

## A Nativity Carol

Act 1:

**Curtain opens to an stage EXCEPT for narrator standing at podium, downstage right, and a table with chairs, table placed on angle centerstage.**

*(Dood enters stage left, stomps on stage and slams into a desk, looking very unhappy, flipping through a book and scowling.)*

**Narrator: Ebenezer Dood is all alone in Afterschool Detention on Christmas Eve. Even though he's in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, he still doesn't get it – he has to do his homework AND hand it in.**

**Dood: Stupid Nativity School. Stupid teachers. Stupid Afterschool Detention. No one gives detention on Christmas Eve. I can't believe my mom backed them up on this one. Stupid School. Stupid homework. *(Dood yawns)*. Stupid hard desk. *(Dood yawns again and puts his head down on the desk)*.**

**Narrator: Since it's Christmas Eve, the teacher decides to let the cranky student sleep.**

*(Lebron Marley, a street punk wearing prison clothes, enters stage left, strolls onto stage and whacks Dood upside the head)*

**Lebron Marley: Dood! Pay attention! I don't have much time.**

**Dood: *(shakes his head groggily)* Marley?**

**Lebron Marley: It's me, man. I'm out again. You gotta listen.**

**Dood: I'm listening.**

**Lebron Marley: This is serious. I messed up, but it's not too late for you.**

**Dood: You're playin' me.**

**Lebron Marley: No, I'm serious. There are people coming to see you, and you need to listen. Save yourself, man. It's no good on the inside.**

**Dood: Yeah, right. I know you're still in jail. This is just a dream. Get outta my head, Marley.**

**Lebron Marley:** I tried! Peace, out! (*Lebron Marley exits stage right*)

*(Dood changes position and goes back to sleep)*

**Spirit of Nativity Past:** (*flits onstage, says in a singsong voice*) Ebenezer, honey, pay attention. We have something VERY important to learn.

**Dood:** Shut up.

**Spirit of Nativity Past:** Oh, Ebenezer, that wasn't very nice. Wake up – we have something important to learn today.

**Dood:** Didn't you go away yet?

**Spirit of Nativity Past:** Now don't be a cranky-pants. I don't have much time, and there are others coming to teach you tonight.

**Dood:** Wait a minute?! Are you for real? Are you the one my man Marley told me about?

**Spirit of Nativity Past:** I am indeed. Come along, Young Ebenezer. Touch my sleeve and we'll fly!

*(Dood touches the Spirit of Nativity Past on the sleeve and they "fly" across the stage. A stagehand walks across stage carrying a sign that says, "This is a dream." While they are flying, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders enter stage left, happily marching like the seven dwarfs and then seat themselves around the table.)*

**Narrator:** Dood and the Spirit of Nativity Past have traveled back over two years, to when Dood was a new 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Nativity School.

*Act 2: a happy, busy classroom. Students in oversized uniforms are moving about the classroom doing chores.*

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Teacher:** Okay, gentlemen – time for chores.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grader #1** – Can I sweep?

**6<sup>th</sup> Grader #2** (*Dood as 6<sup>th</sup> grader*) – I want to sweep!

**6<sup>th</sup> Grader #3** – You got to sweep yesterday.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Teacher** – According to the Chore Chart, today is Ebenezer’s turn to sweep. The rest of you will just have to wait your turn.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grader #4** – Can we start our homework?

**6<sup>th</sup> Grader #5** – This is fun. We never got this much homework at our old school.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Teacher** – That sounds like a good plan. Ebenezer will sweep, and everyone else can get started on the homework.

**(Dood & Nativity Past are standing downstage left)**

**Dood** – You expect me to believe I was like that?

**Spirit of Nativity Past** – You were. You all were. You were so happy and excited to be in a school where the teachers cared about you and made sure you did your homework and were learning.

**Dood** – I thought you were going to show me something important, not this cr-stuff.

**Spirit of Nativity Past** – This is important. It’s important to remember how we were, and how much we’ve changed.

**Dood** – This is just stupid. Stupid kids. I’d rather be in ASD than here.

**Spirit of Nativity Past** – Ebenezer, there are a lot of people who seem to care more about you than you care about yourself. And you can take your crabby self back to ASD. I’m done.  
*(Spirit of Nativity Past disappears offstage. Stagehands walk across stage carrying sign that says “This is still a dream.” The 6<sup>th</sup> graders and teacher exit stage right.)*

**Narrator:** Dood is back in Afterschool Detention. He changes position, looks at the clock, grumbles, moans, puts his head back down and goes back to sleep.

The two Secret Service agents enter stage left and check out the premises to make sure it’s safe for the President. Once they have checked things out, they give the “all clear,” which is the cue for the keyboard “Hail to the Chief.” When the music starts, they exit Stage Left & reenter with the Spirit of Nativity Present. The agents & the President stand downstage left.

**Spirit of Nativity Present:** Mr. Dood, I need you to wake up and pay attention. It's time for a change, and I need you to stand up and say, "Yes, I can."

**Dood:** *(rubbing his eyes)* Mr. President?

**Spirit of Nativity Present:** Mr. Dood, I am a busy man, what with the economy and foreign relations and all, but I am making time to show you something important. Touch the sleeve of one of my Secret Service agents and come with me.

*(Dood touches the sleeve of one of the Agents and they fly across stage. Meanwhile all the teachers have entered stage left BEHIND the President and are seated around a large table.)*

**Act 3:**

**Narrator:** For the first time, a student is present at a top secret, 90-90-90 staff meeting. Everyone knows that every time Nativity teachers get together, they talk about the kids, and now we're all going to get to hear what they say.

**Dood:** Stupid teachers. I don't care about their stupid meeting and they don't care about me.

**Spirit of Nativity Present:** My man, you need to close your mouth and open your ears.  
*(Secret Service Agents cover Dood's mouth and force him to listen).*

**Ms. Counterman** – I really appreciate how dedicated you all are to be here at a staff meeting late on a Friday night, and I hate to make you stay, but there's one serious student issue that just can't wait any longer.

**Ms. Scheiner** – Are we going to talk about adding more math classes to the schedule?

**Ms. Counterman** – not tonight, Scheiner – we're just going to take care of this one student issue, and then we're going home. We'll be able to talk about adding more math once we've resolved this student issue.

**Student Mr. Hermeling** – I assume we're talking about Ebenezer.

**Student Mr. Simcox** – He's so smart. I don't get why he won't hand in his homework.

**Ms. Scheiner** – I've seen him helping the other 8<sup>th</sup> graders in homeroom.

**Ms. Dyrli** – He has great ideas when he writes, but I can't get him to proofread.

**Student Mr. Desmarais** – It’s the same for my class. He always has great opinions when we discuss books in class, but when it comes to writing things down, he just refuses.

**Ms. Counterman** – He is one of the brightest students we’ve ever had, but he flunked every class the first marking period. His mom says that he tells her he does all his work at school.

**Student Mr. Hermeling** – Remember what he was like in 6<sup>th</sup> grade? He was Mr. Nativity.

**Student Mr. Mack** – I didn’t know him then, but I know he won’t be going to any high school if he doesn’t get his grades and attitude together. If we don’t get him in the wash, we’ll catch him in the rinse.

**Student Mr. Steele** – He’s been hanging out with Marley’s old gang. That can’t be helping him any. Marley just got out of jail again. He’s been in twice since he got expelled from Nativity.

**Ms. Dyrli** – Marley was also really smart, but he just couldn’t get it in his head that he had to do the work, too.

**Ms. Counterman** – Well, we definitely don’t want to lose another one. We can only blame Step-Drag for so much. How can we get Ebenezer to believe in himself and do what he needs to do to graduate from 8<sup>th</sup> grade?

**Ms. Scheiner** – we could give him more math work. More math is good for everything.

**Student Mr. Desmarais** – he’s not doing the work we give him now. It’s not about being able to do the work – it’s about making him understand how important it is for him to change his attitude.

**Ms. Dyrli** – They used to read “A Christmas Carol” at Nativity. Maybe our Ebenezer needs to be visited by some spirit guides.

**Ms. Counterman** – Or we could base this year’s Christmas program on “A Christmas Carol,” only instead of the main character being Ebenezer Scrooge, we’ll make him our own “Ebenezer Dood.”

**Student Mr. Hermeling** - We’ve tried everything else. Will there be a place in the program for a Ukelele Ensemble?

**Ms. Counterman** – I think we can make that work.

**Ms. Dyrli** – For the dream scenes, can we have the students carry signs across the stage that say, “This is only a dream.”

**Ms. Counterman** – I don’t see why not.

**Ms. Scheiner** – Can we put math problems in the program and make everyone do math before they leave?

**Ms Counterman and All Other Staff** – NO!

**Dood** – they don’t really care about me. They just want to make fun of me in the Christmas program.

**Spirit of Nativity Present** – Young man, you are in for a world of hurt if you don’t soon figure out how much people at your school care about you. I care about you, too, but I have a nation to lead and I need to get back to Washington. Hear me now, if you get your act together, stay in school, and graduate, there is no limit to what you can be. Go ahead, young man – grab on to one of the Agents’ sleeves and we’ll drop you back in detention.

**Dood** – Whatever. Stupid dream sequence.

*(Dood, the Spirit of Nativity Present, and the Secret Service agents fly off stage right. The staff exits stage right. Dood reenters from Stage right and slams down into his desk.*

**Dood** – Stupid dreams – I can’t get any good sleep. It must have been the riblet sandwiches we had for lunch. Or the cheesie channel dogs for dinner. Or all the candy I stole from the staff room. *(Dood looks at the clock).* Stupid clock. I still have 40 minutes of detention to go. May as well get some sleep! *(Dood puts his head down and starts snoring right away).*

**Narrator** – Young Ebenezer may have been dreaming so far, but now he is in for a nightmare. The next Spirit to visit will be the Spirit of “No” Nativity Future. As bad as he thinks it is now, spending Christmas Eve in Afterschool Detention, he is about to find out how much worse his future is without Nativity.

A hulking Spirit of No Nativity Future enters stage left, stomping and being scary. He hovers over the sleeping Dood.

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – Wake up, Dood – that’s my spot.

**Dood** – go away. You smell.

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – Little Man, you are in my spot. I been sleeping on that heat grate since before you was born. Now git.

**Dood** – It's not a heat grate – it's my stupid desk in detention. And even though you really stink, you're just a bad dream. Go away!

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – Now don't you make me git ugly, Little Man. I'm here to show you something important. Get up off your butt and come with me.

**Dood** – if I pretend to come with you in this stupid dream, will you leave me alone?

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – the sooner you come with me, the sooner you can back to this important "project" you're working on.

**Dood** – do I have to touch your sleeve? You smell really bad.

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – I hate to break it to you, Dood, but you been sleeping in my spot. You smell just like me, so you may as well grab onto this sleeve and come along with me.

*(Dood holds his nose and grabs onto the Spirit's sleeve. They fly around on stage and end up on a garbage strewn street corner (standing downstage center, Dood looking out at the audience). The stage hands run across stage behind them with a sign that says, "This is still part of the dream." The punks enter the gym through the door by the water fountain, stand in their three groups, and start posturing on the gym floor, right in front of the stage.)*

**Dood** – You're messed up, Stinky Man. I don't even see me in this little dream scene. At least those other spirits showed me stuff that I was in.

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – Dood, just shut up and listen for a change. I may not have my own Secret Service agents to make you listen, but I can mess you up. Just listen.

**Punk #1** – Yo, guys – didja hear about ole Dood?

**Punk Group #2** – You mean ole Dood from Nativity School?

**Punk Group #3** – Used to be Nativity School. He got mad and quit because he thought he was going to get kicked out.

**Punk Group #2** – That’s not news – everybody know that. He was three months from graduating and he just quit. Stupid.

**Punk Group #3** – No, that was Marley. Dood not that stupid. He still there.

**Dood** – I thought these guys were my friends. Why are they calling me stupid? And why are they talking like they never went to school?

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – Just. Be. Quiet. And. Listen.

**Punk #1** – He’s not still there. That’s what I’m trying to tell you. Dood messed up big time. All he had to do was hand in make up work from when he was suspended for stealing the teachers’ candy out of the staff room.

**Punk Group #2** – Did he quit?

**Punk #1** – Worse!

**Punk Group #3** – Did they expel him?

**Punk #1** – Worse!

**Punk Group #2** – What could be worse?

**Punk #1** – they talked with his mom and decided he needed to learn a lesson. They pressed charges and he went to jail.

**Punk Group #3** – That’s cold.

**Punk Group #2** – That is cool!

**Punk Group #3** – Not cool, cold – harsh! Now he has a record.

**Punk #1** – Yeah, he does – because he’s 14 and they charged him as an adult.

**PunkGroup #2** – You mean all he had to do was some missing homework, and he could still be at Nativity School?

**Punk #1** – That’s what I mean.

**Punk Group #3** – Dood is stupid.

**Dood** – Come on, Stinky Guy, take me back to detention. I’ve had enough. I can’t believe my friends would talk about me like that, even in a nightmare.

**Spirit of Nativity No Future** – So you think they’re your friends?

**Dood** – yeah, I recognized them. I chill with them when I don’t have stupid Afterschool Detention for Nativity.

**Spirit of Nativity No Future** – They’re not your friends, Dood. They’re the ones that told you to blow off the make up work. They want to bring you down to their level.

**Dood** – Oh, just stop it already. Take me back to detention, and you go back to your smelly heat grate, and when I wake up detention will be over and I can finally go home.

Cue – when No Nativity Future starts his aside, the punks exit “stage” right.

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – (*aside*) Hmm. Usually by now the protagonist has started to get a clue about why the spirits are visiting him. This one is really stup – stubborn. We’ll have to try something else, or this Christmas program won’t be over until Valentine’s Day.

**Dood** – Who were you talking to?

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – I was talking to your wife.

**Dood** – There aren’t any girls at this school – I don’t even have a girlfriend - how am I supposed to have a wife?

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – You can change your ways, Ebenezer. Study. Listen. Take the advice of people who care about you.

**Dood** – just take me back to detention.

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – aren’t you even curious? I can see your future without Nativity and I can see your future with Nativity. You’re not curious about being the first Nativity graduate to get his master’s degree?

**Dood** (*starts to look a little interested*) – I guess you can show me some more things.

**Spirit of No Nativity Future** – No, we’re done traveling for the night. Detention is almost over and my time in this world is almost up. It’s up to you now.

*(The Spirit of No Nativity Future pokes Dood in the arm. Dood flops back into his desk and The Spirit leaves).*

*(Dood wakes up, stretching and yawning. He looks at the clock.)*

**Dood - Finally! Stupid detention is over. I'm outta here.**

*(Dood starts packing up his books Detention teacher enters stage left)).*

**Dood - Whoa – something stinks. (Sniffs his underarms). That's right – the dream.**

**Detention Teacher – Ebenezer, I'm so sorry you chose to sleep through detention and not do any of the homework you owe. I assure you this is not a dream.**

**Dood – No, I had a dream. First this teacher came to see me, and then the President, and then this really smelly guy....**

**Detention Teacher – Ebenezer, I assure you there was no one else in this room except the two of us, and I, for one, am ready to leave. Again, I am sorry you chose not to complete your work. You will be missed.**

**Dood – I get it now. Please let me have another chance. I'll work all day tomorrow. I'll come in every day over Christmas break. I'm not stupid and I want to graduate. I get it!**

**Detention Teacher – Thank goodness!**

*(All the Spirits enter the stage LEFT)*

**All Spirits - We're proud of you, Ebenezer – don't give up.**

*(Mr. H and the Ukelele Ensemble enter the stage LEFT)*

**Mr. Hermeling - We're proud of you, Dood. This song is for you.**

*(The Ukelele Ensemble plays "Joy to the World." While they are playing, Lebron Marley, the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders, the Staff, the Secret Service, and the Punks enter the Stage, gather around, and join in the singing).*

*(The Narrator enters the stage.)*

**Narrator:** Ebenezer Dood learned his lesson. It wasn't too late. He did all his make up work, and he always did his homework, and he graduated and went to high school, and graduated, and went to college, and graduated, and landed the job of his dreams and married Miss America and had a beautiful family and made lots of money, much of which he donated to the school that changed his life, The Nativity School of Harrisburg. God bless the Nativity School of Harrisburg.

**Entire Cast:** God bless us, every one!

**Narrator:** Merry Christmas, Everyone! We have one more song for you, and then we invite back to the gym for cookies and punch.

**Cast – (singing) We wish you a merry Christmas!**

**THE END**

**GROUP BOW – ALL EXIT STAGE RIGHT**

**CURTAIN CALL GROUP 1 – 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TEACHER – ENTER STAGE RIGHT, GO TO CENTER OF STAGE & TAKE BOW, WALK TO STAGE LEFT AND STAND**

**CURTAIN CALL GROUP # 2 – TEACHERS INC DETENTION TEACHER – ENTER STAGE RIGHT, GO TO CENTER OF STAGE & TAKE BOW, WALK TO STAGE RIGHT AND STAND**

**CURTAIN CALL GROUP # 3 – PUNKS – ENTER STAGE RIGHT, GO TO CENTER OF STAGE & TAKE BOW, WALK TO STAGE LEFT & STAND**

**CURTAIN CALL GROUP #4 – UKELELE ENSEMBLE – ENTER STAGE RIGHT, GO TO CENTER OF STAGE & TAKE BOW, WALK TO STAGE RIGHT AND STAND**

**CURTAIN CALL GROUP #5 – SPIRITS INC. SECRET SERVICE & MARLEY – ENTER STAGE RIGHT, GO TO CENTER OF STAGE & TAKE BOW, STEP BACKWARDS INTO HALF CIRCLE**

**GROUP #6 – DOOD – ENTER STAGE RIGHT, GO TO CENTER OF STAGE & TAKE BOW – ACKNOWLEDGE NARRATOR, WHO TAKES BOW, AND CAST**

**NARRATOR – THANKS ADULTS, ETC.**

**CURTAIN CLOSES. CAST RESPECTFULLY HANDS IN PROPS, ETC & JOINS RECEPTION.**