

“Imagine a Journey”

by
Jenny Craiger

What This short reader’s theater designed for teens and children invites listeners to reflect on the journey, trials, and miracle of Jesus’ birth.

Themes: Christmas, Challenges, Trials, Children, Teens

Who Reader 1
Reader 2
Reader 3
Reader 4
*Can be adjusted based on the number of actors available, see “How” section.

When Present Day/Nativity

Wear (Props) Matching clothing for the Readers or Nativity Clothing/Props (optional)
Manger
Straw
Spotlight

Why Matthew 25:34-40

How This reader’s theater can be adjusted and performed in different ways to meet the needs of the actors available and their abilities.

*See options at the end of this script.

Time Approximately 4 minutes

Manger is center stage, spotlighted, and filled with straw.

Reader 1: Imagine a journey on a donkey for miles,

Reader 2: To get to a census through a desert of trials.

Reader 3: The final location, Bethlehem, to be counted,

Reader 4: And that's the beginning of the trouble that mounted.

Reader 1: Mary was carrying a baby inside.

Reader 2: And Joseph was worried about the difficult ride.

Reader 3: They hopped on a donkey, their journey began,

Reader 4: Despite their concern, they still followed the plan.

Reader 1: Crossing the desert, they traveled along,

Reader 2: Praying that nothing at all would go wrong.

Reader 3: In the city of David they arrived through God's grace,

Reader 4: But then soon discovered a distinct lack of space!

Reader 1: Too many people were there by decree,

Reader 2: So, Mary and Joseph had nowhere to be.

Reader 3: They searched high and low for a good place to stop,

Reader 4: But all inns were full, right up to the top!

Reader 1: God's spirit was with them, He found them a spot.

Reader 2: It wasn't the Ritz, no room service or cot.

Reader 3: Not even a place in a hotel at all,

Reader 4: But a lowly old stable, little more than a stall.

Reader 1: No matter the shelter, a miracle that night.

Reader 2: Baby Jesus was born; the world's shining bright Light.

Reader 3: How would God herald the birth of the King?

Reader 4: A host of His angels would show up and sing.

Reader 1: To shepherds who tended their field in the night.

Reader 2: Invited by God to come see the great sight.

Reader 3: And then in the sky there shown a bright star,

Reader 4: Guiding the Wise Men who came from afar.

Reader 1: So, imagine, if you will, what a miracle God made,

Reader 2: From a dangerous journey by a couple afraid.

Reader 3: A dirty old stable He used for the birth,

Reader 4: Of a baby, His Son, who would save the whole Earth.

Reader 1: Now picture how God could use someone like me,

Reader 2: Small, but with God's help as strong as can be,

Reader 3: And he can use you to do great things, no doubt!

Reader 4: Because miracle-making is what God's all about!

Lights down.

AT

More options for performing this script.

1. Readers stand out of numerical order across the front of the stage, positioned on either side of the manger. They read lines with attention to tone and flow of words. As indicated, they can wear matching clothing or biblical/nativity clothing. In this version, if fewer or more readers are needed, lines can re-numbered to reflect availability.
2. In this version, designed for early readers, lines can be memorized or grouped together in chunks rather than read line-by-line. Actors can stand in the order of their speaking part on either side of the manger to help them track when they are supposed to recite their part. The reading is performed like shorter poems or recitations that join together and will likely require more than 4 actors for younger children. Actors can still wear matching or biblical clothing.
3. Finally, if actors are too young to read or memorize lines (or preparation time is short!), a narrator can read all of the lines. Actors can then silently pantomime various scenes as lines are read (i.e. donkey actor is led out by Mary and Joseph actors; they pantomime looking for a place to stay and the innkeeper actor enters and points to the manger). Each line doesn't have to be acted out separately, but overall themes could be captured with specific lines as queues for actors to move from one pantomimed scene to the next. In this version, biblical clothing is recommended.