



2002

The Christmas Story

Charity Anderson

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Wood, David. *The Christmas Story*. A & C Black, 1996.

Reviewer: Charity Anderson;

Reading Level: Intermediate;

Rating: Dependable;

Genre: Play; Christmas Plays

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Christmas--Juvenile literature

B+ 4-6 Reviewed by Charity Anderson

This simple play follows the birth of Jesus Christ using Joseph as the narrator. It starts with the angel coming to Mary and telling her that she is going to have a baby. The audience is then introduced to the Roman soldiers, the three kings, and the shepherds. In the second act we see Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, paying their taxes, and then finding no room in the inn. It ends with the birth of Christ.

The cast size consists of twenty-four characters and a choir. Some parts are small and may be double cast if necessary. The blend of music and acting is well done. The play starts and ends with the nativity tableau. The play is well written and has a lot of detail. The author openly gives authority for changes where desired.

At the beginning of the play the author said, "I have tried to combine the traditional elements of the holy story with reverent humor." This was not the case in some areas of the play. Not all of the humor will be considered reverent by some audience members.