



#2312

MAX'S CHRISTMAS

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 1988
 Grade Level: Ps-2
 5 mins.

DESCRIPTION

On Christmas Eve, Max asks many questions about Santa Claus. His sister Ruby's exasperated response is usually "Because!" Late that night, Max sneaks downstairs to wait for Santa. When Santa arrives, Max pesters him with questions too, and gets the same "Because!" When Ruby finds Max asleep near the tree the next morning, she is curious and begins asking questions. All Max says is "Because!" Animated version, based on the book by Rosemary Wells.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS**Subject Area: Health**

- Standard: Understands the relationship of family health to individual health
 - ♦ Benchmark: Knows the roles of parents and the extended family in supporting a strong family and promoting the health of children (e.g., the limits parents set for children, the values or religious beliefs taught, behaviors and values modeled) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 3.)
- Standard: Knows how to maintain and promote personal health
 - ♦ Benchmark: Knows basic personal hygiene habits required to maintain health (e.g., caring for teeth, gums, eyes, ears, nose, skin, hair, nails) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

Subject Area: History—Grades K-4—The History of Peoples of Many Cultures Around the World

- Standard: Understands selected attributes and historical developments of societies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe
 - ♦ Benchmark: Knows the holidays and ceremonies of different societies (e.g., Christmas celebrations in Scandinavia, Germany, or England; Cinco de Mayo; the Chinese New Year; the Japanese tea ceremony; harvest and spring festivals) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

Subject Area: Language Arts—Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ♦ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction,

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 4.)

Subject Area: Language Arts–Listening and Speaking

- Standard: Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes
 - ♦ Benchmark: Asks and responds to questions (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 5.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To explore bedtime rituals.
2. To identify Christmas symbols and rituals.
3. To explore sibling relationships.
4. To promote the reading of children’s literature.
5. To present the use of question forms.

VOCABULARY

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| 1. because | 8. sister |
| 2. chimney | 9. waited |
| 3. Christmas Eve | 10. what |
| 4. guess | 11. when |
| 5. how | 12. where |
| 6. questions | 13. who |
| 7. Santa Claus | 14. why |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the book *Max’s Christmas* by Rosemary Wells. Discuss how Max felt on Christmas Eve and share personal experiences. Would you like to see Santa Claus? Explain.
2. Share other books and stories about Christmas and other winter holidays. Share information about the celebrations, decorations, and family traditions.
 - a. How does your family prepare for the holiday?
 - b. What is your favorite part of the holiday?
 - c. What other things does your family do together to make the holiday special?
3. Discuss children’s bedtime routines, including health care things. Compare to Max’s bedtime routine.
 - a. What are some of the same things that you and Max do before bed?
 - b. Who helps you?
 - c. What may happen if you forget to do some of these things?

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. During a second viewing of the video, pause to identify each question and its answer. Practice asking and answering these questions.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What does Ruby tell Max will happen tonight?
2. Describe how Max prepares for bed.
3. What does Ruby say when Max asks why he has to go to sleep? How does Max feel? Why will Max not go to sleep? What does he do?
4. Why does Santa put his hat on Max's head? What reason does he give Max for not looking at him? Does Max obey Santa?
5. What does Santa say when Max asks why he has to go to sleep?
6. Where does Max fall asleep?
7. Describe what happens when Ruby comes downstairs to check on Max.
8. What does Max say when Ruby asks why the blanket is so humpy and bulgy?

Applications and Activities

1. Discuss how people around the world celebrate Christmas and other winter holidays. Compare the various traditions and beliefs.
2. Write a creative story using the story starter, "One Christmas Eve I couldn't sleep so I sneaked downstairs. There before my eyes was . . ."
3. Discuss sibling relationships.
 - a. Describe the relationship between Ruby and Max. How does Ruby feel about caring for Max? How does Max feel about being cared for by Ruby?
 - b. How do you feel about being cared for by an older sibling? About taking care of a younger sibling?
4. Identify the symbols of Christmas and other winter holidays. Create a display of the symbols.
5. Role-play meeting Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.
6. Practice asking and answering questions.
7. Review daily health care habits. Write and illustrate a class book explaining proper health care routines.

SUMMARY

Max's Christmas is a charming tale about a little boy named Max and his older sister Ruby. It's Christmas Eve and Ruby gets Max ready for bed so that Santa can come down the chimney with his holiday gifts. As Ruby helps Max prepare for bed, the little boy is full of questions about Santa. Who is coming? Where is he coming? When is he coming? When Max asks why he can't see Santa, a frustrated Ruby answers, "Because!"

Finally Ruby gets Max into bed, only to have the little boy climb out, sneak downstairs, and wait by the fireplace for Santa. When Santa arrives, Max begins with his questions again. When Santa eventually tells Max that it's time for him to go and for Max to go to sleep, Max asks "Why?" and Santa answers "Because!"

Santa leaves his hat, along with the presents, and flies up the chimney. Ruby comes downstairs and sees Max covered by a bulging, bumpy blanket, and wearing Santa's hat. When Ruby asks why the blanket is so bumpy, she pulls it off Max and discovers the Christmas packages as Max answers, "Because!"

CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- *The Clown of God* #10091
- *Max's Chocolate Chicken* #10072
- *Noisy Nora* #3276
- *A Visit With Rosemary Wells* #3312
- *My Body, My Buddy: Healthy Habits* #3158

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

• THE WORLD OF ROSEMARY WELLS

<http://www.rosemarywells.com>

Visit this Web site for biographical information on the author, a list of the author's books, and comments from the author about the importance of reading to children, along with some related research. There are also some coloring pages and activities for children.

• HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/holidays/index.asp>

This site explores the history of and similarities between the world's major holidays. Also includes a section on holiday symbols, a holiday greeting exchange, and a quiz.

• RESOURCES FOR WINTER HOLIDAYS

<http://www.waterborolibrary.org/christm.htm>

This Waterboro Public Library Web site holds a multitude of links for winter holidays that include Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Winter Solstice. Each area contains subheadings with many links to more information.