

#1469 A CHRISTMAS STORY



BARR FILMS, 1977
COLOR
LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE
23 MINUTES
1 INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC

NOTE

Some religious references are made as related to "The Christmas Story." There is also a comparison to be made with Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The teacher may choose to preteach these stories.

SYNOPSIS

An animated story that deals with Christmas spirit. Fat Albert and the gang become friends with a young boy, whose family is stranded and whose mother is about to deliver a baby. Fat Albert and the gang welcome them into their clubhouse, but must deal with old "Tightwad" Tyrone, the mean owner of the junk yard. Mr. Tyrone intends to destroy the clubhouse, until he becomes infected with Christmas spirit.

GOALS

1. To dramatize how the Christmas spirit changes people's thoughts and behavior.
2. To expose the students to a variety of slang expressions and idioms.
3. To promote a feeling of sharing and caring throughout the year.
4. To point out the utilization of literary references as related to concepts in other stories.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. The students will identify and define various expressions and idioms in context.
2. The students will apply the expression and idioms learned.
3. The students will discuss the idea of Christmas spirit and apply it to their own lives.
4. The students will discuss the emotions involved with giving and taking.
5. The students will create a story in cartoon strip form that deals with sharing and caring.

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6. The students will write a title, some sentences and a story about a picture presented in relation to this media.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Introduce vocabulary. (Because there is a great deal of new vocabulary in this media, it would be difficult to list all of the words that should be pretaught without detracting from the concepts in the story. It is recommended that the teacher choose the vocabulary most appropriate for the particular class.)
2. Teach the students the following words:
 - a. Expression: a word or group of words that communicate a certain idea.
 - b. Idiom: a word or group of words that have a special meaning.
 - c. Meaning: how the words are defined in a dictionary.
 - d. Example: a sentence that uses the idiom.
 - e. Then present a cardboard strip with an example of one of the idioms or expressions used in the media. Underline that idiom or expression; the teacher may act out the literal meaning of the underlined words. Have the students decide whether that skit shows the correct meaning of the group of words. Ask the students what they think is the correct meaning and then have them look in the dictionary to check for it. (Use a classroom dictionary and *A Dictionary of Idioms for the Deaf*, American School for the Deaf, 1966.)
 - f. After the students have learned the correct meaning, ask them to provide their own examples of the idiom or expression. For example:
 - (1) On the strip: "Don't worry, Mom and Dad. I'm cutting out."
 - (2) Teacher acts out: The teacher picks up a pair of scissors and cuts out a picture.
 - (3) Students decide: "It is incorrect."
 - (4) Students guess meaning: "to leave."
 - (5) Students check dictionary: "to depart."
 - (6) Students give their own examples: "When I'm angry at my sister, I just cut out."
 - g. The following are some of the idioms and expressions from the media:
 - (1) "Cool it."
 - (2) "Pick up your heels."
 - (3) "Blows it."
 - (4) "No class."
 - (5) "Sell out."
 - (6) "Get your facts straight."
 - (7) "Sourpuss."
3. Discuss Christmas spirit with the students. Ask them:

- a. What does it mean?
- b. Why do we show it at that time of year?
- c. When else should we show it?
- d. How do we show it?
- e. Can you think of an example in your life that happened during the holidays?
- f. Can you think of an example in your life that happened at another time of year?
- g. How do you feel when you are kind to someone?
- h. How do you feel when someone is kind to you? Why?

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Which of the characters had Christmas spirit? How did they show it?
2. What caused Mr. Tyrone to become so mean? Why did he change? How did he change?
3. What was meant by each of the following quotes?
 - a. "Your parents would be poorer without you."
 - b. "As for the clubhouse, it's a landmark now."
 - c. "How am I doing, Martha?"
 - d. "Remember you don't get anything in this world unless you give something."
4. What did Marshall think about most often? What did he plan to do about it? Was that the right thing to do?
5. What do the words *give* and *take* mean to you? How do these words relate to the characters in this study?
6. Why did everyone like Fat Albert? How did he try to help others? Do you know anyone like that?
7. Why did everyone dislike Mr. Tyrone? Do you know anyone like that?
8. Describe ways you show Christmas spirit during the holidays and during the year. How do you feel when you do that? Why?
9. How did Old Mudfoot influence Mr. Tyrone? How did Mr. Tyrone respond to Old Mudfoot?



Applications and Activities

1. Invite a rabbi, priest, or minister to explain the meanings of Hanukkah and Christmas. Ask them to think of personal situations that reflect the holiday spirit.
2. Think of something extra that could be done at your school to show caring and the holiday spirit. Have the class take on the project and

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see if they will do it all year to show the overlap of holiday spirit (e.g., keep litter out of hallways and grassy areas, recycle aluminum cans and then purchase a new library book, paint the trash cans, etc.).



3. Teach the students a few verses of popular holiday songs. Have them go caroling in classes with smaller children. They may want to teach the other children one of the songs.
4. Bring in articles from home such as, wood piece yarn, material scraps, etc. Ask the children to create pictures, puppets, puzzles, etc. Take them to the children's ward at the local hospital to teach them caring and holiday spirit throughout the year.
5. Read other holiday stories which promote concepts similar to those in this media. Ask the students to list the ways the characters in the new stories showed holiday spirit.
6. Have the students make a cartoon strip of five to eight sections. The story should:
 - a. Show a personal situation involving holiday spirit in which the student was involved.
 - b. Show an example of another story with the same concepts of caring, sharing, and so on, such as the short stories: "The Gift of the Magi" and the fable "The Ant and the Dove."
7. Distribute the worksheet included with this guide. Complete *a.* and either *b.* or *c.* below (see INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS):
 - a. Have each student write a title for each picture and two sentences that promote caring and sharing within the situation.
 - b. Have each student choose one picture and write a story about what happened, why, and what the final outcome will be.
 - c. Have each student choose a picture with different characters in it. Have the student write about one of the characters pretending to be that character.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

1. The background music at one point includes "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Joy to the World," and a fast "Jingle Bells." This media provides a good opportunity for the teacher to play a variety of Christmas carols and holiday songs for students to enjoy. The teacher may want to teach the words and signs to several of the more popular songs.
2. Discuss slang words and expressions related to certain ethnic groups. Choose several common expressions and



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- teach the students the meanings, how to use them, and the appropriate signs, if possible). Ask them to find others in newspapers or magazines and bring them in for discussion.
3. Choose several expressions from the media which would adapt themselves to a variety of facial expressions and change in voice intonation. (e.g., "Oh, yeah." "Oh, yeah?" "Oh, yeah!") Ask the students to pronounce each one using the correct expressions.
 4. It is recommended, due to the difficult vocabulary, that the media be interpreted (signed, fingerspelled) in order to assist the students in comprehending the concepts and learning the words in context.

RELATED RESOURCES

Captioned Media Program

- [*A Christmas Gift #1741*](#)
- [*A Good Tree #2068*](#)
- [*Charlie's Christmas Project #2262*](#)
- [*Scrooge #8557*](#)
- [*St. Nicholas and the Children #3084*](#)
- [*Winslow the Christmas Bear #8378*](#)

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC

- CARING AND SHARING

SCRIPT

Fat Albert: Hey, hey, hey, get under way! We have to get this Nativity scene done.

Rudy: What for, anyway?

Bill: We want to surprise our parents.

Fat Albert: It's the best way to get the real feeling of Christmas. Throw that straw in the stable, not on me! Let's see, who are the Wise Men?

Russell, Harold, Bucky: Here!

Fat Albert: Where are the stable animals?

Voice #1: Here I am.

Voice #2: Here I am, too.

Bill: Fat Albert! When does the angel come in?

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Fat Albert: Right away! Get it, Rudy!

Rudy: You dumb angel! Let me down! Oooooohhhh!

Fat Albert: Come on, clowns! We have to rehearse. Bill, you're the Christmas Angel.

Bill: Yes! That's me! I just flew in from the hillside, talking to the shepherds.

Fat Albert: What's the message?

Bill: Hey, Wise Men, gather around! Uh uh.

Fat Albert: Behold!

Bill: Got it! Behold! I bring you tidings of great joy! You know about the star. This is the place! Shortly, a man and wife will come here. She'll give birth to the Savior.

(Banging on the door)

Dumb Donald: They're here!

Tyrone: Open the door, kids.

Russell: That's no Savior to me!

Tyrone: Open up!

Fat Albert: Oh, oh, old Tightwad Tyrone!

Tyrone: How many times have I told you to tear down this clubhouse?

Dumb Donald: We thought you were keeping score.

Tyrone: I've been very patient.

Fat Albert: But, Mr. Tyrone, we really aren't doing anything wrong.

Tyrone: Every day you're here the value of my junkyard goes down.

Bill: Please, Mr. Tyrone, we . . .

Tyrone: What are you?



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Bill: I'm the Christmas Angel.

Tyrone: Christmas Angel?

Fat Albert: We're acting out the Christmas story.

Tyrone: Christmas? Sentimental tommyrot! I'm having this clubhouse bulldozed. So, get out tonight.

Cat: Meeeeeeow! Meeeeeeow !

Tyrone: Aghghghghgh! Get away!

Fat Albert: Hey, hey, hey!

Dumb Donald: That blows our show.

Mushmouth: Some Christmas this is going to be.

Fat Albert: I can't believe we have to give this up.

(Knock, knock)

Group: Oh! He's back again! Get me out of here!

Fat Albert: Hmmm, nobody here. Oh, yeah?

Marshall: Uh, excuse me. My name is Marshall, and uh uh.

Fat Albert: How are you doing?

Marshall: Not so good for me, Mom, and Dad. We're in a jam. We're from out of town. Everything's gone wrong since we got here. My dad's job fell through. We have no place to stay. My mom's having a baby.

Marj: Oh!! Ray.

Ray: What's the matter?

Marj: It's a false alarm.

Ray: You sure?

Marj: Yeah, I'm okay.

Marshall: Is the baby coming, Dad?

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Ray: Not yet, son.

Fat Albert: You like to come in? It's only a clubhouse.

Marj: Much obliged.

Rudy: Hey! What's the deal? That lady's not coming here.

Dumb Donald: Oh, no! In our he-man, no-woman- allowed clubhouse.

Fat Albert: Make yourself comfortable, ma'am.

Father: Where's the hospital?

Fat Albert: Bill, take him over there.

Bill: Okay, come on.

Ray: I'll be back.

Rudy: What's the big idea bringing a lady here?

Fat Albert: You got no couth.

Rudy: Couth, schmooth!

Fat Albert: Listen, Flap Jack! Those people are in bad trouble. Omigosh!

Rudy: Now what?

Fat Albert: I just remembered. Tightwad Tyrone is going to smash down the clubhouse. You take charge.

Rudy: Where you going?

Fat Albert: I have to see a man.

Tyrone: I have to get customers. Madam! I have just the thing.

Old lady: Let go of my arm, you old turkey. Crazy old coot!

Tyrone: You old . . . aghaghagh!

Fat Albert: Excuse me, Mr. Tyrone.

Tyrone: What do you want?

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Fat Albert: It's about the clubhouse.

Tyrone: That clubhouse is coming down and that's that!

Fat Albert: Mr. Tyrone, please.

Tyrone: Can't you see I'm busy?

Fat Albert: Please, it's not only for us.

Tyrone: Bahhh!

Fat Albert: There's this family in big trouble. The mother is having a baby.

Man: Sir, would you contribute to the destitute Lighthouse Mission House?

Tyrone: You old freeloader!

Man: All right! You're the only man who turned me down.

Tyrone: You wouldn't get a dime without that suit.

Man: Remember you don't get anything in this world unless you give something.

Fat Albert: That's what I've been saying. About the clubhouse.

Tyrone: Clubhouse, eh? Fat Albert, I've got a little deal for you.

Fat Albert: It isn't really me. It's this family.

Tyrone: Yes! Yes! Yes! Now, here's my plan.

Fat Albert: Hey, hey, hey, step this way for Tyrone's big Christmas Giveaway!

Tyrone: Keep it up. You're working wonders.

Fat Albert: I wonder how that family is doing.

Ray: Nurse, excuse me. Doctor, I . . .

Doctor: I'm very busy.

Bill: Let's ask her.

Ray: Excuse me. My wife's having a baby. What's this?

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Receptionist: Fill it out. Where's your insurance card?

Ray: I don't have any.

Receptionist: Charity cases are at the city hospital.

Russell: Here you are.

Marj: Thank you very much!

Ray: Are you okay?

Marj: Fine now.

Ray: Where are the boys?

Marj: They went to get firewood and food.

Ray: We have to go to city hospital.

Bill: That's a long way.

Marj: We'd better hurry. Oh!

Ray: What's the matter?

Marj: Ray, I just can't make it. Oooooooh.

Ray: You all right?

Marj: Don't worry. I'll be okay.

Bill: Come on. Let's get help.

Russell: Yeah, let's go!

Bill: C'mon, pick up your heels!

Russell: Wait up, Bill! Get up, Bill!

Bill: Cool it! I'm thinking.

Russell: What?

Bill: Where are we going?

Russell: Let's get Mom and Dad.

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Bill: They're out shopping.

Russell: Get the Swat Squad.

Bill: I know.

Russell: What?

Bill: We'll ask Fat Albert.

Russell: Yeah! Wait for me.

Fat Albert: Hey, hey, hey, it's Tyrone's Giveaway! Hey, hey, hey!

Rudy: Well, Mister Sell Out!

Harold: You're working for the enemy.

Group: Some pal! Sell out!

Fat Albert: Now, just cool it!! You better get your facts straight.

Group: Ahhhhh, phooey!

Fat Albert: I'm working to save our clubhouse. I'm getting customers with free gifts.

Group: Free gifts! Wow! Look out!

Fat Albert: Hey, hey, hey! Get away!

Tyrone: What's the meaning of this?

Fat Albert: Mr. Tyrone, it's like this.

Tyrone: I see you giving away my merchandise.

Fat Albert: But Mr. Tyrone.

Tyrone: You're fired!

Rudy: Your face reminds me of a cat eating lemons.

Tyrone: A cat eating lemons?

Rudy: Yeah. Sourpuss!

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Tyrone: The clubhouse is coming down quick now. Give me that suit.

Mudfoot: Just a second.

Tyrone: Get your hands off me.

Mudfoot: I just have one question for you.

Tyrone: What?

Mudfoot: How did you ever get to be the meanest, cheapest, skin-flintiest person around? You're the hard-heartedest old goat ever! Well?

Fat Albert: Just a minute. Mr. Tyrone really ain't all bad.

Mudfoot: We talking about the same old coot?

Fat Albert: Maybe he acts mean because nobody's nice to him. That is since his wife died.

Tyrone: I don't understand him.

Mudfoot: Life is give and take. He's a giver and you're a taker.

Mr. Tyrone: I have alot to give!

Mudfoot: But nobody wants to take what you got to give.

Tyrone: I won't listen!

Mudfoot: Yes! Ever since your wife died you've been impossible. You've been shortchanging your customers and snapping at everybody. You're so mean bill collectors won't come near you. What do you think Martha would say now?

Tyrone: Well, life hasn't been worth much lately.

Mudfoot: No. You haven't been worth much since Martha died. You only have one chance left.

Tyrone: Wait! What's my chance?

Mudfoot: You won't do it.

Tyrone: I will! What?

Mudfoot: No. You wouldn't do a good deed.

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Tyrone: Good deed?

Kids: Some Christmas! Losing our clubhouse! Mean old Tyrone.

Bill and Russell: Hey! Fat Albert!

Russell: Come quick! The baby! The baby!

Bill: Do something! Marshall's mom is having the baby any second.

Fat Albert: Okay, here's the plan. Rudy! Take Dumb Donald, get Doc, and come to the clubhouse. The rest of you come with me.

Ray: You feeling better?

Marj: Yes.

Ray: I've failed you. I've no job or place to stay. We just can't make it.

Marj: It isn't your fault.

Ray: I don't even make enough to feed Marshall.

Marshall: Don't worry, Mom and Dad. I'm cutting out.

Albert: Did you have the baby?

Marj: No, not yet.

Fat Albert: Doc is coming over, OK?

Ray: A doctor?

Fat Albert: Yeah. He delivered me!

Russell: It took him two trips.

Ray: Where's Marshall?

Fat Albert: Oh yeah, he's outside playing someplace. We'll go get him, won't we?

Russell: We don't even know where

Bill: Yeah! We'll find him. You remind me of school at vacation time.

Russell: School at vacation time?

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Bill: Yeah! No class!

Ray: Marshall's missing?

Marj: Oh, Ray, I think it's time.

Ray: The doctor! When is he going to get here?

Doctor: Easy, boys!

Ray: Come on, Doc! Hurry!

Dumb Donald: If you don't hurry, the baby will have to slap himself.

Ray: Come on! Get in the car!

Doctor: But boys, wait!

Rudy and Dumb Donald: Let's go!

Doctor: I can't

Rudy: Why not?

Doctor: This isn't my car.

Marshall: Poor Mom and Dad. I'll go far away. They'll never have to worry about me again.

Fat Albert : Marshall!

Harold: Marshall!

Mushmouth: M-M-M-Marshall!

Russell: Marshall!

Fat Albert: Marshall!

Fat Albert: Hey, hey, hey! Don't run away! Come on gang!

Group: There he goes! Get him. Marshall, stop! Hold it!

Fat Albert: Don't run! Your mom wants you!

Marshall: Help! Help!

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Harold: Grab my hand!

Fat Albert: Hang onto my ankles, men. Why did you run off?

Marshall: Because my parents are poor.

Fat Albert: They'd be a lot poorer without you. Come on gang! Marshall, give me your hand. Marshall! Marshall!

Marj: Oh, Ray!

(Baby crying)

Fat Albert: Hey, hey, hey! What can you say?

Group: Ooooooh! Ahhhh!

Ray: Hey! Where's Marshall?

Group: Well, uh, you see.

(Knock, knock)

Tyrone: Open up!

Fat Albert: Oh, looks like the end.

Dumb Donald: Don't open the door! He's got a wrecking ball.

Group: Marshall! Yah!

Tyrone: Thought I'd never catch him!

Fat Albert: Come see the baby. You are now a brother!

Dumb Donald: Or is he a sister?

Tyrone: What's this?

Doctor: Mrs. Franklin has just given birth.

Tyrone: A baby here?

Ray: Right. What would I have done without these boys?

Tyrone: Baby?

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Russell: Please, Mr. Tyrone! Don't throw the baby out.

Tyrone: What?

Russell: These folks don't have a home or job. You can put us in jail or hit us. But, please, don't hurt the baby.

Tyrone: This is no place for a baby. I'll get you to the hospital. As for a place to stay and a job, I have a few important associates. As for the clubhouse, it's a landmark now. I couldn't tear it down.

Fat Albert: Hey gang, gather round. We have a few little Christmas birthday gifts to give the baby.

Tyrone: What do you want?

Russell: This is for you.

Tyrone: What is that?

Fat Albert: That's his most favorite thing in the whole world. It's a genuine Brown Hornet Secret Decoder Compass.

Group: Merry Christmas, Mr. Tyrone.

Ray: Merry Christmas, Mr. Tyrone.

Tyrone: Thank you and Merry Christmas to you all. How am I doing, Martha?



CARING AND SHARING



TITLE:

Sentences:

1. _____

2. _____



TITLE:

Sentences:

1. _____

2. _____

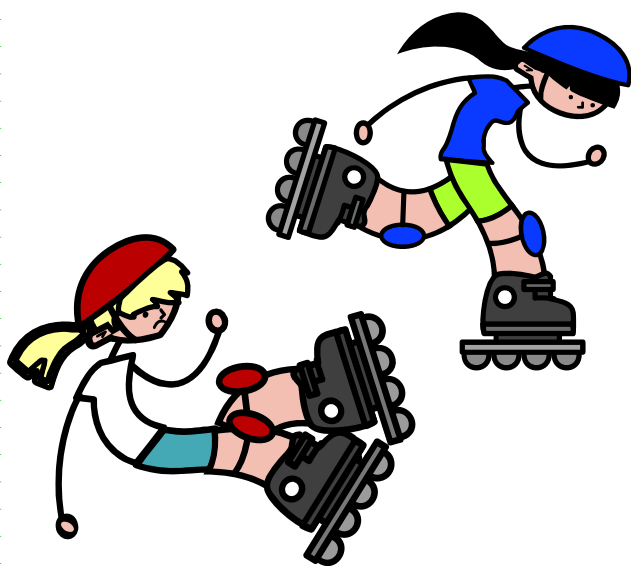


TITLE:

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1. _____

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TITLE:

Sentences:

1. _____

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