ENRICHMENT GUIDE



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DEAR FIRST STAGE FRIENDS,

Come home for the holidays as the most famous reindeer of all soars off the screen and returns to First Stage this season. Celebrating 60 years on television, join Rudolph and friends as they come to life on stage in an adventure that teaches us that what makes you different can be what makes you special. Acclaimed as "...packed full of holiday magic and family fun" by the Shepherd Express, don't miss this wonderful holiday tradition that speaks to the misfit in all of us.

Enjoy the show,

Brinn Hill

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CONTENT ADVISORY

Best enjoyed by All Ages!

Every child is different and may or may not be ready for certain elements of each production. Read more about this show's age recommendation below.

First Stage's production of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer the Musical is based on the classic stop-motion television special. The television special is rated TV-G.

The familiar story and music along with the puppetry, costumes and set will have audiences of all ages feeling like they have stepped into the world of the special.

The performance is expected to run 75 minutes plus intermission. The show explores Rudolph and Hermey's experiences feeling like misfits and experiencing bullying, and how they cope with feeling left out.

The atmosphere of the show is created by Snokens, actors dressed all in white, who help to animate the world through movement and puppetry. The show contains a twelve-foot Abominable Snowman/Bumble puppet, which some young audiences may find frightening, before the Bumble befriends our heroes. The show contains a moment where Yukon Cornelious is presumed to be dead before we discover that he's alive and well.

There will be flashing lights, haze, snow, larger-than-life puppets, and occasional loud music and sounds that may be overwhelming for those with sensory sensitivities. We offer sensory friendly performances and sensory kits for patrons who may need them.

PLOT SUMMARY

Our story begins in Christmastown, a tiny town at the North Pole, and we read newspaper headlines describing the worst snowstorm in history! Sam the Snowman appears and introduces himself and everything around him: Christmas Tree Forest and the castle where Santa and Mrs. Claus live. Inside the castle, Mrs. Claus is trying to encourage Santa to eat, but he is too busy getting ready for Christmas.

Sam the Snowman shares with the audience how much he loves this time of the year (Holly Jolly Christmas). Sam recalls how one Christmas, a big snowstorm almost ruined Christmas, but it was saved by one special reindeer (Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer). We head to where Donner and Mrs. Donner live, where they just had a newborn baby named Rudolph. As they fawn over him, Rudolph's nose glows and makes a noise. When Santa sees Rudolph's nose, he warns Donner to do something about it if Rudolph is to join his sleigh someday (Jingle Jingle Jingle). When Santa leaves, Donner hides Rudolph's nose using mud and proceeds to teach Rudolph the ins and outs of how to be a reindeer and to watch out for one of the fiercest creatures of the North Pole: The Abominable Snow Monster.

Sam the Snowman leads us back to Santa's house where we meet Santa's elves who are singing When Santa Claus Gets Your Letter.

They are busy making toys and separating the ones that are misfits. There's one elf who isn't working: Hermey. He doesn't want to make toys; he wants to be a dentist. Boss Elf scolds him for not working, and Hermey runs away (I Am Not Just a Misfit). Back at Donner's cave. Rudolph is telling his father that he doesn't want to wear anything to cover his nose, but Donner refuses to let him uncover his nose. Sam the Snowman describes how the seasons have passed, and it's now April. All the young reindeer and their families are out to meet each other and play reindeer games, led by Coach Comet. Rudolph meets Fireball and they become good buddies. Rudolph joins in the flying game called Take Off. Coach Comet explains the rules. While Rudolph waits for his turn, he strikes up a conversation with a doe named Clarice. Right before Rudolph's turn to take off, Clarice tells him that she thinks he's cute. Rudolph is so excited to hear that, that he has no issue taking flight! Everyone is impressed, especially Santa, (Jingle Jingle Jingle Reprise). All of the young bucks surround Rudolph to celebrate, but, in the tussling, Rudolph's nose covering falls off. Coach Comet is appalled by Rudolph's bright, glowing nose and announces that Rudolph may not join in anymore reindeer games.

PLOT SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Embarrassed, Rudolph runs away, and Clarice follows him. When she catches up, Rudolph is sullen and asks if she's going to laugh at his different nose. Clarice doesn't. She says that his nose is handsome, and that any doe would be lucky to be with him. Rudolph worries about what's going to happen and Clarice cheers him up (There's Always Tomorrow). Coach Comet comes for his daughter and makes it clear that Clarice is to stay away from that red-nosed reindeer (I Am Not Just a Misfit)!

Sam the Snowman takes us back to Santa's castle, where Boss Elf is leading the rest of the elves in their "Elf-Improvement" Lessons. Santa listens to them sing (We Are Santa's Elves) and exclaims that the song needs work. Boss Elf tries to get to the bottom of why it wasn't good enough, and the elves explain they were missing their main tenor: Hermey. Boss Elf discovers Hermey sitting on a bench repairing the teeth of a doll. Boss Elf yells at him for missing Elf Practice. Hermey says that he just wanted to find a way to fit in. Feeling out of place, Hermey leaves Santa's castle. Sam the Snowman leads us back to the Christmas Tree Forest, where we find Hermey and Rudolph. The two misfits meet and become friends (We're a Couple of Misfits). Suddenly, they hear a horrible roar. It is the Abominable Snow Monster, and it sees Rudolph's bright nose!

Hermey and Rudolph run and hide. When Rudolph doesn't return home, Donner and Mrs. Donner are worried that Rudolph is missing! Donner decides to look for Rudolph on his own. After he leaves, Mrs. Donner and Clarice also decide to look for him. Back in the Christmas Tree Forest, Yukon Cornelius suddenly rushes in with his sleigh of mush dogs. As he prospects for gold, he finds Hermey and Rudolph hiding behind a snowbank. After introductions they hear another growl from the Abominable Snow Monster, or, as Yukon Cornelius calls it, the Bumble. They run onto a piece of ice to escape the Bumble since it can't swim. Yukon Cornelius breaks off their icefloe from the rest of the iceberg and they float away into the middle of the water. The misfits decide to join Yukon Cornelius on his journey to gather supplies and mine for silver and gold. Yukon Cornelius shares his dreams for the future and Hermey and Rudolph join in (Fame and Fortune).

While they float away on the icefloe, Sam the Snowman returns to share how important Christmas is to him (Silver and Gold). During this, Hermey, Rudolph, and Yukon get lost in fog as thick as peanut butter. Suddenly, their icefloe floats into the Island of Misfit Toys! The trio meets Charlie-in-the-Box and other misfit toys who introduce the trio to their island (The Most Wonderful Day of the Year).

PLOT SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Rudolph asks if he and the others may live on the island, too. Charlie tells them they will need permission from King Moonracer: the king of the island who searches the earth for unwanted, misfit toys. Though he tells them no, Moonracer asks if Rudolph and Hermey might help the misfit toys by telling Santa about them and finding a child to love them. They agree to help, and Moonracer welcomes them to stay for the night. That night, Rudolph worries that he's putting his friends in danger, and he sneaks away (There's Always Tomorrow Reprise).

Time passes on and Rudolph grows up. He realizes, now, that he can't just run away from his problems. So, he returns to Christmastown to see his family again. Once home, he finds his family and Clarice are missing and Santa tells him that they went missing months ago trying to find Rudolph! Rudolph promises to find them. He knew exactly where to look, and, as soon as he leaves, the snowstorm of the century blows in.

Rudolph rushes through the snowstorm to the only place his family and Clarice could be: the Bumble's cave. Rudolph tries to fight the Bumble to free his family, but he's knocked unconscious. Luckily, Hermey and Yukon were looking for Rudolph this entire time and they arrive to save Rudolph. Hermey pretends to be a tasty pig for the Bumble to eat and draws the Bumble into the mouth of the cave. Yukon uses his ice pick to knock ice into the Bumble and knocks him out.

Hermey uses his dentistry skills to pull out all of the Bumble's teeth. Yukon taunts the Bumble, but Yukon and the beast fall off the cliff! Rudolph and Hermey are sad about what happened, but they have to make it home to save Christmas!

Back at Santa's castle, the elves are busy setting up all of the Christmas decorations. Rudolph, Hermey, Clarice, Donner, and Mrs. Donner hurry back and share the story of what just happened. All of the elves, the reindeer, and Santa have a change of heart about Rudolph and Hermey. Santa promises to deliver the Misfit Toys to homes when the snowstorm passes, Hermey is allowed to open a dentist office for the elves, and Donner apologizes to Rudolph for how he treated him. Suddenly, there's a knock on the door, and Yukon Cornelius enters with a toothless Bumble! Everyone celebrates, but Sam reminds everyone that Christmas Eve is the next day, and they have no way to get through the snowstorm (We Are Santa's Elves Reprise).

Rudolph's nose glows brightly, and Santa gets the idea to have Rudolph lead his sleigh through the snowstorm. Christmas is saved and Rudolph is the hero! Everyone celebrates as they set up Santa's sleigh (Holly Jolly Christmas Reprise). Santa and the reindeer take off to pick up the Misfit Toys (A Merry Christmas to You), and Rudolph's nose shines into the night as they deliver toys around the world (Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer).

PRESHOW QUESTIONS

1. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was first a Christmas song before it was turned into the animated television special that this musical is based on. How similar do you think the song, TV special, and musical are going to be? What might be different?

2. Rudolph's red, light-up nose makes him stand out from the other reindeer and helps him become a hero. It's what makes him special. Do you have a special skill or trait? What is it? How does it help you stand out from friends and family?

3. This musical takes place in December, when a lot of different holidays—like Christmas and Hanukkah—happen around the world. What holiday traditions do you celebrate with your family or at school?

60 YEARS OF THE RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER TV SPECIAL

WELCOME TO CHRISMASTOWN AT FIRST STAGE! THIS YEAR, AS WE CELEBRATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLASSIC TV-SPECIAL RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER, WE'D LIKE TO LOOK BACK AT THE HISTORY OF OUR FAVORITE REINDEER. IN FACT, ALMOST 30 YEARS BEFORE HIS STORY WAS A MUSICAL OR A TV-SPECIAL, RUDOLPH'S STORY WAS A BOOK!

Robert L. May, a resident of Chicago, Illinois, was working at Montgomery Ward—a department store that sold clothing, jewelry, tools, and much more. His job was to create the catalogues that Montgomery Ward would send out across the country for families to use to do their shopping. Every year, for Christmas, they would hand out free coloring books to families who visited their store as a treat for the kids. This was an expensive endeavor, though, and in early 1939, Montgomery Ward asked Robert May to create an original story that would be handed out later that year at Christmas. At the time, Robert was down on his luck: his family didn't have a lot of money, and his wife was terribly sick. He was relieved to finally have a project he could pour his heart and soul into that was positive.

You might be asking: How did he come up with the story of a red-nosed reindeer? Growing up, Robert felt like he never fully fit in. He had skipped a grade or two in school and he was always much younger and much smaller than most of his classmates. He also felt that he wasn't as cool as the kids around him. The story he ended up writing was the exact kind of story a younger version of himself would have wanted. His daughter Barbara loved reindeer, and so, the misfit red-nosed reindeer was born! When trying to find a name for the reindeer, he wanted a name that used alliteration—a name that started with the same letter as "red-nosed" and "reindeer". He considered many names, but eventually, he landed on Rudolph. To think: we almost had a Roderick, Reginald, or Rollo the Red-Nosed Reindeer instead! Lastly, he drew inspiration from the rhythm and rhyming used in the well-known Christmas poem: A Visit from St. Nicholas.

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, WHEN ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING, NOT EVEN A MOUSE; THE STOCKINGS WERE HUNG BY THE CHIMNEY WITH CARE, IN HOPES THAT ST. NICHOLAS SOON WOULD BE THERE;

For the full poem, head to: https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43171/a-visit-from-st-nicholas

60 YEARS OF THE RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER TV SPECIAL

Robert read the story with his daughter Barbara, and he could tell that his story was going to be a success. He submitted the story to his boss to get it published for Christmas. That year, they produced and distributed an astounding 2.4 million copies!

Then, in 1949, Robert's brother-in-law Johnny Marks turned the story into the popular Christmas song we all know! The song was originally sung by The Singing Cowboy, Gene Autry, and sold 1.75 million copies in its first year alone. By 1985, the song sold 150 million records and 8 million copies of sheet music worldwide. It has also been covered by many more famous artists (Bing Crosby, Dolly Parton, Chuck Berry, Ray Charles, Ringo Starr, the Jackson 5, and rapper DMX to name a few).

15 years after the success of the song, it was time for Rudolph to go on his next big journey: the TV Special. The TV-Special was sponsored by General Electric and used an animation style called stop motion—though at the time it was called "Animagic". Stop motion uses a series of pictures of objects and dolls, oftentimes made from clay, that are carefully repositioned between each photo. Then, the photos are put together and flipped through to make it look like the objects and dolls are moving! Some modern examples of stop motion animation are Coraline, Chicken Run, and The Nightmare Before Christmas.

The story, as it was, was the perfect length to be a children's book, but it needed to be longer for the TV-Special. So, when making the transition into the TV-Special, many additions needed to be made. In fact, many of the characters we know and love from the special weren't in the original book! This includes Sam the Snowman, Clarice, Hermey, Yukon, the Bumble, and the Misfit Toys. This also meant a ton of new songs had to be written, like "There's Always Tomorrow", "We're a Couple of Misfits", and "The Most Wonderful Day of the Year". The TV-Special was released in 1964 and has become the longest running Christmas special of all time.

First Stage commissioned Robert Penola to adapt Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and, in 2012, First Stage performed the first production of the musical. The production was originally directed by current Artistic Director Jeff Frank. This year's production of Rudolph will be First Stage's fifth time producing the show.

Though the story has taken on many different forms, the moral of the story is still the same. Robert L May put it best himself: it's a "story of acceptance," and it teaches its readers, viewers, and audience members that "tolerance and perseverance can overcome adversity." Take a look at the timeline on the next page to see how Rudolph has changed throughout the years.

For more information, feel free to check out:

https://www.npr.org/2015/12/25/461005670/the-history-of-rudolph-the-red-nosed-reindeer
https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/snapshot/rudolph-red-nosed-reindeer
https://time.com/5479322/rudolph-the-red-nosed-reindeer-history-origins/
https://www.bigcommerce.com/blog/who-invented-rudolph-red-nose-reindeer/
https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/stories/rudolph-red-nosed-reindeer-turns-75

60 YEARS OF THE RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER A TIMELINE



1939

Robert L May writes the original story of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and the story was distributed for free outside of the Montgomery Ward department stores during the Christmas season.



1964

The TV-Special of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is created and airs on TV. It becomes the longest running Christmas special of all-time.

60 YEARS OF THE RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER A TIMELINE CONTINUED



First Stage commissions and produces the first staged production of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Photographed by Mark Frohna. Young Performers are Thomas Mazza and Darius Gaskin. 2012

2024

Rudolph needs a fresh new look and it's up to you to draw it! Feel free to draw Rudolph using whatever materials you'd like; such as crayons or paint or cut up pieces of paper. Get as creative as you'd like!

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS ACTIVITY

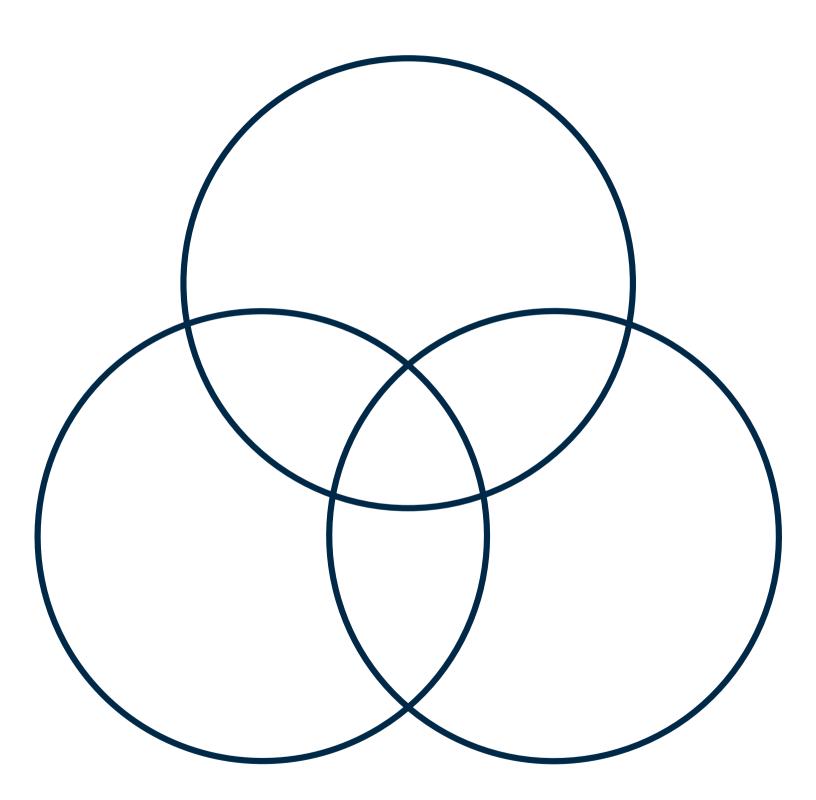
Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer the Musical takes place during the Christmas season. There are many different holidays and traditions that happen around the world during this time of year. Let's think about the different holiday traditions you celebrate! Are there certain traditions you do at home that you can bring to your classroom or from your classroom to your friend group? Using the materials listed and the directions, you can find your own way to introduce your traditions to more of your communities!

MATERIALS

- Venn Diagram (attached)
- Construction Paper of any color (printer paper works, too!)
- Markers/Crayons/Colored Pencils

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Print out the copy of the Venn diagram provided OR make your own on a poster using the one provided as an example for how it should look. Venn diagrams are used for figuring out what is similar and different between two or more things. Where the circles do overlap, you can put down what the things have in common. Where they do not overlap, you can write down what is special to each thing.
- 2. Start by filling in the largest sections. In these areas, write down details about the traditions you do with your family, school, and community that are NOT similar to the other traditions you do. Be as specific as possible. For example: does your family decorate your house in a certain way? What kind of decorations do you use? Is there a special meal you always have? Who do you spend this tradition with?
- 3. Then, consider what each tradition has in common and put this information in the sections where the circles overlap. For example: If you decorate your classroom and your home with twinkle lights, you can put that in the area where "Family" and "School" overlap. Or if you sing a certain holiday song with your family, school, and community (like at church or a community center), you can put that in the area where all three overlap.
- 4. Once your Venn diagram is filled out, consider what traditions you love the most that you wish could be shared between different groups. For example, perhaps your family makes cookies that you wish you could share with your classmates or there is an activity that your community does that you wish you could share with your family. What about this tradition do you really like and why do you want to share it with more people? Write these thoughts down on the lines provided.
- 5. A great way to share this tradition is to give a greeting card or a holiday card! Using your construction paper, fold it in half hamburger style to form a card. On the front cover, draw a picture of your favorite holiday tradition. On the inside of the card, write your own message wishing holiday cheer!
- 6. When your card is finished, give this card to someone you wish to share your tradition with-such as a family member, a close friend, or your teacher! Feel free to make as many cards as you'd like!



HOW I SHINE BRIGHT COLLAGE ACTIVITY

What helps Rudolph achieve his dream of being on Santa's Sleigh Team is that he realizes that what makes him different is his most special quality. His nose helps him shine bright-literally! We also have traits and abilities that help us shine bright. Using the directions below, you can create your own artwork to show off what makes you unique-how you shine bright.

MATERIALS

- Paper (scrap paper for brainstorming, and colorful paper for collage making)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Magazines and other materials for collage-making

DIRECTIONS

- Start by gathering your materials for creating your collage. A collage is an artwork that is made by combining unrelated words, images, materials and arranging them into one unified arrangement that conveys a message or an emotion. Two famous collage artists are Della Wells and Matisse.
 - Your materials can be anything like scraps of colored paper; pieces of fabric, ribbon, or yarn; newspaper or magazine clippings. You can even use drawings that you've made or pictures you've taken!
- Start with a blank piece of paper. On this paper, list all of the qualities about yourself that you like or are proud of. These could be something as simple as maybe you are great at drawing people, or you tell hilarious jokes or as complex as you are a terrific listener or you are a strong leader. If you're struggling to create this list, ask friends, family members, or your teachers to describe some positive qualities you have.
- Take a look at the materials you gathered. What materials interest you? Is there a
 certain color you really like? Are there certain words in the newspaper or magazine
 clippings that inspire you or relate to the list you wrote? Could you draw pictures of
 the different qualities you possess? Cut out your materials into assorted shapes that
 show off the qualities you put on your list.
- Once your materials are cut out, begin to glue them together in whatever arrangement you'd like that shows off who you are and what you love about yourself.
 What is important is that your collage shows off who you are-there is not right or wrong way of creating your collage.
- When your collage is complete, gather your friends, family, or classmates and show off what you've created! Feel free to either have your audience try to guess what each part of your collage symbolizes or explain yourself what each part means.

ARCTIC ANTICS! A SCIENCE CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

"Waaaaaahoooo! Terrible weather we've been havin'! Har har har - snow and - ice!" Rudolph and his friends live in the North Pole located in the Arctic where it is freezing! How do the animals keep warm without putting on boots and coats? Explore how insulation keeps in body heat in this fun hands-on experiment!

MATERIALS

- Experiment Chart (attached)
- Spatula or Spoon
- 4 quart-sized zipper bags
- Ice and water
- 12-15 cotton balls
- 1 cup solid shortening
- 2 small sealable containers that can easily fit into the quart-sized bags.
 - If your containers aren't small enough, feel free to use bigger zipper bags

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Start by filling one of the zipper bags with ice and water. For this experiment, this ice bag will act as our arctic ice.
- 2. Let's start by testing to see how well humans are insulated against the cold. Place the bag of ice on your hand and keep it there for 10 seconds. In the chart provided, write down your observations: On a scale of 1-10, where 1 is not cold at all and 10 is freezing cold, how cold does your hand feel? What did your hand feel like during those 10 seconds?
- 3. Now, let's test out how polar bear fur works as insulation by creating our own "Polar Bear Blanket". Fill one of the zipper bags with the cotton balls. Next, place this blanket on your palm, and then the bag of ice on top of that. Hold the bag of ice there for another 10 seconds. After the 10 seconds, write down your observations in the chart: on a scale of 1-10, how cold does your hand feel? What did your hand feel like during those 10 seconds?
- 4. Now, let's try out the walrus blubber. Fill one of the zipper bags with the cup of solid shortening. Then, turn the last zipper bag inside out and place it INSIDE the shortening. Be careful not to get any shortening inside of this bag! Then, zip the inside out bag and the shortening bag together to create a Mitt. This "Walrus Mitt" imitates the walrus' blubber that helps it stay warm.
- 5. Place the "Walrus Mitt" onto your hand, and then place the ice bag onto your palm. Hold the ice bag there for 10 seconds. Write down your observations onto the chart: on a scale of 1-10, how cold does your hand feel? What did your hand feel like during those 10 seconds?
- 6. Answer the following questions: Which insulation method kept you the warmest? Why? This is a great, safe way to test out how insulation works, but 10 seconds is nowhere near similar to the icy conditions in the arctic. Let's test these conditions out over a longer period of time.
- 7. Fill 3 sealable containers with icy water.

ARCTIC ANTICS! A SCIENCE CLASSROOM ACTIVITY CONTINUED

- 8. One container will remain out in the open. Label that one the "Human Insulation". One container will be placed into the "Polar Bear Blanket" --this one will be polar bear fur. The final container will be placed into the "Walrus Mitt" --this one will be the walrus blubber.
- 9. Set a timer for one hour. After an hour, pull each container out of their insulation, open them, and dip a finger into each jar to check their temperatures. In the chart, write your observations: how cold is the water in each container on a scale from 1-10? Why do you think the water's temperature changed to what they are in each jar?
- 10. Share your results with your friends, family, and teacher and challenge them to try this experiment out to compare results!

EXPERIMENT CHART

	COLDNESS RATING ON HAND (SCALE OF 1-10)	ICE ON HAND OBSERVATIONS	COLDNESS RATING IN JAR (SCALE OF 1-10)	ICE WATER JAR OBSERVATIONS
NO INSULATION				
POLAR BEAR FUR				
WALRUS BLUBBER				

POSTSHOW QUESTIONS

1. Hermey the Elf is fascinated by teeth and wants to be a dentist when he grows up. What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?

2. What is the meaning of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? Why is this message important?

3. Rudolph has always had the goal of being a part of Santa's team of reindeers and he works throughout the story to achieve his goals. What is a goal that you have? What can you do to get closer to achieving your goal?

WHO SAID IT?

- 1. Who ever heard of a skinny Santa? Eat!
- 2. How can you overlook that? His beak blinks like a blinkin' beacon!
- 3. I just don't like to make toys.
- 4. I'm cude. I'm cude!.
- 5. I think it's a handsome nose. Much better than that silly false one you were wearing.
- 6. What? You don't like to make toys?
- 7. Gadzooks! The Bumble strikes again! Whoopeeee!
- 8. I'm the official Sentry of the Island of the Misfit Toys!
- 9. A toy is never truly happy until it is loved by a child.
- 10. You! I thought you were gone for good. Hey, look who's back ol' neon nose!
- 11. Never knew a Bumble yet who'd turn down a pork dinner for deer meat...do your stuff.
- 12. Well, they are all very sad at the loss of their friend but they realize that the best thing to do is to get back to Christmastown.
- 13. Come here...open your mouth oh dear. I'd better set up an appointment, week from Tuesday. Four-thirty sharp.
- 14. Well, this is it. The storm won't subside by tonight. We'll have to cancel Christmas.
- 15. Looks like we're forgotten again.
- 16. It sure is! It's SANTA!! And look, Rudolph is leading the way!

RECOMMENDED READING

