



Angel Band Operetta

(Kindergarten/First)

by Lucy Jensen

This is a simple, musical play to be performed during the Christmas season by a kindergarten or first grade class. No scenery or props are necessary, costuming can be as simple as paper headbands or masks, and the musical tunes behind the lyrics are familiar ("Twinkle, Twinkle . . ." "Up on the House . . ." etc.)

Literature Based Learnings::

The ginger cookie characters can be compared to the "Gingerbread Man" in the class tale. They want to escape the fate of being eaten. Unfortunately, the Gingerbread Man is devoured in the old story; however, the ginger cookies, after "running away," are persuaded to return to the Christmas tree with the promise that they will not be eaten on Christmas Eve (in this new tale).

As with classic tales, the plot revolves around a "conflict" (between main characters, or a character and natural events, or a character and himself). The child who has decorated the Christmas tree has added ginger cookies for the purpose of adding cheer with their frosting smiles and also for the purpose of providing refreshments on Christmas Eve. The conflict develops when the cookies learn they are to be eaten; but is

resolved when they are invited to sing with the band and told that they will not be eaten!

Plot:

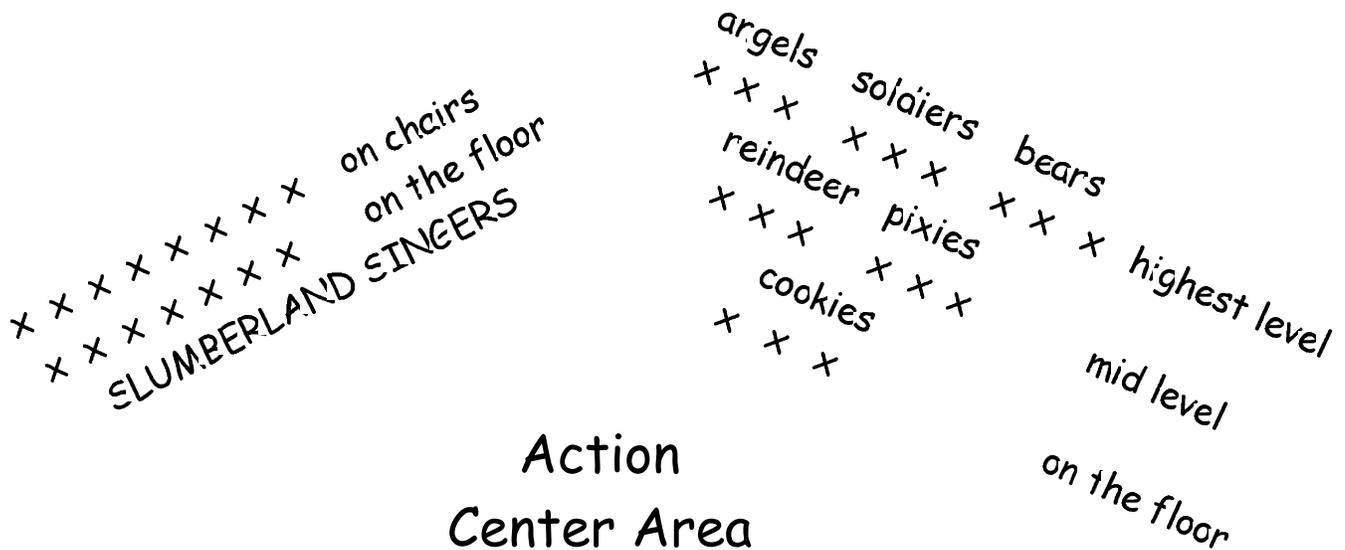
A child decorates a Christmas tree with small ornament characters: Angels, Toy Soldiers, Reindeer, Teddy Bears, Pixie Elves, and Ginger Cookies. While the child sleeps at night, he/she dreams the ornaments come to life and form an "Angel Band" (all except the cookies, who just smile and wait to be eaten. The cookies "run away," but return when the child invites them to sing with the Angel Band and promises that they will not be eaten.

Characters:

- The child who has decorated the tree
Represented by about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the class, who sit together in a group, wear night/sleepwear (robes, slippers and carry stuffed animals), and form "The Slumberland Storytellers."
- Angels (3)
Can wear halos and a strip of tinsel/garland (gold) attached to each arm and draped from wrists to shoulders for wings.
- Toy Soldiers (3)
Paper hats, etc.
- Reindeer (3)
Headbands with antlers, red noses

- Teddy Bears (3)
Headband ears, neck bows, jingle bells on shoes
- Pixie Elves (3)
Pointed elf hats, paper collars
- Ginger Cookies (3)
2 paper plate masks on sticks: one happy, one sad

Stage or Room Setting:



General Movement:

Note: Only the *Ginger Cookies* need to get out of their places as far as the Christmas tree area is concerned. The *Angels, Soldiers, Bears, Reindeer, and Pixies* will stand in place to do their actions. The back row of *Storytellers* will stay in their places, and for the actions of "The Child," various students in the front row can take turns stepping forward into the "Center Stage" area.

Choose seven of the *Storytellers* with easy to hear voices to be the "child" parts numbers 1 to 7. (If you don't want solo parts, then have the children, 1-7, act out the part with all of the *Storytellers* singing.) Children 1-7 sit in the front row.

The Angel Band

Introduction: (optional)

(Child 1, 2, 3, and 4 step to center stage, stand in a row side-by-side, and introduce the play.)

Child 1: We would like to sing you a story about a child, a Christmas tree, and an "Angel Band."

Child 2: All of us (points to the Slumberland Storytellers) are in the Slumberland Chorus (*they wave*). We play the part of the child who decorated this wonderful Christmas tree! (*Points to the ornament characters while they wave and smile at the audience.*)

Child 3: On the tree are many things.
Angels . . . (*stand and wave their wings*),
Toy Soldiers . . . (*smile and wave or salute*),
Teddy Bears . . . (*bow, wave, and shake the bells on their shoes.*)
Reindeer . . . (*shake their antlers and pretend to prance.*)
Pixie Elves . . . (*giggle and wave.*)
And Ginger Cookies!! (*happy masks, wave, etc.*)
Yummm! (*Child rubs tummy.*)

(Ginger Cookies take down their happy masks, say "Oh! Help! Help!" and change to sad masks.)

Child 4: Don't worry Ginger Cookies. Maybe this Gingerbread Man story will have a happy ending!

(Ginger Cookies put back the happy masks.)

To Audience: Listen carefully, and we shall see!
(Child 1, 2, 3, and 4 sit down with the Storytellers.)

The Angel Band

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

For each verse, a different child can walk to center stage, lead the action while the Storytellers sing along:

(Slowly, so that the ornaments can act.)

Child 5: Here upon my Christmas tree,
Decorated carefully,
Angels wave their golden wings (*stand and wave arms*)
Pixie Elves on tinsel swing, (*sway and pretend to swing on tinsel*)
Toy Soldiers stand in rows (*stand, salute*)

All: Waiting for the Christmas show.

Child 6: Here upon my Christmas tree,
There are many things to see,
Rudolph shines his nose so bright,
(*stand and use fingers in front of nose to "sparkle"*)
Glowing with a Christmas light,
Teddy Bears wear collar bows (*stand to show off collar bows*)

All: Waiting for the Christmas show.

Child 7: Here upon my Christmas tree,
Ginger Cookies smile at me.
Raisin buttons on their suits,
Sugar frosting on their boots,
Ginger Cookies, please, oh, please!
Let me eat you Christmas Eve!

*Cookies stand and show
their buttons, boots, etc.)*

(Child sits down. Cookies put on sad masks and shake their heads "NO!")

An Angel: Ginger Cookies, please don't be sad. Put on your happy smiles.
Bring us good cheer!

Toy Soldier: We will find a way to save you! (*Cookies put up happy masks.*)

The Angel Band

(Tune: Up on the Housetop)

This shouldn't be sung too fast so that the children can sing clearly and do the actions.

Child comes to center stage to lead each verse. The "1, 2, 3" lyrics are sung by everyone.

Child 1: Dear little angels on my tree,
Golden wings for all to see,
While I am dreaming in Slumberland,
Will you conduct the Angel Band?
"1, 2, 3" Sway and swing,
"1, 2, 3" Wave your wings,
Dear little angels on my tree,
Please lead the Angel Band for me.

(Child 1 and Angels sit down.)

Angels stand and wave wings and sway in rhythm.

Child 2: Dear Toy Soldiers on my tree,
Standing tall for all to see,
While I am dreaming in Slumberland,
Will you march in the Angel Band?
"1, 2, 3" Rum-a-tum-tum,
"1, 2, 3" Play your drums,
Dear Toy Soldiers on my tree,
March in the Angel Band for me.

(Soldiers sit down.)

Soldiers stand, salute, march in place, and slap thighs for drums.

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Sway and swing,
"1, 2, 3" Wave your wings,
Dear little angels on my tree,
Please lead the Angel Band for me.

(Child 2 and angels sit down.)

Angels stand and wave wings and sway in rhythm.

Child 3: Dear Dancing Teddies on my tree,
Bells on your toes for all to see,
While I am dreaming in Slumberland,
Will you dance in the Angel Band?
"1, 2, 3" Wiggle your nose,
"1, 2, 3" Jiggle your toes,
Dear Dancing Teddies on my tree,
Dance in the Angel Band for me.

(Teddies sit.)

*Teddy Bears stand,
smile, wave and
shake their toes on
the chorus.*

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Rum-a-tum-tum,
"1, 2, 3" Play your drums,
Dear Toy Soldiers on my tree,
March in the Angel Band for me.

(Soldiers sit.)

*Soldiers stand,
salute, march in
place, and slap thighs
for drums.*

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Sway and swing,
"1, 2, 3" Wave your wings,
Dear little angels on my tree,
Please lead the Angel Band for me.

(Child 3 and angels sit down.)

*Angels stand and
wave wings and sway
in rhythm.*

Child 4: Dear Prancing Reindeer on my tree,
Shake your antlers for all to see,
While I am dreaming in Slumberland,
Will you prance in the Angel Band?
"1, 2, 3" Click! Click! Click!
"1, 2, 3" Click your sticks,
Dear Prancing Reindeer on my tree,
Prance in the Angel Band for me.

(Reindeer sit.)

*Reindeer stand,
prance in place and
click their rhythm
sticks.*

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Wiggle your nose,
"1, 2, 3" Jiggle your toes,
Dear Dancing Teddies on my tree,
Dance in the Angel Band for me.

*Teddy Bears stand,
smile, wave and
shake their toes on
the chorus.*

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Rum-a-tum-tum,
"1, 2, 3" Play your drums,
Dear Toy Soldiers on my tree,
March in the Angel Band for me.

*Soldiers stand,
salute, march in
place, and slap thighs
for drums.*

(Soldiers sit.)

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Sway and swing,
"1, 2, 3" Wave your wings,
Dear little angels on my tree,
Please lead the Angel Band for me.

*Angels stand and
wave wings and sway
in rhythm.*

(Child 4 and angels sit down.)

Child 5: Dear Tiny Pixies on my tree,
Swing on the tinsel for all to see,
While I am dreaming in Slumberland,
Will you "ring" in the Angel Band.
"1, 2, 3" Jing-a-Ling, Ling,
"1, 2, 3" Ring-a-Ding, Ding,
Dear Tiny Pixies on my tree,
"Ring" in the Angel Band for me.

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Click! Click! Click!
"1, 2, 3" Click your sticks,
Dear Prancing Reindeer on my tree,
Prance in the Angel Band for me.

*Reindeer stand,
prance in place and
click their rhythm
sticks.*

(Reindeer sit.)

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Wiggle your nose,
"1, 2, 3" Jiggle your toes,
Dear Dancing Teddies on my tree,
Dance in the Angel Band for me.

*Teddy Bears stand,
smile, wave and
shake their toes on
the chorus.*

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Rum-a-tum-tum,
"1, 2, 3" Play your drums,
Dear Toy Soldiers on my tree,
March in the Angel Band for me.

*Soldiers stand,
salute, march in
place, and slap thighs
for drums.*

(Soldiers sit.)

Repeat: "1, 2, 3" Sway and swing,
"1, 2, 3" Wave your wings,
Dear little angels on my tree,
Please lead the Angel Band for me.

*Angels stand and
wave wings and sway
in rhythm.*

(Child 5 and angels sit down.)

Child 6:
(girl) Dear Ginger Cookies on my tree,
Frosting smiles for all to see,
While I am dreaming in Slumberland,
Will you run as fast as you can? *(Cookies nod "yes")*

(Cookies run away, slightly)

"1, 2, 3" Please don't flee,
"1, 2, 3" Wait and see, *(Cookies stop and look at child.)*
For, Ginger Cookies, I understand,
You want to be in the Angel Band! *(Cookies nod, "yes")*

Teddy: But, how can they be in the Angel Band if you are going to eat them?

(Cookies put on sad masks.)

Reindeer: Please don't eat the *Ginger Cookies*!

Elf: We need their cheery smiles!

Soldier: I know! They can sing with the Angel Band!

Child 6:
(girl) That's a good idea! I'm sorry, *Ginger Cookies*, that I was so rude.
Please come back, and I'll skip my snack!

All: Please come back and she'll skip her snack!

(Cookies put on their happy masks and skip back to their tree spots while everyone sings . . .)

All: *(Tune: Paw, Paw Patch)*

Please come back, and she'll skip her snack,
Oh, please come back, and she'll skip her snack,
Oh, please come back, and she'll skip her snack,
Come back to the Christmas tree.

(repeat once)

Child 7: Now the Angel Band with their very special singers, "*The Ginger Cookies*," would like to wish you a Merry Christmas!

*(or . . . would like to share with you some Christmas music."
Insert what songs you wish while everyone sings . . . or go
straight to the following)*

All: We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year!

(shake fingers at the audience)

Now don't eat the Ginger Cookies,
Now don't eat the Ginger Cookies,
Now don't eat the Ginger Cookies,
They bring you good cheer!

(Repeat verse 1)

All: Merry Christmas!!

The End