

THE CHRISTMAS CLOAK

A Christmas Program

by
Joan Cooper



Wetmore Declamation Bureau

**Box 2695
Sioux City, IA 51106**

**www.wetmoredeclamation.com
Email: speeches@wetmoredeclamation.com**

CAUTION: Wetmore Declamation Bureau material is protected by United States copyright law and conventions. None of our material may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means-electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other-without prior permission. No trademark, copyright or other notice may be removed or changed. All rights reserved. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

THE CHRISTMAS CLOAK
A Christmas Program

Joan Cooper

Copyright by the author. Exclusive permission granted to the WETMORE DECLAMATION BUREAU, Sioux City, Iowa.

NOTE TO THE DIRECTOR: This Christmas program is designed to be very flexible, in cast, program length, and in budget. Choose the number of songs that will suit your program needs. The hymns are given as inexpensive suggestions, since they are available in most hymnals; other selections you may prefer (to feature a soloist, for example) can easily be added. If you desire, children that are too young for other parts may be costumed as sheep for the shepherds to guard. Otherwise, the flock can be imaginary.

SPEAKING PARTS:

Wise Man (Narrator)	Angels (Two parts)
Ichabod, Shepherd	Guests at the Inn
Caleb, Shepherd	Joseph
Daniel, Shepherd	Mary

NON-SPEAKING PARTS:

Other Shepherds	Sheep (Optional)
Angel Choir	

The Wise Man (narrator) stands apart from the rest of the action and remains on stage throughout the entire program.

WISE MAN: May the Lord bless all of you who have traveled to this hall to hear the story of the birth of the Promised Child, as I was blessed by being His seeker. I am one of the magi who followed his star, traveling a long distance to look for the King of the Jews. We found the Babe and His mother in a house, and we presented our gifts to Him--gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But on the way back home I heard wonderful tales of what had occurred when the Child had been born. A desire to learn more about the circumstances surrounding His birth, and a need to discover everything I could about the Baby Jesus led me back here to Galilee. My search led me back to Bethlehem and to Ichabod, one of the shepherds who was out in the fields that starry night.

(A group of at least three shepherds stand--Ichabod is sitting with a quilted cloak wrapped tightly around him.)

ICHABOD: There's nothing worse than being a shepherd--and certainly the worst part of being a shepherd is staying up all night, standing on my feet guarding a flock of sleeping sheep.

DANIEL: (Walks over and pats Ichabod on the head.) If standing is the worst part, Ichabod, then your life must not be so horrible after all!

ICHABOD: I'm just resting so that I will have the strength to run after the wolves that are certain to attack later tonight. Unless we all freeze to death first. I wouldn't last until dawn without this beautiful cloak. It's the only thing that will save me from this awful cold. Too bad it's only big enough for one to use.

CALEB: (Pulls at cloak) It's really too good for you, Ichabod. I think you should share, give each of us a chance to stay warm in your wonderful cloak. We promise we'd all admire it while we were getting warm.

THE CHRISTMAS CLOAK---Page 2.

ICHABOD: It is beautiful, isn't it? My grandmother quilted this just for me. So, Caleb, you'd like to borrow this? (Caleb nods) And the rest of you--you'd like a turn too? (All nod and reach toward the cloak while Ichabod stands pretends to take off cloak, then wraps it tighter than ever as he sits again.) I'll be a king in the new Jerusalem before I'd lend anyone my cloak. It's the finest thing I own. (Ichabod sighs) What good does it do to guard these sheep? It's too dark to see anyone stealing them anyway. I should be in bed.

DANIEL: But Ichabod, the night is so beautiful. How can you say it's dark when the stars are shining so brightly? I can see every rock--say, it's getting brighter every second. (He looks at the Angel Choir as they enter.) What's that light over there?

CALEB: (Pointing) Glory be--it's people! In the sky!

DANIEL: No, it's angels!

(Shepherds all fall on their faces)

ANGEL #1: Fear not. I bring you news of great joy for everyone. This very day in Bethlehem, a Savior was born, who is Christ the Lord.

ANGEL #2: You will know which baby it is by this sign: you will find Him wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger.

ANGEL CHOIR SELECTIONS: "The First Noel"

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

"O Come, Little Children" (change lyric to "O come, lowly shepherds...")

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

(Angel Choir exits after singing. Shepherds stand and Ichabod makes fun of the angels and flaps his arms as they leave.)

CALEB: Well, that settles it. You get your wish, Ichabod. We won't be standing out here tonight. We've got to go into Bethlehem and find that gift that God left for us in the manger. I wonder what it could be? If it's in a manger, it must be hay. We've got to go get this hay that God has given us. I can't say I understand why we must do this, but if angels say "Go," why, go we must!

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---