

The Colors of Christmas

A Children's Celebration of the Nativity

By Dottie Lafferty

- Setting:** Grandma's Living Room
- Scene:** The only props will be an easy chair or side chair with a lamp and an easel with newsprint.
- Characters:** Grandma
Assorted children of all ages
- Opening:** Grandma is seated in easy chair reading. The children enter from all directions, chattering and tossing their coats on the front row of pews or in the choir loft. They greet Grandma with hugs and much exuberance. Grandma expresses her pleasure that the children have come to visit and invites them to sit around and tell all about their Christmas. (Grandma's lines can be ad libbed as comfortable.)
- Grandma:** I am so glad you've all come to visit me. Why don't you all sit down and tell me about your Christmas?
- (The children are seated, older children holding younger children on their laps.)**
- Grandma:** Did Santa come to visit you?
- (The children respond enthusiastically.)**
- Grandma:** Did you get some nice gifts?
- Child1:** I got a new bike.
- Child2:** I got a new Barbie.
- Child3:** I got some great videos.
- Child4:** I got a new Nintendo game.
- Child5:** I got some stupid Colors!
- Grandma:** What do you mean, "stupid colors"?

Child5: Aunt Jane gave me a box of colors. Colors are for babies and I'm not a baby.

Grandma: What makes you think colors are just for babies? There are colors all around us. In fact, the colors you got could tell us the story of the first Christmas.

Child5: What do you mean?

Grandma: Go get me my drawing supplies and that box of colors you don't like and I'll show you.

(Child6 and Child9 bring the drawing supplies. They also bring a box of colors or colored chalk.)

Grandma: Let's start with this color (holding up the black crayon). What do you think black tells us about Christmas?

Child6: Black is ugly. Black doesn't have anything to do with Christmas.

Grandma: Black was very important to that first Christmas night. Do you remember the story about a dark night?

Child7: Yeah, the shepherds were outside at night. It was dark.

Grandma: (Pointing out the black midnight sky and placing the green hillside.). That's right. The night was dark and the sky was black as the shepherds sat on a hill that night. Let's use green to color the hillside. Can you think of a song that tells this part of the story?

Child8: I KNOW! How about ***It Came Upon a Midnight Clear?*** Let's sing that!

SONG:

It came upon a midnight clear,
 That glorious song of old.
 From angels bending near the earth
 To touch their harps of gold.
 "Peace on the earth, good will to men,
 From heaven's all-gracious King."
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 To hear the angels sing.

Grandma: That was very nice. Something in that song made me think of another color that was very important that first Christmas night. What color do you think that was?

Child9: I bet you're thinking of white, 'cause of the angels, right?

Grandma: You're right. I am thinking of white. But not just because of the angels. Can you think of anything else in the story that was white?

Child3: How about the sheep?

Grandma: Very good! The shepherds were watching their sheep when the angels appeared and told them about the baby Jesus.

(Grandparent begins to add the sheep and the angels to the picture.)

Child6: I know a song that tells about the angels and the sheep. Let's sing *The First Noel*.

SONG: The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Grandma: Oh, I just love to hear you children sing. Here's another color. Can you think of anything brown in the story of Jesus?

Child2: I bet you're talking about the stable aren't you?

Grandma: Right! Brown is the color of the stable, in Bethlehem, where Mary gave birth to the baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph make me think of some other colors. Here's blue. Mary may have worn blue and she may have wrapped the baby in blue cloths or a blue blanket. After all he was a baby boy! Mary probably sang her baby to sleep that night.

(Grandma adds Mary and Joseph and the stable.)

Grandma: You know after Mary sang her baby to sleep she didn't have a crib or a cradle to lay him in. What does this color remind you of (holds up a tan crayon)?

Child10: That looks like the color of hay.

Grandma: Yes, it is. Tan is the color of the hay in the manger. That was the only place that Mary had to put her baby to bed that night. But it didn't stay quiet in that stable for long, did it? Mary, Joseph and the baby had some visitors didn't they?

Child8: Yeah, they did. The shepherds came to visit them and to see the baby.

Grandma They probably looked at the baby and asked, "What child is this?"

(As Grandma adds the manger, the hay, and the baby, The children sing one verse of *What Child is This?*)

SONG: What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Grandma: There were some other visitors that came to see Jesus, too, weren't there? Does the color yellow make you think of anything?

Child6: The star!!! You haven't drawn the star yet!

Grandma: How could we forget the star? That star is what told everyone about this special baby. They all asked each other, "Do you see that? What is it?"

(As Grandma places the star in the sky, the children sing the opening verse of *Do You Hear What I Hear?*)

SONG: Said the night wind to the little lamb,
"Do you see what I see?"

"Do you see what I see?"
Way up in the sky little lamb.
"Do you see what I see?"
"Do you see what I see?"
A star, a star, dancing in the night,
With a tail as big as a kite.
With a tail as big as a kite.

Grandma: That star told the good news to some very important people. Do you know who they were?

Child1: You're talking about the Wise Rulers aren't you?

Grandma: Yes, I am. They were very important and rich people from a far off land. They saw the star and decided to visit the baby. Let's use red, purple and green for their clothes! Can you sing about the kings?

(Grandma adds the Wise Men to the picture. The children sing one verse of *We Three Kings*.)

SONG: We three kings of Orient are.
Bearing gifts we've traversed afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star.
Oh, star of wonder, star of light.
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to that perfect light.

Grandma: The kings brought gifts to the baby that night. Let's use gold and silver to draw those gifts..... There! Look! You see, that box of colors was a wonderful gift to you—a gift that helped us share the joy of the first Christmas with each other. What kind of gifts would you give to the baby?

Child6: I'd give him a rattle.

Child8: I'd give him a blanket.

Child7: I'd give him me!

Grandma: You know, that reminds me of a poem I learned a long time ago. Can you help me say it?

(As Grandma finalizes the picture, the children recite ***What Can I Give Him?***)

POEM: What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I'd give him a lamb.

If I were a wiseman, I'd do my part.

Yet, what can I give him? Give him my heart.

CLOSING SONG:

As Grandma and the picture remain on the upper platform and the children remain next to the living nativity, the congregation is invited to stand and join them in singing ***Silent Night***.