

# STUDY GUIDE

Theatre for Youth

& Outreach Program

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Let Your Imagination Take You Places!



## Fancy Nancy: SPLENDIFEROUS CHRISTMAS

Mon., Dec 14, 2015, 10:30 am

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Season 2015-2016

Dear Friends and Patrons of the Arts,

Thank you for your interest in the King Center Theatre For Youth Program. The mission of the program is to inspire, nurture and sustain a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts among our youth theatre patrons. This is accomplished by the diverse array of entertaining and educational arts offerings.

Study resource materials made possible by each artist and their management teams, is being provided to augment the live theatre experience. We hope you find the materials useful.

A live theatrical experience can leave a memorable impact even after the show is over....so, *Let Your Imagination Take You Places!*

We are looking forward to your attendance at the show.

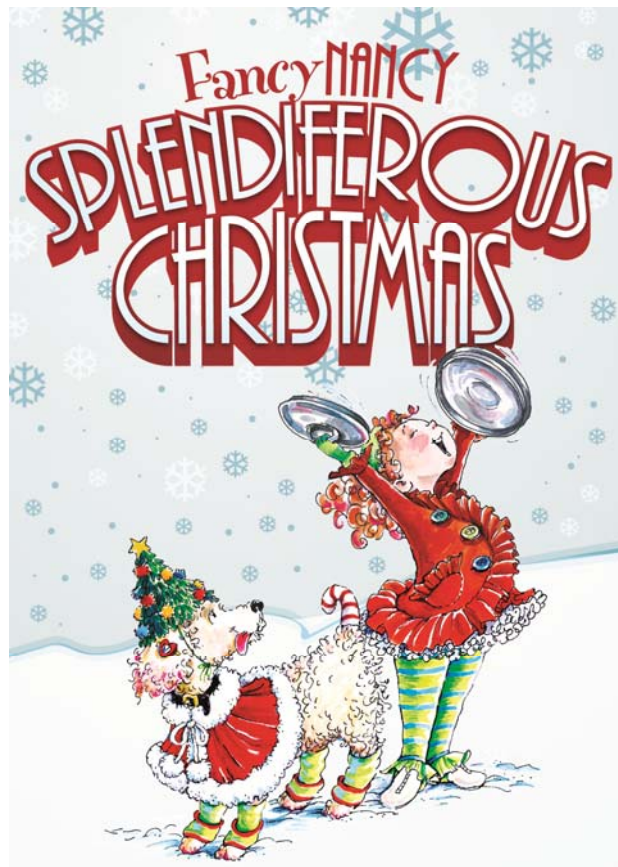
Yours in the arts,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen".

Karen Wilson  
Director  
Theatre For Youth and Outreach Program



# Curriculum Guide



Thank you for attending our show! This curriculum guide for Vital Theatre's company production for Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas The Musical is designed to extend our work into your classroom community. Our curriculum guide is designed for grades K-3.

Produced by Vital Theatre Company

2162 Broadway, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10024

[www.vitaltheatre.org](http://www.vitaltheatre.org)

Book by: Cara Lustik

Music by: Randy Klein

Lyrics: by Matthew Hardy

Based on Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas book written by:

Jane O'Connor

Illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser

\*For additional Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas activity sheets visit:  
<http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/Kids/GamesAndContests/>

## Description

Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas The Musical is based on the book Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas of, written by Jane O'Connor and illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser. Nancy and her family are preparing for Christmas by picking out the Christmas tree, decorating it, baking cookies, and caroling. Nancy sells some items of clothing and accessories of hers to buy a shiny brand new tree topper. She can't wait to decorate the Christmas tree. But when things don't turn out the way Nancy planned, will Christmas still be splendiferous?

## Review and Recall

1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
2. Who was your favorite character? Why?
3. What will you remember the most a week from now?
4. Why was Nancy upset?
5. What problem did Nancy have to solve? How did she solve it?



## Learning

1. Did you learn any fancy words to add to your vocabulary? List three.
2. How was the play different from the book? How was it the same? (Compare and contrast between the book and play.)
3. If you could turn any book into a musical, what would it be? Why?

## **Reflection**

1. If you were Nancy what would you do about the dilemma of the necklace and the tree topper?
2. Do you think it is okay for Nancy to feel upset?
3. What did Nancy learn about family? And giving?
4. How do Nancy and her family celebrate Christmas?

## **Fancy Vocabulary**

When we begin to discuss the musical or the book, we must first learn some fancy vocabulary to go along with our discussions. Try to use the vocabulary when you speak. Here are some words that can help.

Boutique: A small store that sells clothes or accessories

Caroling: To sing Christmas songs, usually in a group

Décor: The furniture or decorations in a room

Eggnog: A milky drink usually made around Christmastime

Evergreen: A plant that keeps its green leaves throughout the whole year

Exquisite: Beautiful, pretty, delicate

Festoon: To decorate with garland, wreath, and ornaments

Garland: An arrangement of flowers and even leaves that is used as a decoration.

Heirlooms: Things that are old and valuable

Holly: A small plant used to decorate around Christmastime

Joyeux Noel: French for Merry Christmas

Magnifique: French for Magnificent, Excellent

Ornament: Decorations used to festoon a Christmas tree

Peruse: To look at carefully

Poinsettias: A small red Mexican flower used to decorate rooms and windows during the holiday.

Rhinestones: Fake diamonds

Tinsel: A decoration that is made from thin strip of shiny foil

Unique: To be different from everything else

## Let's Learn French!

As know, Nancy is fancy all the way from what she wears, to the way that she speaks, and there is nothing fancier than French words. Let's take a quick French class!

<b>Polite Phrases</b> Hello (good day) = bonjour (bone-je-or) Good evening = bonsoir (bone-swa-r) Please = s'il vous plait (see-voo-play) Thank you = merci (mare-see) Excuse me = excuse moi (x-kyoos-e mwa) Goodbye = au revoir (o-rev-wa-r) I'm sorry = je suis desole(e) (je swee des-o-lay) Really good = tres bien	<b>Colors</b> Red = rouge (roo-je) Orange = orange(oh-ran-je) Yellow = jaune (je-awn) Green = vert (car) Blue = bleu (bloo) Purple = violet (vee-o-lay) Pink + rose (row-s) White = blanc (bla-an) Black = noir (noo-ar)
<b>Body Parts</b> Arms = bras (bra-s) Legs = jambs (je-ahm-s) Feet + pieds (pee-A-ds0 Head = la tete ( la teh-t) Mouth = la bouche (la boo-sh) Ears = les oriellles (lez or-ay) Nose - le nez (le nay) Shoulders = les epaules ( lez eh-pauls) Knees = les genoux (lez je-noo)	<b>Numbers</b> 0 = zero (zay-ro) 1 = un (uh) 2 =deux (dur) 3 = trois (twa) 4 = quatre (katr) 5 = cinq (sank) 6 = six (sees) 7 = sept (set) 8 = huit (weet) 9 =neuf (nurf) 10 =dix (dees)
<b>Holdiai Essentials</b> Happy holidays = Joyeuses fêtes Merry Christmas = Joyeux Noël Happy Hanukkah = Joyeux Hanoukka Happy Kwanza= Joyeux Kwanzaa	Happy New Year = Bonne Année Best wishes = Nos meilleurs vœux Gift = un cadeau Gift wrap = le papier-cadeau Christmas tree = arbre de Noël

Now that we know some French basics, let learn un chanson (a song) in French!

Rodophe était un renne  
Dont on dit qu'il possédait  
Un nez qui était vermeil,  
Qui reluire paraissait.

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer  
had a very shiny nose  
and if you ever saw it  
you would even say it glows.

Et tous les autres rennes  
Se moquaient toujours de lui.  
Ils ne lui permettaient pas  
De leurs jeux de faire partie.

All of the other reindeer  
used to laugh and call him names  
They never let poor Rudolph  
play in any reindeer games.

Une veille de Noël  
Père Noël lui dit:  
"Rodophe, avec ton nez si beau  
Veux-tu guider mon traineau?"

Then one foggy Christmas eve  
Santa came to say:  
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,  
won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Et puis les autres rennes  
Lui crièrent cet heureux soir:  
"De toi on se souviendra,  
Rodolphe, à travers l'histoire!"

Then all the reindeer loved him  
as they shouted out with glee,  
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,  
you'll go down in history



## Christmas Room Decoration

Nancy absolutely loves Christmas. It's her favorite time of the year because what could be fancier than Christmas? How would you decorate your room or any room in your house for Christmas? Maybe some garland, tinsel or even poinsettias? How about some stockings, a toy train, and don't forget about the Christmas tree! Draw a picture to share with the class.

## Make a Christmas Box

Creating a Christmas box is a wonderful rainy day activity during the holidays. This is a project that only needs a few tools. Decorating a box gives you the opportunity to show some creative flair while making a handy storage container for yourself or even friend.

You can use this box to store some Christmas candy, small toys, or even some pictures you might've taken during the holidays!

Materials:

- An empty box
- Colored paper
- Glue
- Tape
- Ribbon
- Glitter
- Scissors
- Anything fancy you can find!
- Pictures from newspapers
- Doctor

1. Find a small cardboard box with a lid. You can also go to a craft store and buy a nice wooden box.

Decide what colors you want on your box. Red and green work great for Christmas, but you can pick any colors you'd like because after all it's your box!

2. Cut out paper to cover your box with, arrange it however you like. You can use just one color if you like, or a whole different assortment. You can cut the paper to fit the sides, or even maybe cut out a whole bunch of different shapes and overlap them into a mosaic like pattern.

3. Glue it all down. Wet glue works best, and if you like, you can wet the glue down with water and then brush it on like paint. Before you move on, make sure everything is dry!

4. Add writing to your box. Stencils can make great pictures, or even add a sweet message. Add ribbon, pictures you cut out, or anything fancy you may have found to decorate your box with.

Decoupage your box if you want it to last, especially if you use a wooden box. It adds a smooth shine to your work. You can buy a decoupage at the same place you bought your wood box. Watery glue brushed over the finished product works just as well as the decoupage. Now you have a beautiful Christmas box! For instruction on how to make this glue decoupage substitute, go on the following link: <http://elmers.com/about/faqs/how-to>

## Make Your Own Garland

If you want to make your decoration to help get more a Christmas/holiday feel a homemade garland will do just the trick!

Materials:

- Popped popcorn
- Cranberries
- String/thread
- Froot loops
- Pasta noodles (Penne rigatoni, macaroni, ect.)
- Scissors
- Optional: beads or anything you can string

You might want to pop the popcorn the day before you start to make your own garland so that it will less likely crumble.

1. First you're going to cut the string, however long you would like your garland to be. Before you cut the string, think about where you're going to want to hang it. You don't want it too be too long or too short.
2. Now you're going to thread your needle. You should ask an adult for help with this part, just to be safe. To thread the needle you'll need to get the string you cut and slip it through the top of the needle and then knot it.
3. Now grab your cranberries, popcorn, froot loops, and pasta, and any other materials you want to use! Start sticking the needle through each one and pull it through to the end of the string. Some of your popcorn and cranberries will be tough to get through, if they are, just grab another one and try again!

Don't be afraid to try out patterns, or even apply paint to the materials you've decided to put on your garland.



4. Make sure you have enough room on each end of your string to tie it up and create a loop. Once you do that, you have now finished making your own garland. Now you can hang it up wherever you like!

## A Fantastique Day in Paris

Task: An improvisation game that will allow children to show of their acting skills while pretending to live in Paris.

Directions: After learning about French culture, students can act out a day in Paris! Make groups of two or three. The students will create a two to three minute scene that will depict a day in Paris. They should all pick an aspect of French life, from cooking to hanging out in the café, or even promenading on the seine. The goal is to make it as easy as possible for the audience to be aware of the location and how it affects the characters.

## Christmas Around the World

Have you ever wondered how Christmas is celebrated all around the world? Do you think that they celebrate the same exact way that you do, or maybe a little differently?

### France

In France, Christmas is celebrated just a little bit differently. While the French also decorate their homes, go Christmas tree shopping, have a big dinner, and open gifts on Christmas morning, they decorate their tree just a little differently. In addition to using ornaments like we do, the French might also decorate their tree with ribbons and real candles. Also, before they go to bed on the night of Christmas Eve all the children put out their shoes around the tree because they believe that if they don't, there won't be any gifts for them on Christmas morning!



### Germany

In Germany, they celebrate Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup> just like us, but they also have another holiday called St. Nikolaus day on December 6<sup>th</sup>. That's the holiday that they receive their presents, but they don't actually open them until Christmas Eve (December 24<sup>th</sup>).

**\*Fun fact:** did you know that our Christmas tree tradition in the United States was originated from immigrants who came from Germany to the United States.

## Russia

In Russia, Christmas isn't even celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Instead, Christmas isn't celebrated until January 7<sup>th</sup>! Some families in Russia don't eat on Christmas day until you can see the first star of the night sky. Christmas wasn't always celebrated in Russia, so some families view New Years as a more important holiday.

## Other Holidays

Did you know that some people don't just only celebrate Christmas? Some people don't even celebrate Christmas at all. Instead some people celebrate other holidays such as Kwanza and Hanukkah.

**Kwanzaa** was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966. He was trying to think of a way to bring African-Americans closer, to try and unify them. He combined different African celebrations, and thus created Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrated over the span of 7 days starting from December 26<sup>th</sup> until January 1<sup>st</sup>. A candle holder with 7 handles is set up and a candle is lit each day. Each day is to represent a specific value that betters your community. Some of these values are unity, self-determination, responsibility, and a couple more. On the final day everyone who is celebrating Kwanza exchanges gifts with one another.



**Hanukkah** is celebrated to commemorate the rededication of the Jewish to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish were fighting against the Greek because the Greek were trying to force them to give up their beliefs and convert to the Grecian ways. Hanukkah is celebrated to show how strong their faith was and still is today. over the span of 8 days for people of Jewish faith. These days are used to show how strong your faith is and to get the opportunity to share you faith with the people you care about. Just like Kwanza, there is a candleholder, but this time with 8 candles, with one candle being lit each day.



To learn more about these celebrations go on the following links:

France: <http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/france.shtml>

Germany: <http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/germany.shtml>

Russia: <http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/russia.shtml>

Kwanzaa: <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/kwanzaa-history>

Hanukkah: <http://www.hanukkahcelebrations.com/index.html>

## **Manieres Fabuleux: Fabulous Manners**

Fancy Nancy is all about being fancy, and what comes with being fancy? Learning good manners! Use the manners below to apply in your daily life. Ask them if they know any others, or if they have heard of these before. Encourage them to try to use as many possible. Here are the great ten manners that Nancy will surely agree with.

### **Manner #1**

When asking for something, say "Please"

### **Manner #2**

When receiving something, say "Thank you".

### **Manner #3**

Do not interrupt others when they are speaking with each other unless there is an emergency. People will notice you and respond when they are finished talking.

**Manner #4**

If you do need to get somebody's attention right away, the phrase "excuse me" is a polite way for you to enter the conversation.

**Manner #5**

When you have any doubt about doing something, ask permission first.

**Manner #6**

When people ask how you are, tell them then ask them how they are.

**Manner #7**

When you have spent time at your friend's house, remember to thank his or her parents for having you over and for the good time you had.

**Manner #8**

Knock on closed doors – and wait to see if there's a response – before entering.

**Manner #9**

During the holidays, it's important to be grateful of what you have and remember to give back. Try going with an adult to volunteer at a soup kitchen, even doing something as simple as helping out a little more with the chores. Just try to give back however you can!

**Try to put the manners into effect and become as fancy as Nancy!**

**We want to hear from you!  
Write to us and send us your reviews.**

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