### THE CHILDREN'S NATIVITY STORY by Angela’s Poems (http://www.angelaspoems.co.uk)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Script</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Narrator** | Good morning and welcome to everyone here  
It’s lovely to see you at this time of year  
Now we have a story we’re going to tell,  
It’s one that we think that you’ll all know quite well.  

It starts with the Emperor greedy for more  
Tax from the people, so he made a law:  
People were sent to the place of their birth  
By Emperor Caesar, a Roman of worth. |
| **Roman soldier 1**  
*(talking sternly to audience)* | Hey all of you guys sitting around  
You all should be knelt with your head to the ground  
Praising the Emperor; He’s like a king!  
So worship him now with the money you bring. |
| **Roman Soldier 2**  
*(or use italics for same soldier if preferred)* | Pay taxes to Caesar, you know that you should  
Or he’ll make you pay (and you know that he would!) |
| **Narrator** | The story’s about a wonderful birth  
When Jesus our Saviour and Lord came to earth  
Born to a couple named Mary and Joe |
| **Joseph** | Come Mary, it’s time now for us to go! |
| **Mary**  
*(if you would rather the narrator says this, replace the bold words with the italic words)* | No! Hang on there Joseph, we need to remember  
(you)  
To get wrapped up warm, you know it’s December!  
(wrap her)  
And Bethlehem is a very long way  
Our journey won’t finish in just one day.  
(Your)  
Not forgetting the fact that I’m having a baby  
(she’s) |
| **Donkey** | Who me? Eey-ore-right, I’ll carry your load  
Will you sing me a song while I’m on the road? |

*The script is deliberately written to be adaptable in length as well as in the size of cast required, so it can begin with the narrator’s first 4 lines and then omit mention of the Emperor and roman soldiers and continue at this point if you choose…*

The italics can be substituted for bold type in some parts of the script (as per the example above) to minimise the speaking parts for the children according to your preference (or if you have last minute cast changes.) Therefore the narrator would be telling the story while the children simply act in mime.
ALL CHILDREN SING:       "THE DONKEY’S JOURNEY"

THE DONKEY’S JOURNEY

1) I wonder how the donkey felt travelling along x 3
   On his way (Eey-ore) to Bethlehem
   (Mary, Joseph and the donkey set off walking.)

2) I wonder if the donkey was as stubborn as a mule x3
   On his way (Eey-ore) to Bethlehem
   (Donkey stops arms folded, and Joseph and Mary push and pull to try to get him to move.)

3) I wonder if the donkey ever felt tired
   On his way (Eey-ore) to Bethlehem

4) I wonder if the donkey knew he was carrying the Lord
   On his way (Eey-ore) to Bethlehem

5) I wonder if the donkey ever saw the baby Jesus born
   In the stable in Bethlehem

The songs are deliberately written with a simple, repetitive pattern to the words so they are easy to remember and very catchy.

Directions are provided in italics for actors to act during the singing.

Sheet music is provided at the end of the script, and FREE music backing tracks in the form of midi files are available for download on purchase of the script.

Pages 4 & 5 continue with the shepherds’ experience in the field and the Angel Gabriel’s message, followed by the angels’ song “Glory to our God on High” sung to the tune of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”. The dialogue continues, and the shepherds & angels sing “The Shepherds’ Calypso” to the tune of “The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy”
The Children’s Nativity Story.  Copyright Angela Yardy 2010
Buy from www.bestchildrensnativity.com

| Narrator | Right.  
So back to the story in Bethlehem town  
Where Mary and Joseph need to lie down.  
The journey was long, and the baby was due |
| --- | --- |
| Knock, Knock | Every sheet has the ‘Notes’ column on the right hand side to make helpful personal ‘notes to self’ for use by the ‘director’ of the children.  
It is also used for any *stage direction* that I suggest in *italics* |
| Joseph | The **bold type** in the dialogue below can again be replaced with the *dialogue in italic* if you have a smaller cast, or prefer less speaking parts. |
| Innkeeper 1 | You could even have the same person playing the part of each innkeeper, and just moving along to another imaginary door and changing their headgear, for example: it would definitely add a comic effect! |
| Knock, Knock | (Knocking on innkeeper 3’s door: Innkeeper opens it)  
Joseph | Hello, my name’s Joseph, we’ve come a long way  
Do you have a room where we could both stay? |
| Innkeeper 3 | You’ve got to be joking; how can I say yes?  
Our inn’s overflowing with too many guests |
| Innkeeper’s wife (If you have no innkeeper’s wife, the innkeeper can say the italics instead) | **Now, don’t you let any more people in dear**  
**You’ll just have to tell them:**  
*I would have thought it was perfectly clear*  
*Bethlehem’s busy:* |
| Innkeeper’s wife, or both together | **We’ve got no room here!** |
| (Innkeeper closes door) | |
| Knock, Knock | (Knocking on innkeeper 4’s door: Innkeeper opens it)  
Joseph | Hello, my name’s Joseph, we’ve come a long way  
Do you have a room where we could both stay? |
| Innkeeper 4 | Joseph’s dialogue is kept simple by repeating the same rhyming couplet, so the only changeable part is the innkeepers’ lines which are kept to a minimum for ease of learning. Up to 2 innkeepers can be omitted, but there must be a minimum of 1 innkeeper in addition to innkeeper 4 (1 to say no, and innkeeper 4 to say yes!) |
| Joseph (or Mary, using italics) | Just go round the back and at least you can sleep  
With the donkey and cows, and a couple of sheep. |
Notes

Narrator | So Mary and Joseph did as he said  
(The manger would just have to do for a bed)  
And when baby Jesus was born to this earth  
A stable’s the place that God chose for his birth.  
Mary and Joseph walk across to stable.

ALL CHILDREN SING: AWAY IN A MANGER – (Mary cradles baby Jesus and then lays him in the manger, and the shepherds go to stable before the end of this song)

Notes

Narrator | Now very soon after, the shepherds appeared;  
With a lamb as a gift (Let’s face it, that’s weird)  

Shepherd (or narrator using italics) | We couldn’t bring money, in large amounts  
(They)

Mary (Or narrator, using italics) | Oh well, I suppose it’s the thought that counts!  
(Mary said)

Narrator | Now kings, are you ready, this is your bit  
Quick, run over here…..it’ll help you get fit! ……  
(wait until kings are in place)  
Now, everyone watching? In case it’s not clear  
The action is coming back over here!  
So, far in the East, some wise men had seen  
A star in the sky……  

King 1 | The kings have a small amount of dialogue here each, still keeping  
the rhyme and rhythm, as well as having more dialogue on page 8  
when they reach the stable and see the baby Jesus.  
The star has 4 lines to say on the next page, which can be omitted or  
alternatives (in italics) said by the narrator if preferred,

King 2

King 3

Narrator |

Kings walk to the stable (following a star if possible), whilst next song is sung to the tune of Jingle Bells……

EVERYONE SINGS “THREE KINGS CAME” TO THE TUNE OF Jingle Bells, a couple of time if required

Song:

THREE KINGS CAME

Off to Bethlehem, following the star  
Go the three wise men, travelling afar.  
Off to find the king, where the baby lay  
So that now we all can sing the ‘Three kings’ song today.

chorus

This simple song gives the kings time to walk to the stable, & it sets the scene for the gift giving. The rhyming pattern makes it easy to pick up. It leads on to dialogue which can be omitted, or shared between the 3 kings, Joseph & Mary, or said by the narrator (using italic alternatives while cast act).  
This preview continues with the casting list on page 12 which shows the number of rhyming lines allocated to individuals and the adaptability according to different cast sizes.  
The script is lengthened if you choose to use the Nativity Roll Call poem, when each character will have another couple of simple rhyming lines.
**Casting List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>No. of rhyming lines if unchanged</th>
<th>Child actor’s name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrator(s)</td>
<td>8+7+12+5+4+4+4+2+6+3+4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman soldier 1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman soldier 2 (one or both can be excluded—see note below)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>1 + 4 +2(x4) +1 +1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>6 + 1 + 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donkey</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd 1 (soloist)</td>
<td>2 + 1 (+ song)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd 2 (singers)</td>
<td>1 (+ song)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd 3 (singers)</td>
<td>1 (+ song)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel Gabriel</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Can be excluded if less cast required) Innkeeper 2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 3</td>
<td>2 + 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper’s wife</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeeper 4</td>
<td>2 + 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King 1</td>
<td>1 + 1 + 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King 2</td>
<td>1 + 2 + 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King 3</td>
<td>2 + 1 + 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angels:</td>
<td>(singing/dancing as required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Optional Extras**

| Caesar                        |                          |                     |
| Innkeeper’s wife 1            |                          |                     |
| Innkeeper’s wife 2            |                          |                     |
| Innkeeper’s wife 4            |                          |                     |
| Cows                          |                          |                     |
| Sheep                         |                          |                     |
| Crowds of people at the inn:  |                          |                     |
| Carol singers (singing “We wish you a Merry Christmas” at the end) | | |
HELPFUL NOTES

- **The bold type characters in the list above** are the absolute minimum characters that I for-see being necessary for the play (11), although adults can join with small casts, (particularly for the narration), and there are places where a child can double up as 2 characters (donkey and Angel Gabriel, for example).

- **Characters listed above in italics** can be omitted or their lines said by the narrator or another character (*alternative lines are suggested in the script in italics.*)

- The whole script is written with adaptability in mind, so please feel free to insert, delete or amend parts of the script to suit your own arrangements and children (including using alternative songs to your own preference). *Indications are given in the script where options are already thought through for you.*

- There can be as few or as many innkeepers and innkeeper’s wives as you need to make up numbers. Just miss out any of the first 3 innkeepers and finish with the 4th innkeeper.

- Optional extras are suggested at the end of the casting list as ways that more children can be involved as extras.

- Verses 2, 3, 4 and 5 (“It starts with the Emperor” etc, through to “feeling perplexed…” can be missed out if you would like to reduce the number of characters by not including roman soldiers. If so, the Nativity Roll Call would also need to be reduced as suggested in the variations.)

- The Nativity Roll Call poem is an optional extra for the end of the nativity, but feel free to use it with any other traditional nativity script that you might use. It does not need to be kept exclusively for the Children’s Nativity Story, and should be relatively easily adapted to the characters in any traditional nativity play.

- An alternative to the Roll Call is the Full Christmas Story poem, which is a particularly good way to round off a church nativity service and can be read by the narrator as a summing up at the end.