

# NANA'S NATIVITY STORY (2024)

*Original Play Grandpa's Nativity Story by Angela Yardy  
Adapted by Kathleen Bellamy and Hilary Hultman-Lee  
Music Accompaniments by St. Matt's 9:30 Band*

## SPEAKING ROLES

Nana	3 Wise Men	Herod	Roman Soldier
3 Grandchildren	Angel of the Lord	The Star	2 Narrators
Shepherds	Innkeepers	Mary	Joseph
Sheep	Angel Choir		

NARRATOR 1 : Hello and welcome to everyone here  
It's lovely to see you at this time of year.  
I'm sure, there's no doubt that you all know the reason  
For our celebrations at this special season.  
It's not about presents, or parties or fun  
Or family games, when all's said and done.  
They do have some value; they all have their worth  
But none is as special as Jesus's birth.

*(giggling from Children)*

NARRATOR 2: We start as the children are sat up in bed  
When each of them should have been sleeping instead!

CHILD 1: It's the night before Christmas and how can I sleep  
When I'm waiting to hear sounds of reindeer feet?

CHILD 2: How can I sleep when I'm waiting to see  
If anyone has any presents for me?

CHILD 3: Mom told us we shouldn't get overexcited  
But all of our family and friends are invited!

CHILD 1: I really love Christmas. The presents are great.

CHILD 2: I can't get to sleep and it's getting so late.

CHILD 3: I'm sure I can hear some sleigh bells. Can you?  
I think Santa is coming!

All 3 children: *(shout)* Woo hoo!

CHILD 2: Shhhh.... I hear laughter, that's Santa you know...  
I'm sure I just heard a "Ho-ho-ho!"

NARRATOR 2: Now, outside the bedroom where no-one is sleeping,  
Their Nana is listening, and slowly she's creeping.  
She bursts through the door and in a stern voice shouts:

NANA: What're you doing!? What's all of this noise!?

*(Children hide under their blankets, then sit up)*

CHILD 1: But Christmas is coming, we're sorry it's just...

CHILD 3: We can't settle down, but we know that we must!

NANA: I'll tell you what children, I'll do my best  
To help you calm down and get some rest.  
Now get back into bed and I'll read you a story  
That tells you, at Christmas who SHOULD get the glory.

NARRATOR 1: The children all settled, and while Nana read  
They pulled up their blankets and sat up in bed  
And this is the story that their nana told;  
The Christmas Nativity Story of old...

NANA: *(opens the book and reads)*

The story starts a long time ago, in a faraway place, when a Roman Emperor called Augustus was ruling over all the people. He didn't care how poor the people were, he was determined to make sure that no-one escaped his taxes, so he sent his soldiers to make a special announcement.

ROMAN SOLDIER: Hear ye, hear ye; listen to me  
Caesar Augustus has made a decree  
All of his people, that's everyone here  
And all of the empire, far and near  
Must go to be registered where they were born  
So all of you, (*points at audience*) get packed, and set off at dawn!

NANA: So, a couple named Mary and Joseph set off from Nazareth where they lived to travel to Bethlehem where Joseph had been born. Mary was expecting a very special baby, who an angel had told her was God's son, and should be named...

CHILDREN (together): "Jesus"!

*Mary and Joseph set off on their journey to Bethlehem*

*OH LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
CAST SINGS AND WITH MOTIONS*

NANA: After a long journey, Mary and Joseph finally arrived at Bethlehem, tired and weary, and began to search for a place to stay.

JOSEPH (*knocks on door of inn*): Knock, knock. Hello. Is anyone there?

MARY: We need a room. Do you have one to spare?

INNKEEPER (*appears at door*): Don't bother asking, please go away!  
We haven't got any rooms left today. (*disappears*)

JOSEPH (*knocks on door again*): Knock, knock. Hello. Is anyone there?

MARY: We need a room. Do you have one to spare?

INNKEEPER (*appears again, this time in disguise*): I'm busy. Can't help you. Please go away. The inn's full, and I have nowhere you could stay.

JOSEPH (*knocks on door again*): Knock, knock. Hello. Is anyone there?

MARY: (*desperate*) We need a room. You must have one to spare?

INNKEEPER (*pops out in different disguise*): You've got to be joking! We're fully booked! Can't help you. Find another inn and look!

JOSEPH (*knocks again*): Knock, knock. Hello. Is anyone there?

MARY: (*really, really desperate*) WE NEED a room! You must have one to spare?

INNKEEPER (*pops out in yet another disguise, very kindly says*)

I'm sorry, I'd love to invite you both in  
But as you can see, there's no room at the inn.  
I do have a stable; is that worth me saying?  
I know it's not where you would choose to be staying.  
You're welcome to use it. That's up to you.

JOSEPH : We're desperate, so even a stable will do! (*to Mary*) Come on, let's go get you some rest.

MARY: It's alright, Joseph. You did your best.

NANA: So Mary and Joseph settled down for the night in the stable, and while they were there the time came for the baby to be born. He was a beautiful baby boy. Mary called him Jesus, as an angel had told her this was to be His name. She wrapped Him in a cloth, and laid Him in a manger.

*SILENT NIGHT*  
*CAST SINGS AND WITH MOTIONS*

NANA: Meanwhile, out in the fields, some shepherds were watching over their sheep to keep them safe from dangerous wild animals. All of a sudden, a dazzling bright light appeared in the sky and the shepherds were terrified.

*(Shepherds walk out to center stage and bright light appears on them)*

SHEPHERD 1: What's that in the sky, an incredible light? What could it be at this time of night?

SHEPHERD 2: Cover your eyes and get down on the ground  
There could be some serious danger around!

*(Shepherds cover their eyes and crouch on the ground shaking,  
Angels of the Lord walk out to center stage to join the shepherds)*

ANGEL 1: Do not be afraid, I bring news of a birth. God's son has been sent as a baby to earth!

ANGEL 2: You'll find him in Bethlehem, laid in his bed, but not in a palace; a stable instead!

NANA: Then, all of a sudden a whole host of angels came from all around and the whole place was filled with beautiful music as they sang praises to God.

JOIN THE ANGELS – 930 Band arrangement  
Angels dancing and singing with motions

SHEPHERD 1: Let's go to Bethlehem and search for this king!

SHEPHERD 2: But what shall we take as a gift to Him? I'm just a shepherd; that's all I am!

NARRATOR 2: They should take him their very best lamb! (*points to Sheep 2*)

NARRATOR 1: Yeah, people really FLOCK to that one

NARRATOR 2: That was a SHEEP SHOT!

NARRATOR 1: C'mon- I've got a better joke than that! What do you call a lamb that does karate? A Lamb-chop! (*mimes a karate chop*)

NARRATOR 2: That joke was wooly, wooly baa-d!

*I JUST WANT TO BE A SHEEP  
SHEEP SING AND DANCE WITH MOTIONS*

SHEPHERDS (*approaching to look at the baby*): Awwwwww!

NANA: The shepherds stayed to worship the baby. But some more people were on their way to see baby Jesus; some very important people. They were wise men, respected by everyone, because they knew so much. They studied the stars and found a new star which was so bright that they knew it meant something very special: that the baby who was going to be King of the Jews had been born. . .

*(The star walks in front of the stable and begins to speak.)*

STAR: The wise men are clever, to them it is clear.  
Just what it means now I've arrived here.  
I'm guiding the way from high overhead  
to lead the wise men to the stable shed.

*(The wise men walk onstage and remain on the side, pointing to the star. Star moves to stand behind the stable.)*

NANA: So the wise men set off on a very long journey following the star, knowing that it would guide them to Jesus. On their way, they stopped at King Herod's palace, and were invited in. They told Herod all about the special baby that they were searching for.

*(Herod gets in place on a 'throne' and the wise men come to stand by him.)*

HEROD: *(speaking to the wise men):*

A baby who will be the king of the Jews?  
Please tell me more; this is fantastic news!

WISE MAN 1: We saw His star, so special and bright, we came from the East and followed the light.

WISE MAN 2: We've journeyed so long, but we've not far to go. We'll find Him, then come back, and let you know.

WISE MAN 3: If you want to go to Him, we'll find out where. Then we can tell you so that you can go there.

*(The wise men walk off stage, leaving King Herod center stage)*

HEROD: *(says to the audience)*

If all that they've said turns out to be true  
He'll be more important than me; THAT WON'T DO!!  
When they all get back with the news of the boy  
I'll send out my soldiers and have him DESTROYED!! Ha Ha Ha!  
*(Villainous pantomime laugh at the end of his speech, rubbing hands)*

NANA: But don't worry, God warned them in a dream not to go back to King Herod, so he never did find out who the baby was who would be the King of the Jews. As the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem, they saw it come to rest over a stable *(The wise men come back on stage and walk to the stable)* so they walked in and saw the most amazing sight...the baby, the one called Jesus, was laid in an animal feeding trough. Can you believe it? Just lying in a manger! But they still recognized Him and knew that this was the baby, born to be king.

WE THREE KINGS - SONG

(MOTIONS ONLY)

NANA: And they bowed down to give him their gifts.

*The wise men approach the manger individually and bow with gift after saying their own line.*

WISE MAN 1: So this is the baby! We've come a long way to worship this child of yours today. I bring you gold that is fit for a king who will be the ruler of everything.

WISE MAN 2: I bring you frankincense, fragrant and sweet, I'm glad to be able to bow at your feet.

WISE MAN 3: I bring you myrrh, expensive perfume. Like Jesus's presence it fills the room.

*The wise men sit in place in the stable, and Nana continues.*

NANA: And so, even on the very first Christmas day, people celebrated Jesus's birthday with gifts, and today we give presents to each other to remember that very first Christmas. *(Nana closes the storybook)*

So now all you children, you must do your best to get a good sleep now, and plenty of rest. And when you wake up in the morning light remember the story I've read you tonight.

CHILD 1: Thanks Nana. Now I'm feeling sleepy. I hope I don't dream about Herod: he's creepy. I'll dream about sweet baby Jesus instead while His birthday's coming, and I'm in my bed.

NARRATOR 1: So now that they're sleeping, and wrapped up in bed, there's nothing but laughter and presents ahead.

NARRATOR 2: On the very next morning, the children awoke. They stretched, and they yawned, then one of them spoke.

CHILD 1: It's Christmas Day morning. Get up! Let's go!

CHILD 2: It's somebody's special birthday, you know.

CHILD 3: Wow! Look at these presents. I think we should say a very big thank you on Christmas Day!

CHILD 2: Especially for Jesus.

CHILD 1: Our Savior and king!

NARRATOR 2: So here's a good song that we all could sing remembering the day when He was born so long ago, on that first Christmas morn.

NARRATOR 1: We hope you've enjoyed our nativity play There's just one more thing that we'd all like to say. Together now children.... tell everyone here!

FULL CAST: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

OH WHAT A GLORIOUS NIGHT – 930 Band Arrangement  
FULL CAST- motions and singing

BOWS

FULL CAST