

# SANTA'S ENCHANTED WORKSHOP

## SANTA'S ENCHANTED WORKSHOP

Book, lyrics, and music  
by Richard Giersch

Additional lyrics by Bruce  
C. Miller

### AT THE LIBRARY

[How the Grinch Stole Christmas!](#) by Dr. Seuss

[Santa's Reindeer](#) by  
Rod Green

[The Legend of St. Nicholas: A Story of Christmas Giving](#) by  
Dandi Daley Mackall

[The Polar Express](#) by  
Chris Van Allsburg

[The Real Santa Claus: Legends of Saint Nicholas](#) by Marianna  
Mayer

### ON THE WEB

[History of Santa Claus](#)

[National Geographic Kids: Winter Celebrations](#)



*From the 19th century: Thomas Nast's vision of old Saint Nick*

## PLAY SYNOPSIS

In Virginia Rep's production of Santa's Enchanted Workshop, Stanley and his sister SuSu embark on a journey to the North Pole in search of Santa. Stanley doubts his existence, and young SuSu is disturbed by the notion that Santa may not exist. But when a blizzard causes them to lose their way, they find shelter in an old gas station building. It's there that they meet Old Nick, who convinces them that the old gas station is really Santa's Enchanted Workshop and that he, himself, is Santa.

Stanley and SuSu learn that, with a little imagination, Christmas magic can light up even an old garage. With Nick's help, Stanley's faith is restored and the children are reminded that it's not the gifts of Christmas that are important, but simple faith that keeps life magical: "Now we believe, and now we see that all the magic things in life are ours for free. We'll open our eyes before time flies by. This old world's brighter than we thought a world could be."

## SEQUENCING A STORY

All stories have a beginning, middle, and an end. In the beginning, we meet the characters and a problem or conflict arises. The action rises throughout the story. Toward the end, the characters find a solution to the problem or conflict.

1. Read these events from *Santa's Enchanted Workshop*
2. Cut them out and put them in time (chronological) order
3. Glue the events onto a large piece of paper and draw a picture for each



The old service station becomes Santa's Enchanted Workshop #63

Susu and Stanley get lost in the snow

Susu asks Stanley to tell her a story

The policeman finds Susu and Stanley

Susu and Stanley try to find the North Pole and Santa Claus

Stanley tells Susu that he doesn't believe in Santa

### **Journal Share:**

If you could change an event from *Santa's Enchanted Workshop*, what would it be? Explain how you would make the story different.

## USING MAPS

In Santa's Enchanted Workshop, Stanley and SuSu decide to travel to the North Pole to find Santa.

**Use the map below to answer the following:**

1. To travel to the North Pole from your home, in which direction would you travel?
2. What would you expect to see in the North Pole?
3. What makes this map view of the world different than most? Explain.

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4. Color the land green and the water blue in the map below. Then label continents, oceans, and the North Pole.



*Map courtesy of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook*



## CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Each country - and each family - has their own traditions and celebrations. Visit the National Geographic Kids website on Winter Celebrations, and choose one winter celebration to learn more about. Then use the chart below to compare the celebration learned about with your family's winter celebration.



### What did you notice?

1. Why do you think people celebrate in different ways?

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2. What is your favorite celebration?

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3. If you were to begin a new celebration, what would it be? How would you celebrate? What time of year would you celebrate?

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## RHYME: THE LYRICAL MIRACLE



A little bit, A little bit of imagination.  
A little bit, A little bit of imagination.  
A little bit of imagination

That's all it takes these days.  
Just sit down there and be patient,  
Let your imagination lead the way.

You can turn a hubcap into a boat,  
Or a trunk into a car.  
Just add a couple wheels or whatever  
you feel, and voila! There you are.

Then you hop into your car and away you fly,  
To anywhere with the greatest speed...  
A little bit of imagination is all you really need.

A little bit, a little bit of imagination.  
A little bit, a little bit of imagination.

....

A little bit of imagination

### Terms to Know:

**Rhyme** (noun): a repetition of similar sounds in two or more different words; most often used in poetry

**Lyrics** (noun): words of a song

**Repetition** (noun): when words or themes in a story or poem are used more than once

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Many songs contain words that **rhyme**. Read the lyrics above from *Santa's Enchanted Workshop*. Use different colored pencils to circle pairs of words that rhyme.
2. Why do you think song writers, poets, and playwrights use repetition? Discuss.
3. Use the space at the bottom of the page to write a poem about your favorite holiday. Use rhyme and repetition. Use the back of the sheet if you need to.

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## CUES AT THE THEATRE



When you are in an audience at *Santa's Enchanted Workshop*, or any play, pay attention to the following:

### **Cue**

- 1) Command given by stage management to the technical departments.
- 2) Any signal (spoken line, action or count) that indicates another action should follow

### **House Lights**

The auditorium lighting, which is commonly faded out when the performance starts.

### **Blackout**

The act of turning off (or fading out) stage lighting

### **Curtain Call**

At the end of a performance, the acknowledgement of applause by actors - the bows.

### **Build / Check**

Build is a smooth increase in sound or light level; check is the opposite - a smooth diminishment of light or sound.

### **Fade**

An increase, decrease, or change in lighting or sound.