

A Very Corona Christmas

Santa Stays Home

The Play Zoom Edition

Created
for use in
primary schools

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Dear Teachers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to the holidays. I know I can't wait until Christmas. I will admit. This is the first time I have ever adapted a story for a remote learning production. Nevertheless, special times call for special solutions.

By now, I'm sure that your students are fairly good at Zoom, Google Meet, or any other remote learning application you are using. If you would like to use this for a school production where family members are watching along at home, you can improve the quality of the show by doing a few simple things. I have listed when each character should turn their video cameras on and off. As you know, this makes a big difference as well as having children turn their microphones off when they are not a main speaker. I have tried to keep things as simple as possible. Please adjust as necessary. In addition, it is helpful if the students wear a few items associated with their character and have a few props. I have listed them below.

*I hope you enjoy **A Very Corona Christmas – The Zoom Play**. Please let me know how things go. I love receiving letters. If you record your play and have permission to do so, please send me a copy or link to Kelley.donner@gmail.com.*

Have a very, merry Christmas!

*Kind Regards,
Kelley Donner*

Cast of Characters:

Narrator

The President of the US – Reads letter to Santa

The Queen of England – Reads letter to Santa

Madeline – Reads letter to Santa

Santa

Letter 1: Reads a letter from a child to Santa

Letter 2: Reads a letter from a child to Santa

Letter 3: Reads a letter from a child to Santa

Elf 1: **Liam** – Evan’s older brother and the taller of the two.

Elf 2: **Evan** – The youngest of the elves, Evan usually has a little pull toy, in the story a duck, that he always takes with him. You could also use a stuffed animal.

Elf 3: **Bob** – Head of production

Elf 4: **Shannon** – In charge of Santa’s sleigh

Elf 5: **Sally** – In charge with Tom of Santa’s new suit

Elf 6: **Tom** – In charge with Sally of Santa’s new suit

Elves **7-10** – Other elves in the workshop. Very small parts.

Possible options:

If you need less speaking parts, all letters can be read by the narrator (or the teacher) and elves 7-10 can be read by one person.

If you need more speaking parts, the narrator part can be read by various students and the letters can be broken up into various parts.

Scene: This play takes place at the North Pole.

Time: This story takes place in the present, shortly before Christmas.

Props: Elves should wear similar outfits or colors. They should all have stocking hats. Santa needs to be wearing red and have a Santa hat on. For the final scene, Santa will need a baguette or piece of bread. For another either a hazmat suit or at least a red hoodie with the name PPE 3000 either written or pinned on it. Hand sanitizer and spray bottles would be good, too. Evan should hold a stuffed animal so that it is clear to the viewer which elf he is. Optional: two identical cups for when Liam makes Evan a cup of tea.

Act 1

Scene 1 - Santa's workshop.

One student holds up a sign with "A Very Corona Christmas: Santa Stays Home, by Kelley Donner"

Teacher: Welcome to our Zoom production of A Very Corona Christmas written by Kelley Donner...

*Another student holds up a sign with "Scene 1. Santa's Workshop"
Camera on: Narrator, Evan, Liam, and all elves (If possible, microphones should be off unless you are a main character)*

Narrator: All the elves were gathered in the main lodge at the North Pole village awaiting Santa's big announcement.

Evan: What could it be?

Liam: I don't know, but Santa had us stop production in the workshop today. I'm worried.

Evan: What do you mean, stop production?

Liam: I'm saying that we will not be making any more toys. We've never stopped production this close to Christmas before.

Camera on: Santa

Santa: Elves! Elves! Elves! Quiet please.

Camera on: President of the United States

The President of the United States: Dear Santa Claus, I am writing to inform that you will not be allowed to enter my country. We are currently not admitting any foreigners whatsoever in order to reduce the amount of Coronavirus transmissions. Please use our postal system to deliver gifts as it is the fastest in the entire world. Sincerely, the President of the United States.

Camera off: President of the United States

Camera on: The Queen

Narrator: Followed by another one...

The Queen: Dear Santa, We are aware that this is the time of year when you normally prepare to deliver gifts to all of the good boys and girls around the world. Unfortunately, this year due to the current Coronavirus pandemic, we must ask you to follow these rules:

1. You are not allowed to enter any house by way of doors or chimneys.
2. You will need to keep a distance of at least 2 meters between you and any parent or child.
3. All gifts will need to be quarantined for 48 hours before delivery.

Stay calm and carry on! Your majesty, the Queen of England.

Camera off: The Queen

Narrator: And another, and another...

The elves looked at each other in disbelief.

Evan: What are we going to do now?

Liam: I don't know. It looks like Christmas has been cancelled.

Santa: Elves, as you know, this is a very unusual situation. Christmas has never been cancelled. This is a first for all of us at the North Pole. Nevertheless, this Coronavirus puts us in a very bad predicament. We are lucky here at the North Pole to be so isolated that we do not even have one case of the coronavirus. However, if I travel around the world delivering our presents to all the boys and girls, I could catch the virus and this would be risky for all of us. Therefore, it is with a sad and heavy heart that I announce to you. There will be no Christmas this year.

Camera off: Santa

All Elves should turn their microphones on.

All elves: No Christmas? No Christmas?

Shannon: That's impossible!

Bob: This is a catastrophe!

Sally: I know, but Santa's right. He's not the youngest anymore.

Tom: That's true. Look at his white beard. Does anyone even know how old he is?

Elf 7: 35?

Elf 8: 205?

Sally: I don't know, but he's not the fittest anymore either. His jacket gets tighter and tighter every year.

Tom: Maybe he's right. Maybe it would be better for him to stay at the North Pole this year.

Bob: Yes, we do need to protect Santa. We don't want him getting sick.

Elf 9: This is going to be the worst Christmas ever!

Camera off: All students. For theatrical purposes, cameras can be left off for 4-5 seconds before the next scene begins.

Scene 2 - Liam and Evan's Hut.

Camera on: Narrator and one student who holds up a sign with "Scene 2. Liam and Evan's Hut"

Narrator: Other than a few chores around their huts, Liam, Evan and the rest of the elves had nothing to make and nothing to do. For the next few days, they just sat around fidgeting, feeling hopeless. They yearned for the life they used to have. They missed the way things used to be. They missed the Christmas spirit.

Camera on: Evan and Liam

Evan: I don't know what to do.

Liam: Me, either. I'm so bored.

Evan: I wish things were the way they used to be. I miss being at the workshop.

Liam: So do I. I miss seeing all of the other elves. I don't like being home all day.

Evan: I even miss Santa telling us what to do.

Liam: Yes. It's not the same. It's too quiet.

If wanted, Liam can pour a cup of tea and then act like he is handing it to Evan. If Evan has the same cup on his screen and then begins drinking, it would be a fun Zoom gimmick and look as if Liam has really made Evan a cup of tea.

Narrator: Things didn't change much until one day a letter on Evan's table caught his eye. He opened it up and began to read. Then he opened another one. He began reading letter after letter. He read what all the children had written and his eyes filled with tears. Everywhere children were all saying the same things.

Camera on: Readers for letters 1, 2, and 3.

Letter 1: Dear Santa, I'm so glad that it's almost Christmas. This year has been really hard. I miss the way things used to be...

Letter 2: Dear Santa, If anyone deserves Christmas this year, it's me...

Letter 3: Dear Santa, You'll never believe what happened this year. I can't wait until it's finally Christmas...

Suddenly, Evan jumps up and goes out of the view of his camera.

Liam: Evan! Evan, what are you doing?

Evan pops back into view, says his line and then goes out of the view of the camera again.

Evan: I'm going to save Christmas.

Camera off: All students.

Act 2

Scene 1 -Santa's House

*Camera on: One student holds up a sign with “Act 2: Scene 1. Santa’s House”
Cameras on: Evan, Liam, and Santa. (Evan is now back in front of his video camera).
Santa should be wearing an apron and eating bread.*

Evan: Santa! Santa! I need to talk to you.

Santa: Calm down, little elf. I just learned how to make my own sourdough bread. Would you like try some?

Evan: This is not time to begin to learn to bake! The children of the world NEED you, Santa!

Santa: I’m sorry Evan, but as you heard, Christmas is cancelled this year. I can’t go out. I can’t even leave the North Pole. I must shelter in place.

Evan: This is why we can’t cancel Christmas, Santa

Evan needs to act like he is passing a letter to Santa. If Santa has an identical piece of paper, this shouldn’t be too difficult to pull off. Santa then needs to act like he is reading the letter, then look up and say his next line.

Santa: Evan and Liam, go round up the elves. There is something I need to say at once!

Camera off: All students.

Scene 2 - Santa's Workshop

Camera on: All elves (including Liam and Evan), Santa, and the narrator.

Santa: My dear elves. Evan, the youngest of our elves, has brought something to my attention and reminded me of why we are all here. It is a letter addressed to me.

Camera on: Madeline

Madeline: Dear Santa, My name is Madeline. I am 7 years old and live in Brookfield, New Jersey. This year has been very difficult for my family. I was unable to see my friends for a long time and my dad lost his job. He said we don't have enough money for presents this year and that we are not able to celebrate Christmas. I told my dad that Santa would never cancel Christmas. You wouldn't, would you? After everything that has happened this year, my gift from you is the one thing I know I can count on. You are the best, Santa! I love you, Madeline

Camera off: Madeline

Santa: My dear elves, Madeline is right. Families all over the world have had their lives turned upside down. Children everywhere need this Christmas more than ever before. We must find a way to restore their hope and dreams by delivering our presents. We have a duty to the boys and girls of the world. Children deserve Christmas! Elves, it is time to get busy. Bob, get the production line going again.

Bob: Okay boss.

Santa: Shannon, start shining up my sleigh.

Shannon: I'm on it Mr. Claus.

Santa: Sally and Tom, I need a Santa suit that can bring me into the homes of millions of children safely.

Sally and Tom: No problem. We can do this.

Sally and Tom give each other high fives. The elves look at each other with new found confidence and show thumbs up.

Santa: You are my smartest elves! It is time to get to work."

The elves that are not speaking should act like they are working on something. They can be writing Santa-tizer on a spray bottle, shining up something that could be a piece of a sleigh, putting a bow on a present, etc...

Sally: How can we make Santa a suit that will keep him from catching the coronavirus?

Tom: I say we make Santa a super hazmat suit.

Sally: Good idea. We should make it red and look as much like a Santa suit as possible. Should we add a Santa hat?

Tom: Yes, I like that. And, we'll give him some rubber boots, too.

Sally: This is going to be historic!

Bob: Shannon, how is the sleigh coming along?

Shannon: Great! I'm almost done adding the Santa-tizer.

Elf 10: I've brought some extra stocking-stuffers.

The elf should hold up a few rolls of toilet paper.

Shannon: Perfect. Put the toilet paper in the back of the sleigh. People will be glad to have an extra roll this year.

Liam: This looks great! I love the new sleigh.

Evan: I think it needs a new name.

Shannon: I was thinking the X-Max 2000.

Sally: And we've decided to call Santa's suit the PPE 3000 Hazmat Suit.

Evan: This is going to be the best Christmas ever!

Camera off: All students.

Scene 3 - Outside Santa's Workshop

Camera on: One student holds up a sign with: Scene 3. Outside Santa's Workshop

Camera on: All elves, narrator.

Narrator: Just as it began to get dark, Santa stepped out of his lodge in a brand new Santa suit.

Camera on: Santa

Santa appears in his new Santa suit. Santa should turn around and show off his new suit.

Narrator: He looked a little different this year, but he was now safe and ready.

Camera on: All students.

Narrator: It was time for Christmas, and nothing was going to stop him from making children happy this year...

Evan sprays a few times with the spray bottle.

Narrator: not even the Coronavirus. As Santa flew off in his sleigh, he could be heard saying.

Santa: Merry Christmas everyone! Merry Christmas to you all!

All elves: Merry Christmas!

Narrator: The End.

Teacher: Thank you for watching our production of A Very Corona Christmas...