.

My, what a pleasant surprise! We're delighted to meet you. Won't you sit down and join us?

JOANNE:

We saw you at the bullfight, today, Manolete, and we thought that you were just wonderful!

MANOLETE:

Muchas gracias, senorita.

LINDA:

Tell me Manolete, aren't you afraid to stand face to face with that ferocious bull?

MARIO:

Who, Manolete? Of course not, senorita?

MANOLETE:

Of course not!

MARIO:

(Noticing that someone is entering the cafe). Here comes Miguel, Manolete. I'll bet he's up to no good.

MIGUEL:

(He looks around, sees Manolete, and approaches him). I hear this was your last bullfight, Manolete!

MANOLETE:

Yes, Miguel. I am retiring from the ring. From now on the cheering crowds are yours.

MIGUEL:

It is wise that you are retiring, Manolete. You are too old, too slow, too sloppy. Your fighting days are over anyway.

MANOLETE:

Perhaps you are right.

MIGUEL:

Now I am the best. I can do things now that you could never do. And if you were not retiring I would challenge you.

MANOLETE:

But I am retiring, Miguel.

MIGUEL:

You are retiring because you knew I would challenge you. You are afraid to match me. Admit it!

MANOLETE:

I am retiring, Miguel.

MIGUEL:

You were never as good as they say you were. You are afraid... afraid...afraid! I am better now than you ever were!

MANOLETE:

I accept your challenge! When shall we match ourselves against the bull?

MIGUEL:

On Sunday!

MANOLETE:

On Sunday, it will be then!

CURTAIN

WAITER:

I hope you have enjoyed your stay here in Mexico. Also, I hope that you have learned something about pride. Too much, can be very bad. Remember Manolete, señoritas.

LINDA:

We certainly will! And about pride!

Song: "PRIDE" Sung by Linda and repeated with all three singing.

IT CAN MAKE YOU DO SOME WRONG THINGS,  
EVEN LEAD YOU TO DISASTER.  
THAT'S UNLESS YOU QUICKLY SHOW  
THAT YOU'VE BECOME THE LORD AND MASTER  
OF YOUR BIG, STRONG, POWERFUL PRIDE.

IT CAN TAKE YOU FOR A WILD RIDE,  
AS IF ON A FRIGHTENED HORSE.  
BUT AGAIN, THAT ANSWER IS  
THAT YOU MUST SHOW THAT YOU'RE THE BOSS  
OF YOUR BIG, STRONG, POWERFUL PRIDE.

LEARN TO SEE IT, (Sung by Linda, only when the song is repeated).  
BE AWARE (Sung by Joanne, only when the song is repeated).  
WHEN IT'S TAKING (Sung by Linda, only when the song is repeated).  
HOLD OF YOU. (Sung by Joanne, only when the song is repeated).  
THAT IS WHEN YOU CAN TAKE CARE, (Sung by Linda only).  
AND DECIDE JUST WHAT YOU'RE TO DO. (All sing to the end).

IT CAN MAKE YOU DO SOME GOOD THINGS,  
MAKE YOU WORK WITH CARE AND SKILL.  
AND THE FINE THINGS THAT YOU TURN OUT,  
CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE WILL  
OF YOUR VERY VIGOROUS,  
OFTEN DANGEROUS,  
BIG, STRONG, POWERFUL PRIDE!

CURTAIN

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR "THE GREAT BULLFIGHT"

1. Would you like to see a bullfight? Why or why not?
2. What are some of the lessons this play teaches.
3. Have you ever been in a situation in which you couldn't control your pride?
4. How can pride be a good thing?
5. What kind of person was Miguel? Do you know anyone like him?
6. What did you like or dislike about this play?
7. Would you suggest any changes? If so, what are they?

#### "A NEW SUIT FOR EASTER"

FROM

MUSICAL PLAYS FOR SPECIAL DAYS

BY

GIL SLOTE

#### BACKGROUND

I wrote "A New Suit For Easter" at a time when I was teaching in a low socio-economic neighborhood. The problem of obtaining a new suit or dress was a very real one to the children in this neighborhood; and so I decided to put this problem in musical play form. My class presented the play and it was very well received.

It's the kind of play in which children love to perform, and one from which they learn a great deal.

#### "A NEW SUIT FOR EASTER"

ACT I SCENE I A group of boys in the park.  
ACT I SCENE II The very next day. All the boys and girls, except Kenny, are in the park.  
ACT I SCENE III A short while later on a busy street.  
ACT II In the park the day before Easter.

The cast includes: Announcer  
Robert  
Jeff  
Bruce  
Mark  
Kenny  
Linda  
Jeanette  
Jean  
Anne  
Joanne

The songs include: "A NEW SUIT FOR EASTER" Sung by Mark, Kenny and the entire cast.  
"EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME" Sung by Joanne, Kenny, Linda, Jean, Anne, Jeanette, and the entire cast.  
"IT'S NOT THE CLOTHES THAT MAKES THE MAN, BUT HIS HEART" Sung by Joanne and Kenny.

#### "A NEW SUIT FOR EASTER"

ACT I - Scene 1:

ANNOUNCER:

A group of boys are in the park playing ball. They stop playing and begin to talk among themselves.

ROBERT:

Say fellas, do you realize that Easter is only a few days away?

JEFF:

Are you kidding, Robert? Why, I've been marking off all the days on the calendar, since Christmas!

ROBERT:

I wish it were here already. Then I'd be able to dress up in my new suit. Gee, it's a beauty! Wait'll you see it!

BRUCE:

If you think yours is swell wait'll you see mine. I've had it 'specially made and you won't see another one like it. It'll knock your eyes out!

MARK:

Why don't you fellas cut it out already and stop bragging about your new Easter suits! You may as well face it. They're going to look ordinary compared to mine!

Song: "A NEW SUIT FOR EASTER" Sung by Mark.

I'VE GOT A NEW SUIT FOR EASTER.  
IT'S SHARP BUT IT'S NOT TOO LOUD.  
AND IN MY NEW SUIT FOR EASTER  
I'LL FEEL SO VERY PROUD.

I'LL WALK DOWN THE STREET AT EASTER.  
AND WHEN ALL THE GIRLS DO SEE  
THE SUIT THAT I'M WEARING FOR EASTER,  
THEY'LL ALL MAKE EYES AT ME.

AND IN A WHILE,  
I'LL GO TO THEM AND SAY  
WITH A CONFIDENT SMILE,  
"LET'S WALK TOGETHER, TODAY".

WE'LL WALK DOWN THE STREET TOGETHER,  
ALL DRESSED UP IN CLOTHES SO FINE.  
ENJOYING THE LOVELY SPRING WEATHER,  
FOR EASTER'S A WONDERFUL TIME.  
OH, EASTER'S A WONDERFUL TIME.

(All the boys, except Kenny, join Mark and repeat singing the song. Kenny goes to the side, places his hand on his chin, and sadly looks on. At the conclusion of the song, Kenny says:

KENNY:

4 Hey look! Here come the girls!



What are all you boys so busy talking about?

JEFF:

Why Easter, of course. I'll bet you girls don't even know that Easter is just a few days away!

JEANETTE:

We certainly do! We've just got our new Easter clothes and can hardly wait to wear them.

JEAN:

I've got such a beautiful dress!

ANNE:

My bonnet is the cutest thing!

LINDA:

I just love my new shoes.

JEANETTE:

You know, I'm so glad that Easter's come around. It's such a happy time!

Song: "EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME"

JOANNE:

I LIKE TO WALK RIGHT DOWN THE STREET,  
JUST FEELING FINE AND DRESSED UP NEAT.  
OH, EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME!

KENNY:

AND GOSH, THE LADIES LOOK SO FAIR  
IN EASTER BONNETS THAT THEY WEAR.  
YES, EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME!

ALL:

FA LA LA LA LA LA.

(The girls sing the "LAS" and the boys whistle).

I'M SO HAPPY, SO GAY.  
FA LA LA LA LA LA.  
I WISH IT WERE EASTER EACH DAY.

LINDA:

TO COLOR EASTER EGGS IS FUN,  
ESPECI'LY WHEN THEY'RE FOR SOMEONE.  
YES, EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME!

JEAN:

I LIKE TO CATCH THE BREATH OF SPRING,  
IT MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE AND SING.  
OH, EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME!

ANNE:

AND WHEN THE FLOWERS START TO BLOOM,  
THEY MAKE THE AIR SMELL LIKE PERFUME.  
YES, EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME.

ALL:

FA LA LA LA LA LA.  
I'M SO HAPPY, SO GAY.  
FA LA LA LA LA LA.  
I WISH IT WERE EASTER EACH DAY.

JEANETTE:

I'M GLAD THAT WINTERTIME IS PAST,  
AND EASTERTIME IS HERE AT LAST.  
FOR EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME.

ALL:

YES, EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME!

LINDA:

(Looking at her watch). My, it's getting late! I'd better be going home, now.

ALL: (Except Joanne and Kenny).

Me too! (All exit except Kenny and Joanne).

JOANNE:

What's the matter with you, Kenny? Why do you look so sad and so unhappy?

KENNY:

It's because I am sad and I am unhappy!

JOANNE:

Why, Kenny?

KENNY:

I don't think you'd care to hear about it. After all, most people don't want to hear about other people's troubles, anyway!

JOANNE:

But I do, Kenny. Tell me, please....

KENNY:

Well, it has to do with Easter. You see, everybody's got new clothes except me. My father lost his job and can't afford to buy me any.

JOANNE:

So what, Kenny?

KENNY:

So what? Why it means that I won't be able to come out for Easter, that's what!

JOANNE:

But you have last year's suit, don't you?

KENNY:

Yes, I do.

JOANNE:

Wear that one, then.

KENNY:

Are you joking? It's an old suit and it's full of patches. Why everybody would laugh at me if I ever wore that for Easter?

JOANNE:

But everybody likes you, Kenny! I'm sure they won't laugh at you. And anyhow, it's not the clothes that makes you what you are, it's you, yourself!

Song: "IT'S NOT THE CLOTHES THAT MAKES THE MAN, BUT HIS HEART"  
(Sung by Joanne)

IT'S NOT THE CLOTHES THAT MAKES THE MAN BUT HIS HEART,  
BUT HIS HEART,  
YES, HIS HEART.  
IT'S NOT THE CLOTHES THAT MAKES THE MAN BUT HIS HEART,  
AND A GOOD HEART YOURS IS, TOO. (When duet-just Joanne)

OH, A GOOD SUIT ON A BAD BOY CAN'T LOOK GRAND,  
UNDERSTAND?  
CAN'T LOOK GRAND.  
YES, A GOOD SUIT ON A BAD BOY CAN'T LOOK GRAND,  
'CAUSE HIS BAD HEART RIPS RIGHT THROUGH.

THROUGH A BROWN SUIT, (When duet-just Joanne)  
THROUGH A BLUE SUIT, (When duet-just Kenny)  
THROUGH A RIP ROARING. BRAND NEW GOOD SUIT

IT'S NOT THE CLOTHES THAT MAKES THE MAN BUT HIS HEART,  
BUT HIS HEART,  
YES, HIS HEART,  
IT'S NOT THE CLOTHES THAT MAKES THE MAN BUT HIS HEART,  
AND A GOOD HEART YOURS IS, TOO. (When duet-just Joanne)

(Joanne then, if possible, does an interpretive dance to the song as the piano plays the accompaniment. When she completes her dance, or the singing of the song, if that's all she has done, both she and Kenny sing the song together).

KENNY:

Thanks for trying to make me feel good. But it's no use. I haven't got a new suit for Easter, and that's all there is to that. I'll just have to stay in the house and nobody will know the difference. I've got to be going home now. So long, Joanne.

JOANNE:

'Bye, Kenny.

ACT I - Scene 2

ANNOUNCER:

It is the very next day. All the boys and girls, except Kenny, are in the park having a discussion.

JOANNE:

So you see, we've got to help Kenny out. He hasn't enough money to buy a new Easter suit and he feels terribly about it!

MARK:

Say, I have an idea!

LINDA:

What is it, Mark?

MARK:

Suppose each of us went out and got a job. I bet that if we pooled all the money we earned, we could buy Kenny a suit!

JEAN:

But we don't have enough time! Easter is only a few days away!

MARK:

Well, what are we all standing around and talking for? We're only wasting precious time. Let's get started!

ACT I - Scene 3

ANNOUNCER:

It is a short while later. The action takes place in various parts of the neighborhood.

ROBERT:

Shoeshine? Shoeshine? Shoeshine, mister?

MAN:

I'll have one.

ROBERT:

(Gets down on his knees and vigorously shines the man's shoes). There you are, sir. You have a real beautiful shine!

MAN:

It looks good. Here, keep the change.  
(Gives Robert a quarter).

ROBERT:

Thanks, mister. Shoeshine? Shoeshine? Exit.

LINDA:

(Appears wheeling a baby-carriage. She stops, takes the baby out of the carriage, and sings:

ROCK-A-BYE BABY ON THE TREETOP  
WHEN THE WIND BLOWS THE CRADLE WILL ROCK.

I don't like baby-sitting at all. But at least it pays well.

She places the baby back into the carriage and exits singing:

ROCK-A-BYE BABY ON THE TREETOP.....

MARK:

(Appears carrying an extremely heavy package. He stops, rests the package on the ground, and wipes his brow).

Wow! Delivering groceries is sure a hard job! But at least I'm making money. We'll get that suit yet! (He picks up the package and exits).

BRUCE:

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! First man lands on the moon and returns to tell about it! Get your latest paper! Extra! Extra! (exit)

ACT II

ANNOUNCER:

It is the day before Easter. All the boys and girls except Kenny, are talking among themselves.

MARK:

Gee. I never really thought we could make enough money to buy Kenny a new suit!

ALL:

But we did it, by golly! We did it!

JEFF:

Say, suppose he doesn't accept it. Did you ever stop to think that he might not?

JOANNE:

Don't worry about that, Jeff. If that matter comes up, I'm sure I can handle it.

MARK:

Hey! Here comes Kenny, now!

KENNY:

Hello, everybody.

ALL:

Hi, Kenny.

JOANNE:

Kenny, close your eyes.

KENNY:

What for?

JOANNE:

Never mind, just close them.  
(Kenny closes his eyes).  
Ready...Open!  
(Joanne, with a package in her outstretched hands, smiles at Kenny).

KENNY:

Why ... What's this?

JOANNE:

6 It's an Easter present from all of your friends.



What is it?

ANNE:

Open it.

KENNY:

(Opens package) Why it's a suit! A brand new suit!  
(He pauses to think the situation over). Oh no! If you  
think I'm going to accept this suit, you're crazy!

BRUCE:

Aw, come on, Kenny!

ALL:

Yea, come on, Kenny!

KENNY:

How did you ever get the money for it?

ANNE:

We earned it.

KENNY:

Earned it?

ROBERT:

I shined shoes!

MARK:

I delivered groceries!

LINDA:

I did baby sitting!

BRUCE:

I sold newspapers!

JOANNE:

We all worked for it, Kenny!

KENNY:

I won't accept it, that's all. I just won't!

JOANNE:

Kenny, let me ask you a question?

KENNY:

Go ahead, but remember, I'm not going to change my mind!

JOANNE:

Suppose, someday, one of us needed help. Would you try to  
give it to us if you could?

KENNY:

Yes, I think I would. At least I would try.

JOANNE:

Well, today we don't need any help. But we know that you do.  
So, we're giving it to you, realizing, that someday, when we  
need help, you're going to give it to us.

ANNE:

That's right, Kenny!

JEFF:

It's true, Kenny!

KENNY:

Thanks, so much. You're all so wonderful! Gee, I can't wait  
'till I try it on. I bet it's a beauty!

Song: "A NEW SUIT FOR EASTER" Sung by Kenny, and then, as a  
finale, by the entire cast.

I'VE GOT A NEW SUIT FOR EASTER.  
IT'S SHARP BUT IT'S NOT TOO LOUD.  
AND IN MY NEW SUIT FOR EASTER  
I'LL FEEL SO VERY PROUD.

I'LL WALK DOWN THE STREET AT EASTER.  
AND WHEN ALL THE GIRLS DO SEE  
THE SUIT THAT I'M WEARING FOR EASTER  
THEY'LL ALL MAKE EYES AT ME.

AND IN A WHILE,  
I'LL GO TO THEM AND SMILE,  
"LET'S WALK TOGETHER, TODAY".

WE'LL WALK DOWN THE STREET TOGETHER,  
ALL DRESSED UP IN CLOTHES SO FINE:  
ENJOYING THE LOVELY SPRING WEATHER,  
FOR EASTER'S A WONDERFUL TIME.  
OH, EASTER'S A WONDERFUL TIME.

CURTAIN

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR "A NEW SUIT FOR EASTER"

1. What are some of the ideas this play is trying to bring out?  
Do you agree with them?
2. What type of boy is Kenny? Would you like to be like him?  
Why or why not?
3. What is a friend? Do you have many friends?
4. Would you have accepted the suit? Why or why not?
5. List some ways, other than those mentioned in the play, in  
which children can earn money?
6. What type of person is Joanne? Is she a leader? Why?
7. What did you like or dislike about this play?
8. Would you suggest any changes? If so, what are they?

#### "SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL"

FROM

MUSICAL PLAYS FOR SPECIAL DAYS

BY

GIL SLOTE

#### BACKGROUND

The idea for School is a Useful Tool emerged from my observations  
and experiences in teaching children. The ideas were culled from  
the children, themselves, ie., from compositions and discussions.

It is both a humorous and serious play, for the ideas it brings  
forth, though seeming humorous at the time, are really analyti-  
cal in nature. It's the kind of play that makes you both laugh  
and think.

#### "SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL"

- SCENE I Early one morning. A group of boys are on their  
way to school.
- SCENE II Three o'clock the same day. A group of girls  
are on their way home from school.
- SCENE III Evening. A mother talking to her daughter at  
home.
- SCENE IV Announcer introducing Scene IV in front of  
closed curtain. When curtain opens a montage of  
people in different occupations.

The cast includes:

Announcer
Mark
Jeff
Bruce
Robert
Kenny
Linda
Anne
Judy
Jeanette
Mother



Daughter  
Dentist  
Patient  
Nurse  
Scientist  
Judge  
Lawyer  
Defendant  
Director  
Actress  
Businessman  
Secretary

The songs include: "THAT'S WHEN I'D LIKE SCHOOL" Sung by Kenny and all the boys.  
"TEACHERS ARE HUMAN, TOO" Sung by Jeanette and all the girls.  
"I'M GLAD THAT I'M ME" Sung by daughter.  
"SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL" Sung by, Announcer, Actress, Dentist and entire cast.

"SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL"

ANNOUNCER:

Have you ever stopped to think that you spend five to six hours for one hundred and ninety days a year, and twelve to sixteen years of your lifetime, in just attending school? Well, we have. And through our play entitled "School is a Useful Tool", we're going to show you our interpretation of the different ways in which school has an effect upon you.

SCENE I - It's early one morning and a group of boys are on their way to school.

MARK:

Gee, we're having a spelling test today and I didn't even study my words. How about asking me some, Jeff?

JEFF:

O.K. Spell macaroni.

MARK:

Mac-ca-ro-ni.

JEFF:

Good. Spell ukulele.

MARK:

U-ku-le-le.

JEFF:

Alright, let's see if you can spell this one: antidisestablishmentarianism.

MARK:

Say, that wasn't one of our spelling words!

JEFF:

So what. Spell it anyway.

MARK:

Antididestablishmentarianism. An-ti

BRUCE:

(Interrupting Mark) Golly, am I tired! I can hardly keep my eyes open! I was up until twelve o'clock midnight last night watching the late show. Why doesn't school start a little later? Then, maybe, I could get some sleep!

ROBERT:

You said it! Going to school doesn't give us enough time to watch television. From three o'clock until twelve o'clock is hardly enough time.

MARK:

If I had my way, we'd have school for two months a year instead of ten! And during the two months that we did have school we'd only go from two o'clock until three!

KENNY:

You know, the real problem with attending school is that it interferes with our freedom. It doesn't let us do what we want, when we want to do it! Now, I'm not particular, see. But if a few minor changes were made, I believe I could actually get to like school!

Song - "THAT'S WHEN I'D LIKE SCHOOL" (Sung by Kenny and repeated by all the boys).

IF I COULD COME WHENEVER I FELT LIKE,  
LEAVE WHENEVER I WANTED TO LEAVE,  
MAKE UP EACH AND EVERY RULE,  
THAT'S WHEN I'D LIKE SCHOOL.

IF I COULD TALK WHENEVER I WANTED,  
CHEW WHENEVER I WANTED TO CHEW,  
CARRY ON LIKE ON APRIL-FOOL,  
THAT'S WHEN I'D LIKE SCHOOL.

THEN, WOULD I FEEL JUST AS FREE  
AS A BIRD SOARING HIGH IN THE SKY.  
THEN, WOULD I TRULY BE  
THE WORLD'S MOST HAPPY GUY.

IF I COULD LEARN WHENEVER I WANTED,  
PLAY WHENEVER I WANTED TO PLAY,  
GET UP LATE WHEN THE WEATHER'S COOL,  
THAT'S WHEN I'D LIKE SCHOOL.  
THAT'S WHEN I'D LIKE SCHOOL.

CURTAIN

ANNOUNCER:

It's about five hours later and we see a group of girls on their way home from school.

LINDA:

Boy! Does my teacher pile on homework! We get homework every night and in every subject, too! Doesn't she realize that because she gives us so much homework we don't have a chance to watch Million Dollar Movie!

ANNE:

Well, you're lucky! All your teacher does is pile on homework. I don't mind doing homework. But my teacher - she just never lets us talk. She doesn't even let us whisper. A cemetery is like Times Square compared to our classroom!

JUDY:

I don't mind doing homework. And after all, it is easier to do schoolwork when a classroom is quiet. But I wish my teacher would smile, at least once in a while.

JEANETTE:

You girls make it sound as though teachers were just plain mean and not at all human!

LINDA:

Well, are they human?

JEANETTE:

Certainly they're human! My mother has her hands full with three children. A teacher has about thirty-five. And the way some of us act you can't blame them for not smiling very often. After all....

Song - "TEACHERS ARE HUMAN, TOO" (Sung by Jeanette)

TEACHERS ARE HUMAN, TOO,  
JUST AS HUMAN AS YOU AND I.  
AND JUST AS YOU AND I,  
TEACHERS GROW OLD AND DIE.



TEACHERS ARE HUMAN, TOO,  
LIKE US, THEY LIKE CHOCOLATE CAKE.  
BUT LIKE US, TOO MUCH CHOCOLATE CAKE  
GIVES THEM A STOMACH ACHE.

TEACHERS WERE KIDS ONCE THEMSELVES.  
AND TEACHERS HAD SCHOOL ONCE THEMSELVES.  
AND TEACHERS HAD TEACHERS,  
THEN THEY BECAME TEACHERS,  
AND WE MAY BE TEACHERS, OURSELVES.

TEACHERS ARE HUMAN, TOO.  
AND EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE,  
YES, EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE,  
CHILDREN MAKE TEACHERS SMILE.

TEACHERS WERE KIDS ONCE THEMSELVES.  
AND TEACHERS HAD SCHOOL ONCE THEMSELVES.  
AND TEACHERS HAD TEACHERS,  
THEN THEY BECAME TEACHERS,  
AND WE MAY BE TEACHERS, OURSELVES.  
WE MAY BE TEACHERS, OURSELVES.

LINDA:

Well, perhaps you're right. But I still wish my teacher  
wouldn't give so much homework.

ANNE:

And I wish teachers would let us talk a little more. I love to  
talk.

JUDY:

And I wish teachers would smile. I love to see people smile!

All the girls:

TEACHERS WERE KIDS, ONCE THEMSELVES.  
AND TEACHERS HAD SCHOOL ONCE THEMSELVES.  
AND TEACHERS HAD TEACHERS,  
THEN THEY BECAME TEACHERS,  
AND WE MAY BECOME TEACHERS, OURSELVES.  
WE MAY BE TEACHERS, OURSELVES.

CURTAIN

ANNOUNCER:

It is now evening and we see a student talking to her mother.

MOTHER:

I'm not at all pleased with the way you're growing up. You're  
not at all like me when I was your age. And look at this  
report card, only six A's! I'm quite sure Alice has a better  
report than you.

DAUGHTER:

But mother, all Alice ever does is study! She never goes out-  
side to play.

MOTHER:

And your penmanship is atrocious! Why don't you write as well  
as Mary Lou? Her penmanship is beautiful!

DAUGHTER:

But mother, I try my best.

MOTHER:

All I can say is that you certainly don't take after me. I  
guess you take after your father! Well, I've got to go out  
now and play bridge with the ladies, tonight. I want you to  
stay in your room and do your homework. And no television!  
After all, Rosalie never watches television!

DAUGHTER:

But mother, Rosalie never watches television because it  
bothers her eyes.

MOTHER:

Never mind. You just do your homework and go to bed! Goodnight,  
dear.

DAUGHTER:

Goodnight, mother. Why must mothers always compare their  
children with someone else's children? Why don't you be like  
Alice? Why don't you be like MaryLou? Why don't you be like  
Rosalie? I don't want to be like Alice. I don't want to be  
like MaryLou. I don't want to be like Rosalie. I just want to  
be me!

Song - "I'M GLAD THAT I'M ME" (Sung by Daughter)

I MAY NOT BE ANY MOVIE STAR  
OR AS SMART AS I WOULD LIKE TO BE.  
AND ALTHOUGH MY LUCK MAY NOT GO TO FAR,  
STILL I'M GLAD THAT I'M ME.

I MAY NOT BE ANY MILLIONAIRE  
OR A WELL KNOWN CELEBRITY.  
BUT I ASK, HOW CAN I REALLY CARE,  
WHEN I'M GLAD THAT I'M ME.

NOW, I'M NOT JEALOUS OF ANYONE,  
OR EVEN STARRY-EYED.  
THE WAY I AM IS THE WAY I'LL BE -  
'CAUSE WITH MYSELF I'M SATISFIED.

AT MOST THINGS, I'M NOT SUPERIOR.  
AND, I GUESS, I WON'T MAKE HISTORY.  
BUT TO NONE, DO I FEEL INFERIOR -  
THAT'S WHY I'M GLAD THAT I'M ME.  
I'M SO GLAD I'M ME.

(If possible, she now does an interpretive dance to the first two  
verses of the song while the piano plays the accompaniment. When  
she completes her dance she sings the last two verses of the  
song).

MARK:

(Interrupting the announcer)

Wait a minute! Wait a minute!

ANNOUNCER:

What's the matter?

MARK:

What's the name of this play?

ANNOUNCER:

School is a Useful Tool.

MARK:

Well, you haven't shown anything useful about school, yet!  
Is school useful?

ANNOUNCER:

Of course! Very much so!

MARK:

Well, let's see. Show me.

ANNOUNCER:

Just stand aside and watch.

(The curtain ascends and the stage is a montage of people  
engaged in different occupations. They stand, frozen).

All the people you now see in front of you could not have be-  
come what they are today, without having first attended school.  
The dentist and his nurse:

DENTIST:

Open wider, please.

PATIENT:

Ah.....  
(Patient opens mouth and dentist drills his teeth).

NURSE:

9 Now that didn't hurt at all. Did it?



PATIENT:

(With mouth still open) Ahhhhhhh.....

ANNOUNCER:

The scientist:

SCIENTIST: (Mixing chemicals)

Eureka! I've got it! Now people won't have to live in fear of that dreaded disease. I've discovered the cure for cancer!

ANNOUNCER:

The judge and lawyer:

JUDGE: (Rapping on his bench)

If we don't get more order in this court I'll have to clear it! Now, let's continue.

LAWYER: (Pointing to defendant)

Where were you on the night of December twenty-fourth?

DEFENDANT:

Sitting home and waiting for Santa Claus to come. Where else would I be on Christmas Eve?

ANNOUNCER:

The director and actress:

DIRECTOR:

Cut! Now let's do that scene over again, and this time with more emotion!

ACTRESS:

They laugh at me when I say I'll become a great actress. But that's because they're jealous. I'll show them. Someday, I'll win the Academy Award!

ANNOUNCER:

The businessman and his secretary:

BUSINESSMAN:

Miss Jones. Take this letter. Dear Mr. Peabody, in answering your request for ...

MARK:

(Interrupting) O.K., O.K. You don't have to go any further! It's all very clear. In today's world practically every occupation requires schooling. It's as simple as that.

ANNOUNCER:

That's the idea. Now you get the point!

Song - "SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL"

ANNOUNCER:

SOME KIDS WILL ALWAYS LIKE SCHOOL.  
AND SOME KIDS WILL NEVER LIKE SCHOOL.  
BUT WHOEVER YOU MAY BE  
YOU'LL HAVE TO AGREE  
THAT SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL.

ALL:

IN LEARNING ABOUT THE STARS,  
THE SUN AND PLANETS LIKE MARS,  
THE FLOWERS AND TREES,  
WHAT MAKES A BREEZE,  
SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL.

IN LEARNING TO THINK FOR YOURSELF,  
AND NOT RUN AWAY LIKE AN ELF,  
FROM SOMETHING NEW,  
PUZZLING YOU,  
SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL.

ANNOUNCER:

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A NURSE,  
A BALLPLAYER OR A COP?

ACTRESS:

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME FAMOUS,  
AND CLIMB RIGHT TO THE TOP?

DENTIST:

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A DOCTOR,  
AND CURE PEOPLE WHEN THEY ARE SICK?

ALL:

WELL, WHATEVER IT IS, REMEMBER THIS;  
THAT YOU CAN HAVE YOUR PICK,  
IF YOU JUST FOLLOW THIS RULE:  
USE SCHOOL AS YOUR TOOL.

IN LEARNING RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER,  
TO TREAT EVERYONE LIKE A BROTHER,  
NO MATTER WHAT RACE,  
COLOR OF FACE,  
SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL.  
SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL.

CURTAIN

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR "SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL"

1. Do you like going to school? Why or why not?
2. What are some things you like about school? What are some things you don't like about school?
3. What kind of teachers do you like? Why? What kind of teachers don't you like? Why not?
4. Would you like to become a teacher? Why or why not?
5. Does your mother compare you to other children? Do you think this is good or bad? Why?
6. How would you like your mother to treat you?
7. Is school important to you? Why or why not?
8. What are some of the things this play is trying to say? Do you agree with them?
9. What do you like or dislike about this play?
10. Would you suggest any changes? If so, what are they?

"I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS"

FROM

MUSICAL PLAYS FOR SPECIAL DAYS

BY

GIL SLOTE

#### BACKGROUND

I received the idea for I Believe in Santa Claus from that famous editorial written in the New York Sun by the late Francis P. Church.

It was written as an answer to a letter from four year old Virginia O'Hanlon, who wanted to know if there really was a Santa Claus.

Mr. Church's famous editorial stated that there was a Santa Claus, and that he would live forever.

"I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS"

The play is just one act. All the action takes place in front of the curtain and in a classroom, when the curtain is raised.

The cast includes: Opening chorus of singers  
Bruce  
Teacher  
Linda  
Joanne  
Edward  
Mark



Robert  
Jeanette  
The real-live Santa Claus  
Class of children

The songs include: "WE OPEN OUR PLAY" Sung by chorus.  
"OLD MAN WINTER'S ON HIS WAY" Sung by Linda  
and chorus.  
"WHY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE TIME?" Sung by  
Robert and  
class.  
"I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS" Sung by Jeanette,  
Bruce, and class.  
"THE REAL-LIVE SANTA CLAUS" Sung by Santa  
Claus and class.

"I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS"

The play opens with a group of children singing the following song:

"WE OPEN OUR PLAY"

WE OPEN OUR PLAY IN A SINGING WAY.  
FA LA LA LA LA LA.  
AND WE HOPE YOU WILL LIKE OUR PLAY, BECAUSE  
IT'S ALL ABOUT SANTA CLAUS.  
SING FA LA LA LA LA.  
FA LA LA LA LA.  
FA LA LA LA LA LA.

SO, SIT BACK, RELAX, AND YOU'LL FEEL GAY.  
FA LA LA LA LA LA.  
FOR SANTA CLAUS HIMSELF, THIS DAY,  
WILL COME TO APPEAR IN OUR PLAY.  
SING FA LA LA LA LA.  
FA LA LA LA LA.  
FA LA LA LA LA LA.

(The chorus goes behind the curtain and Bruce appears).

BRUCE:

Hello! My name is Bruce Bell. I'm eleven years old and I'm in  
the sixth grade. I guess I'm like every other boy my own age  
except, perhaps, for one thing. You see, I believe in Santa  
Claus! And I always will believe in Santa Claus! Even when  
I'm old and gray.

Now you might ask, "How can an eleven year old boy possibly  
believe in Santa Claus? A five year old, alright, but certain-  
ly not an eleven year old.

Well, let me tell you right now that it's easy, and it's won-  
derful! And I feel sorry for anyone who doesn't believe in  
Santa Claus!

But I wasn't always this way. At least not up until this past  
Christmas.

It all began during a regular school day, when my teacher, Miss  
Meindel was saying.....

(The curtain rises and we see a class being addressed by its  
teacher).

TEACHER:

As you all know, our class has volunteered to present a play for  
Christmas. Since there is not much time left until Christmas,  
I think we had better start getting ideas for the play, right  
now.

LINDA:

Some of us know a song about winter. May we sing it?

TEACHER:

Certainly! Go right ahead.

(A group of children come forward. Linda sings the song alone  
and then is joined by the group for a repeat. When the song  
is sung for a second time Linda sings just the third verse,  
alone).

Song: "OLD MAN WINTER'S ON HIS WAY"

GET OUT THAT WINTER OVERCOAT  
AND HEAVY RUBBERS, TOO;  
'CAUSE OLD MAN WINTER'S ON HIS WAY,  
AND HE HAS COLD NEWS FOR YOU.

GET OUT THAT HEAVY WOOLEN SCARF  
TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE BREEZE;  
'CAUSE OLD MAN WINTER'S ON HIS WAY,  
AND HE'S OUT TO MAKE YOU FREEZE.

NOW OLD MAN WINTER IS A ROUGH AND TOUGH,  
AND CAN ROAR LIKE A LION IN THE ZOO.  
BUT IF YOU'RE READY WHENEVER HE COMES  
HE'LL JUST BE FUN FOR YOU. SO,

GET OUT THAT SLED AND SHINY SKATES.  
NOW HURRY, DON'T BE SLOW;  
'CAUSE OLD MAN WINTER'S ON HIS WAY  
WITH LOTS OF SOFT, WHITE SNOW.

(If so desired, instead of a singing repeat of the entire song,  
the children can do an ice-skating dance routine to the piano  
accompaniment of the first two verses of the song and then end  
by singing the last two verses).

TEACHER:

How many children would like to use that song in our play?  
(Many children raise their hands). Fine, we will use it. Well  
class, we still need some more ideas. (A girl raises her hand).  
Yes, Joanne?

JOANNE:

Just about all of us like Christmas very much. Suppose we ask  
ourselves why? Maybe we can get some ideas that way?

TEACHER:

That's an excellent idea! Let's do it. Edward, why do you like  
Christmas?

EDWARD: (Stands)

I like Christmas because that's the time I eat the biggest and  
best meal of the year. I eat soup, turkey, sweet potatoes,  
cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, soda, cookies, nuts, ice cream,  
and candy. Boy! I sure wish it were Christmas right now!

TEACHER:

Mark, why do you like Christmas?

MARK: (Stands)

I like Christmas because that's the time I get a long vacation  
from school. Sure, School's alright. And the teachers, well...  
they're O.K., too. But boy... that vacation! Yihoo! I sure  
wish it were Christmas, right now, too!

ROBERT: (Comes forward)

I like Christmas just as much as anyone else! It's a wonderful  
holiday. But there's something about it that makes me real  
angry!

TEACHER:

What's that, Robert?

Song: "WHY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE TIME?" Sung by Robert.

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR,  
AND TO ALL IT BRINGS GOOD CHEER.  
DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH IS FINE,  
BUT WHY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE TIME?  
WHY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE TIME? (Class)

ON EACH CHRISTMAS WE LOVE ALL,  
AND WITH GOODNESS WE GROW TALL.  
DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH IS FINE,  
BUT WHY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE TIME?  
WHY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE TIME? (Class)

CHRISTMAS IS A JOLLY DAY,  
BUT ON THIS DAY, WE ALL SHOULD SAY,  
DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH IS FINE,  
BUT WHY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE TIME?  
DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH IS FINE, (Class)  
BUT WHY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE TIME?

TEACHER:

I think most of us will agree with you on that idea, Robert.  
Jeanette, what about you? Why do you like Christmas?



JEANETTE: (Comes forward)

I like Christmas because that's the time Santa Claus comes around!

BRUCE:

Ha! Ha! Ha! What a joke! What a joke!

TEACHER:

You come up here immediately and tell the class just what's so funny!

BRUCE:

Do you mean to say that you really believe in Santa Claus? Aw, come on. You're just joking!

JEANETTE:

No, I'm not joking. I really do believe in Santa Claus!

BRUCE:

But Santa Claus is something only kids believe in. He's not alive or real! How can you believe in something that's not alive or real?

JEANETTE:

Santa Claus is alive! And he is real!

BRUCE:

Well then, if Santa Claus is alive, and he is real, why haven't I ever seen him? And don't tell me about that department store Santa Claus, because he is a fake altogether! I ask you again, Jeanette. If Santa Claus is alive and he is real, why haven't I ever seen him?

JEANETTE:

You never see him, because you don't believe in him. You see, in order to see Santa Claus you have to really believe in Santa Claus!

Song: "I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS" Sung by Jeanette.

I DON'T BELIEVE ANY FAIRY TALES,  
BUT EVERY CHRISTMAS IT NEVER FAILS  
THAT I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE I CAN WATCH THE SKY  
AND SEE SOME REINDEER GO RIDING BY,  
FOR I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS.

THERE'S NO SECRET TO KNOW.  
IT'S SOMETHING INSIDE THAT YOU FEEL -  
RIGHT FROM YOUR HEAD  
DOWN TO YOUR TOE,  
THAT SANTA CLAUS IS REAL.

I DON'T BELIEVE THERE COULD BE MUCH FUN  
IF THAT "OLD MAN" WOULD NEVER COME -  
SO, I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS.  
I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS!

(The song is then repeated, with the entire class standing and singing it. Jeanette sings the third verse solo during the repeat. Bruce, stands, moved by the meaning and spirit of the song).

BRUCE:

You know, Jeanette, I don't know if it's that song or not, but I sort of believe in Santa Claus, now, too. But golly, I sure wish I could see him.

JEANETTE:

Do you honest and truly believe in Santa Claus now?

BRUCE:

Yes, I do!

JEANETTE:

Then look straight ahead!

(Through the door comes Santa Claus. He comes dancing down the aisles with his bulging pack slung over his left shoulder. The musical accompaniment is "Jingle Bells". When he reaches the front of the room he puts his pack down, smiles at Jeanette and Bruce, and bellows:)

SANTA CLAUS:

Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!

Song: "THE REAL-LIVE SANTA CLAUS" Sung by Santa Claus and the class.

SANTA CLAUS:

I'M THE REAL-LIVE SANTA CLAUS.  
NOT THE FAKE, BUT THE REAL SANTA CLAUS.  
I LOVE TO GIVE OUT LOTS OF TOYS  
TO WELL DESERVING GIRLS AND BOYS.  
I'M THE REAL-LIVE SANTA CLAUS.

CLASS:

HE'S THE REAL-LIVE SANTA CLAUS.

SANTA CLAUS:

NOT THE FAKE BUT THE REAL SANTA CLAUS.  
I DON'T WORK FOR DEPARTMENT STORES,  
OR CHANGE MY CLOTHES BEHIND CLOSED DOORS,  
I'M THE REAL-LIVE SANTA CLAUS.

CLASS:

HE'S THE REAL-LIVE SANTA CLAUS.  
NOT THE FAKE BUT THE REAL SANTA CLAUS.

SANTA CLAUS:

YOU SAY YOU DO BELIEVE IN ME,  
WELL, HERE I AM FOR ALL TO SEE.  
I'M THE ONE AND ONLY, TRUE BLUE,  
REAL-LIVE SANTA CLAUS.

CLASS:

HE'S THE ONE AND ONLY, TRUE BLUE,  
REAL-LIVE SANTA CLAUS.

(Santa Claus takes some presents from his pack and hands them out. He yells, "Merry Christmas!" and disappears from whence he came.)

The entire class stands, with Bruce and Jeanette at its head and once more sings "I Believe in Santa Claus." This time, however, both Jeanette and Bruce sing the third verse solo).

CURTAIN

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR "I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS"

1. Do you agree with the boy who sings the song "Why not make it all the time?" Why or why not?
2. Do you believe in Santa Claus now? Did you ever believe in Santa Claus? If so, when and why did you stop?
3. What is this play trying to say about believing in Santa Claus?
4. What did you like or dislike about this play?
5. Would you suggest any changes? If so, what are they?