

How the Grinch stole Christmas by Dr Seuss

(with additions – verses in blue - by Pat White)

Every Who down in Whoville liked Christmas a lot
The Grinch, who lived just North of Whoville, did NOT!
The Grinch hated Christmas, the whole Christmas season
Now please don't ask why. No-one quite knows the reason.
It could be his head wasn't screwed on quite right.
It could be perhaps, that his shoes were too tight.
But I think the most likely reason of all
May have been that his heart was two sizes too small.

But, whatever the reason, his heart or his shoes,
He stood there on Christmas Eve hating the Whos,
Staring down from his cave with a sour Grinchy frown
at the warm lighted windows below in their town,
for he knew every Who down in Whoville beneath
was busy now hanging a mistletoe wreath.

"And they're hanging their stockings!" he snarled with a sneer,
"Tomorrow is Christmas – it's practically here!"
Then he growled with his Grinch fingers nervously drumming
"I must find a way to stop Christmas from coming!"
For, tomorrow he knew all the Who girls and boys
Would wake bright and early. They'd rush for their toys!
And then! Oh the noise! Oh the noise! Noise! Noise! noise!
That's one thing he hated the NOISE! NOISE! NOISE! NOISE!

Then the Whos, young and old, would sit down to a feast
And they'd feast! And they'd feast.
And they'd feast! Feast! Feast! Feast!
They would start on Who pudding and rare Who roast beast
Which was something the Grinch couldn't stand in the least.

And then
They'd do something he like least of all!
Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small
Would stand close together with Christmas bells ringing
They'd stand hand in hand, and the Whos would start singing
They'd sing and they'd sing
And they'd sing, sing, sing, sing!
And the more the Grinch thought of the Who Christmas sing
The more the Grinch thought "I must stop this whole thing!"
"Why, for 53 years I've put up with it now!
I must stop Christmas from coming – But HOW?

Then he got an idea

An awful idea!

The Grinch, with green face paint and dressed in a onesie, stands elevated at one side of the stage. We made a children's plastic climbing frame into his 'cave'. He (or she) acts out the part as it is read by a narrator.

The rest of the children are the Whos and the stage area is made into their house interior, with a large cardboard box made into a fireplace. Have a couple of adults with them to help the children remember what to do when and to prompt any changes of scene. They hang decorations on a tree and the mantelpiece while this part is being read. There are wrapped gifts around the Christmas tree. (The tree is also cut from card so it is easy to move later) There is also a fridge made from a cardboard box for the Christmas dinner food.

The Whos then go to bed, sleeping on the floor with blankets and pillows.

The Grinch got a wonderful, awful idea!

"I know just what to do" the Grinch laughed in his throat
and he made a quick Santa Claus hat and a coat.
And he chuckled and clucked, "What a great Grinchy trick!"
"With this coat and this hat, I'll look just like Saint Nick!"

"All I need is a reindeer." The Grinch looked around
But since reindeer are scarce, there were none to be found.
Did that stop the old Grinch?
No, the Grinch simply said,
"If I can't find a reindeer, I'll make one instead!"
So he called his dog Max. Then he took some red thread
And he tied a big horn on the top of his head.

Then he loaded some bags and some empty old sacks
On a ramshackle sleigh and he hitched up old Max.

Then the Grinch said "Giddy-up!"
And the sleigh started down
T'ward the homes where the Whos lay a-snooze in the town.

Then he slid down a chimney – a rather tight pinch
But if Santa could do it then so could the Grinch
He got stuck only once for a moment or two
Then he stuck his head out of the fireplace flue
Where the little Who stockings all stood in a row
"These stockings" he hissed "Are the first things to go!"

Then he slithered and slunk with a smile most unpleasant
Around the whole room and he took every present.
Pop guns and bicycles, roller skates, drums,
Checkerboards, tricycles, popcorn and plums
And he stuffed them in bags. Then the Grinch very nimbly
Stuffed all the bags, one by one, up the chimney.

Then he slunk to the fridge. He took the Who's feast!
He took the Who pudding, He took the roast beast!
He cleaned out that fridge as quick as a flash.
Why that Grinch even took their last can of Who hash!

Then he stuffed all the food up the chimney with glee.
"And now" grinned the Grinch, "I will stuff up the tree!"

And the Grinch grabbed the tree and he started to shove
When he heard a small sound like the coo of a dove
He turned around fast and he saw a small Who
Little Cindy-Lou Who, who was just four foot two.

Grinch shows that he has an idea, laughs and gets dressed as Santa.

Use a child to be the dog.

Grinch puts reindeer headband on him/her.

Use a banana box for the sleigh and towed by the dog. The Grinch does not ride in the sleigh – that would make it too heavy.

Grinch comes in through the back of the fireplace which is covered with black fabric, split in the middle.

Grinch creeps around, taking the parcels back through the fireplace and into the sleigh.

Grinch comes back for the food and the tree.

The Grinch had been caught by this little Who daughter
Who'd got out of bed for a cup of cold water.
She stared at the Grinch and said, "Santa Claus, why,
Why are you taking our Christmas tree? Why?
But you know that old Grinch was so smart and so slick
He thought up a lie and he thought it up quick!
"Why, my sweet little tot," the fake Santa Claus lied,
"There's a light on this tree that won't light on one side.
So I'm taking it home to my workshop, my dear,
I'll fix it up there and I'll bring it back here."

And his fib fooled the child. Then he patted her head
And he got her a drink and sent her to bed.
And when Cindy-Lou Who went to bed with her cup
He went to the chimney and stuffed the tree up.

Then the last thing he took was the log for their fire.
Then he went up the chimney himself, the old liar.
On the walls he left nothing but hooks and some wire.
And the one speck of food that he left in the house
was a crumb that was even too small for a mouse.

It was quarter past dawn, all the Whos still in bed
All the Whos still a-snooze, when he packed up his sled
Packed it up with their presents, the ribbons, the wrappings
The tags and the tinsel, the trimmings the trappings.

Three thousand feet up to the top of Mount Crumpit
He rode with his sleigh to the tip top to dump it.
"Pooh Pooh to the Whos" he was Grinch-ish-ly humming.
They are finding out now that NO Christmas is coming!
They are just waking up! I know just what they'll do.
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
Then the Whos down in Whoville will all cry BOO HOO!"

"That's a noise," grinned the Grinch "that I simply must hear!"
So he paused and the Grinch put his hand to his ear.
And he did hear a sound rising over the snow.
It started in low – then it started to grow...
But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry!
It couldn't be so! But it was merry – VERY!

He stared down at Whoville! The Grinch popped his eyes
Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking surprise!
Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small
Was singing, without any presents at all!
He hadn't stopped Christmas from coming – IT CAME!
Some how or other, it came just the same!

(Sing – "Happy Birthday, Jesus")

One younger child to be Cindy Lou, who either speaks the part or just points to the tree while the narrator reads.

Grinch acts this out and leaves – goes back to his 'cave' with the Christmas stuff.

The dog can help carry the box of stuff.

The Whos wake up and sing a Christmas song.

Grinch looks surprised

Then grumpy,

Then puzzled.

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling – how could it be so?
It came without ribbons! It came without tags!
It came without packages, boxes or bags!
And he puzzled three hours, 'till his puzzler was sore
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
“Maybe Christmas” he thought, “Doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas --- perhaps --means a little bit more!?”

Well the Grinch had to learn what we already know
Oh' we all like the fun and we all like the show
But Christmas is not about getting new toys
And having a party and making a noise
Or candles and tinsel and crackers to pull
Or eating pavlova until we're stuffed full.
It's the time that we celebrate Jesus' birth
And remember how he came to us on this earth
To show us and teach us the right way to live
By loving and caring and learning to give.
It's not how much we get or how much we spend
But taking time out with our family and friends
And saying “I love you – you're special to me”
And the gifts that we put at the foot of the tree
Remind us that God gave the best gift of all
In the form of a baby, born in a stall
A gift of God's love, given for all
The rich and the poor, the great and the small.
Yes, Christmas, my friends, does mean so much more
Than all of the trappings we buy in the store.

And what happened next?
Well in Whoville they say
That the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day.
And the minute his heart didn't feel quite so tight
He whizzed with his load through the bright morning light
And he brought back the toys – and the food for the feast.

And he - he himself – the Grinch – carved the roast beast!

Grinch still looking puzzled.

The Who's meanwhile are using their blankets and teatowels to dress up as shepherds and Mary & Joseph, with the help of the adults.

They produce a doll for Baby Jesus and by the time the last verses are read are standing forming a Nativity scene.

The Grinch has a change of heart and he and the dog bring back the Christmas goodies and join the Nativity.