

Audition Materials
Charlie Brown's Christmas

In addition to singing a Christmas carol and doing some acting games for us, you will be asked to perform this scene from "The Perfect Christmas Present" with others your age as a part of your audition. Please download this handout and attached script for "The Perfect Christmas Present" and practice one of the parts in the script and become familiar with the lines. You will be allowed to hold the script in your hand for auditions, but we would like to see you be able to act the part not read the lines- so if you can memorize them, great! The list of roles in Charlie Brown's Christmas is below, followed by a guide to which lines to practice depending upon the role you want to audition for.

The following roles are available in Charlie Brown's Christmas:

Charlie Brown
Lucy
Linus
Sally
Snoopy
Patty
Schroeder
Pig Pen
Frieda
Violet
Shermy
Ensemble

- If you are interested in trying out for Snoopy, practice the lines for Buddy in *The Perfect Christmas Present*
- If you are interested trying out for Charlie Brown practice the lines for Freddie in *The Perfect Christmas Present*
- If you are interested in trying out for Linus, Schroeder, Pig Pen, Shermy or a boy in Ensemble, practice the lines for Mason in *The Perfect Christmas Present*
- If you are interested in trying out for Lucy practice the lines for Olivia Brockett in *The Perfect Christmas Present*
- If you are interested in Sally, Patty, Frieda, Violet or a girl in the Ensemble, practice the lines for Annie in *The Perfect Christmas Present*

The Perfect Christmas Present
by Cory Wilkerson
Act I – Scene One
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Mrs. Rockwell's class is having a Christmas party and the children have all drawn names to exchange gifts. The children are on their way to school, discussing how to find the perfect Christmas present for their Secret Santa gift. All of the children are in Mrs. Rockwell's class except for Mason and Olivia who are a year younger.

Characters

Freddie Jones – a loveable but slightly sad boy who has the world's worst luck – nothing ever goes right for him no matter how hard he tries

Annie Jones – Freddie's little sister – sweet, innocent, somehow has Santa confused with the Easter Bunny

Olivia Brockett– a bossy know it all who really wants to be the president of the world – she is a reporter for the school newspaper

Mason Brockett – Freddie's best friend and Annie's younger brother – very kind and wise – in some ways he seems much older than a 1st grader – in some ways much younger - he refuses to go anywhere without his old beaten up lamb, much to his sister's embarrassment.

Buddy– Freddie's very human dog.

(Freddie enters, on his way to school. He has a backpack and is carrying a small box of animal crackers or cookies.)

Freddie: Here Buddy! Here Buddy! *(Buddy runs in and Freddie pats his head)* You came when I called you! Good boy!

Buddy: *(looking bored, holds out his hand for a treat)*

Freddie: Here you go boy! Good job! *(hands Buddy a cookie)*

Buddy: *(to audience)* Humans are so easy to train aren't they? *(Buddy turns to go)*

Freddie: Wait Buddy, I just had an idea. You can walk me to school, won't that be fun? *(Freddie hands Buddy one end of a rope and takes the other- Freddie is now on a "leash")* Dogs always walk their masters to school. In fact you can lead! Find the way to school boy!

Buddy: *(to audience)* How humiliating! *(he takes the rope and walks forward, Freddie walks behind a few steps. They approach a park bench and Buddy strikes a dramatic pose- pointing to the bench in an imitation of a hunting dog)*

Freddie: Why are we stopping? You haven't walked me to school yet!

Buddy: *(to audience)* Obviously he's forgotten he takes the school bus. *(Buddy points again more emphatically).*

Freddie: Oh I get it! You walked me to the school bus stop didn't you! Good dog! Good dog! *(He pats Buddy's head.)*

Buddy: *(Buddy puts his hand out for a cookie.)*

Freddie: No more cookies today boy. Run back home! There's a good dog.

Buddy: *(Takes the rope, coils it up neatly and hands it to Freddie, gets down on his knees clasping both hands together and begins to whine, begging dramatically)*

Freddie: No, I'm sorry. No more cookies. *(turns away)*

Buddy: *(runs to the other side of Freddie and begs again on his knees- louder this time)*

Freddie: No cookies!

Buddy: *(getting VERY loud - he begs as annoyingly as he can.)*

Freddie: Ok! Ok! *(hands him a cookie)* Just be quiet!

Buddy: *(Standing up he grabs the cookie, and turns to the audience.)* Was it my cute little face?
(Buddy exits)

(Mason, Annie and Olivia enter. All have bookbags on their backs. Olivia is writing in a notebook. Mason has his stuffed lamb, Annie is absorbed in a toy catalog.)

Mason: Hi Freddie!

Olivia: *(pushing past Mason and Annie)* Good morning Freddie Jones, I would like to interview you for the school paper.

Freddie: We don't have a school paper Olivia.

Olivia: Of course we do Freddie Jones, I started one this morning. Now, today's topic is the Perfect Christmas Present. What do you think is the perfect Christmas present Freddie Jones? *(she pauses)*

Freddie: Well, I

Olivia: Speak up! What are you getting your Secret Santa?

Freddie: I hadn't really thought about it yet Olivia. I guess....

Olivia: Hurry up Freddie Jones, I need an answer- time is money you know!

Mason: Actually Olivia, I believe that money is usually a man made substance symbolic of worth or value, and in our case money includes paper bills printed by the US government and a series of coins made of metal alloys which....

Olivia: *(glaring at her brother)* It's an expression Mason. It's something ace reporters say.

Mason: But you aren't an ace reporter Olivia, you're only in second grade.

Olivia: Obviously I'm the world's youngest ace reporter Mason.

Mason: Who says?

Olivia: *(glaring, makes a fist and threatens Mason)* I say!

Mason: Oh, I see. (*Mason pulls out Lambie for comfort and backs away to sit on the bench and wait for the bus.*)

Olivia: Well Freddie Jones? What are you getting your Secret Santa? It has to be the perfect present!

Annie: I know what the perfect present is Olivia –it's in this book! The Toy's For Us super extravaganza Christmas of your dreams wish book!

Olivia: (*taking the book*) Ooooo... look at this.... I want that!

Annie: How about this? Don't you just love it! And only \$500.00 Freddie this would be the perfect Christmas present for your Secret Santa.

Olivia: Well Freddie Jones? What do you say? Will you be getting this for your Secret Santa? It's the Perfect Christmas present- it says so right here! (*Points to the book*)

Freddie: But it's \$500 Olivia, (*checks his pockets*) I only have twenty seven cents and a button.

Olivia: Well then Freddie Jones I can't help you. You just won't be able to get the perfect Christmas Present for your Secret Santa. (*She takes the book from Annie and sits on the bench next to Mason, leafing through it and writing down ideas in her notebook- the interview forgotten.*)

Freddie: (*Seeing no more room on the bench, he sits on the ground.*) I'll never be able to afford the perfect present. I guess I'm just a failure at perfect presents!

Annie: (*crossing to her brother, she pats him on the back.*) Maybe you could ask the Bunny to bring you the perfect present Freddie, and then you could give it to your Secret Santa.

Mason: Excuse me Annie, but you said a bunny? I believe you are confused. You are thinking about the Easter bunny. The Easter bunny brings candy and treats at Easter time.

Annie: I know that silly, there are no Easter bunny's in winter!

Freddie: So you see Annie, I can't ask the Easter Bunny to bring me the perfect Christmas present.

Annie: It's the Christmas Bunny of course!

Mason: But Annie...

Annie: (*looks ready to cry*) Are you telling me that you don't believe in the Christmas bunny?

Olivia: If Annie says there is a Christmas bunny there is a Christmas bunny Mason! (*she threatens Mason with her fist*) And if not, I'll make a Christmas bunny when I become President of the World.

Mason: (*crossing over to Freddie, he sits on the ground beside him*) I guess you'll just have to ask the Christmas bunny Freddie.

Freddie: I think I'm in deep trouble! (*he sighs and slips down off the bench to the ground*)