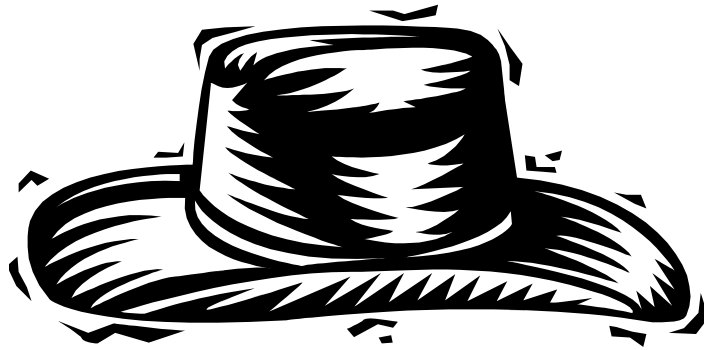


*Cowboy*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**READERS THEATER**

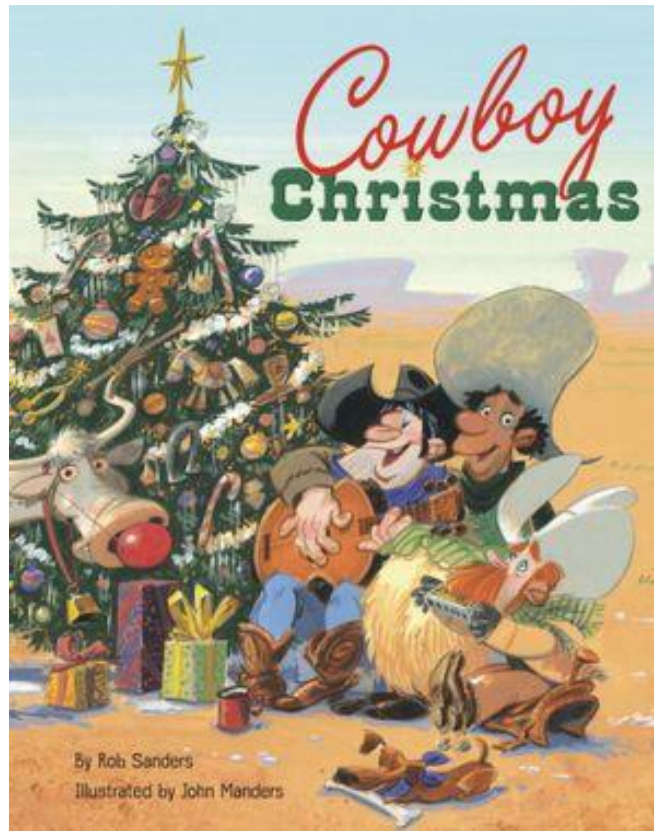


Based on *Cowboy Christmas*  
By Rob Sanders  
Illustrated by John Manders

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# **INTRODUCING:**



**BY ROB SANDERS**

**ILLUSTRATED BY JOHN MANDERS**

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Also available in Kindle and NOOK editions.

# *Cowboy* **CHRISTMAS** **READERS THEATER**

## **THE CHARACTERS**

**NARRATOR:** He (or she) leads us through the story.

**DWIGHT:** A cowhand. One of the three Circle D Ranch dudes.

**DARRYL:** A cowpuncher. Another of the Circle D Ranch dudes.

**DUB:** A cow wrangler. The third of the Circle D Ranch dudes. Not the sharpest cowboy on the range, but lovable.

**COOKIE:** The cowboy's cook and the voice of reason for the boys. He is all-business and gets the job done.

**SANTY:** The one and only Santy Claus, except with cowboy boots.

**THE COWS:** Mangy, mooing mongrels.

## **THE SETTING**

Way out West somewheres.

## **ABOUT READERS THEATER**

Readers Theater is most effective when students are familiar with a book. Read *Cowboy Christmas* to your students so they hear the story, laugh along as the cowboys get themselves in all kinds of messes, and fall in love with the characters.

When you perform a Readers Theater piece, you do so by reading dramatically, with great expression. Props and sets are not needed, and in “real” Readers Theater there is no movement—readers sit in chairs or on stools and read. The voices and facial expressions of the readers communicate the story. Adapt this Readers Theater script to meet the needs of your students. Above all else, have some rip-roarin’ fun!

## **A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR**

For more activities and teaching resources related to *Cowboy Christmas*, visit my web site at [www.robsanderswrites.com](http://www.robsanderswrites.com). Teachers and authors are invited to follow my blog at [www.robsanderswrites.blogspot.com](http://www.robsanderswrites.blogspot.com). I am available for school visits, teacher training, writing camps for kids, and more! Email me at [Rob@robsanderswrites.com](mailto:Rob@robsanderswrites.com).

# SCENE 1

**NARRATOR:** The dudes from the Circle D Ranch—Dwight, Darryl, and Dub—were drifting along with the tumbling tumbleweeds, and a bunch of ornery cattle.

**COWS:** (*Insulted*) Moo!

**NARRATOR:** Of course, Cookie, the camp cook, was there, too. This wasn't the first time these cowpokes had been stranded out on the range for months at a time. But this was the first time they had been stuck out on the range at Christmas.

**DWIGHT:** Three days 'til Christmas, boys.

**DARRYL:** Yep. And we're stuck out here with these cows.

**COWS:** Moo. Moo. Moo.

**DUB:** (*Moaning*) Santy Claus will never find us out here on the range.

**DWIGHT:** Ain't gonna be no presents.

**DARRYL:** Ain't gonna be no stockin's.

**DUB:** (*Groaning*) Worst of all, there ain't gonna be no Santy Claus.

**COOKIE:** Time for supper, cowhands.

**NARRATOR:** As Cookie dished up beans and cornbread, the boys moped around camp feeling sorry for themselves, and thinking about Christmas.

**DWIGHT:** I had some mighty fine Christmases back when I was a young'n. As a matter of fact, when I was knee-high to a grasshopper, my daddy chopped down an evergreen for our Christmas tree, shook off the snow, and hauled it inside. We decorated that tree with strings of popcorn and icicles as shiny as silver spurs.

**COOKIE:** (*Mumbling*) You could decorate a tree.

**DWIGHT:** (*Excited*) That's a fact! I sure could!

**DARRYL:** We'll help ya, buddy.

**DUB:** (*Whooping*) Santy loves Christmas trees!

**NARRATOR:** Decorating a Christmas tree doesn't sound all that difficult, but out on the range, nothing is easy. When Dwight couldn't find an evergreen tree like the one in his Christmas memory, he did the next best thing. Dwight lassoed the only tree he could find . . .

**DWIGHT:** A cactus!

**NARRATOR:** There were none of those fancy Christmas tree icicles out on the range. But Darryl had an idea.

**DARRYL:** (*With excitement*) Hay-cicles!

**NARRATOR:** Of course, Dub wanted to help. So Dub did what only Dub would do.

**DUB:** (*Explaining to the other cowboys*) These here are cans of corn to hang on the tree. We ain't got no corn popper.

**NARRATOR:** The cowboys and their cows stood back and took a look at the Christmas cactus.

**COWS:** (*Sounding sick*) Moo-o-o-o-o-o!

**DWIGHT:** Ain't much.

**DARRYL:** Downright ugly.

**DUB:** (*Whining*) Santy can't put presents under that.

**COOKIE:** Time for bed, cowpokes.

**NARRATOR:** The Circle D dudes mumbled and grumbled themselves to sleep thinking about that Christmas tree . . . I mean, Christmas cactus.

## SCENE 2

**NARRATOR:** The next day, the cowboys roped steers, wrestled longhorns, and wrangled up strays. After a long day of cowboyin', they herded the cattle back to camp. That night, they circled 'round the campfire again.

**DARRYL:** I have some right-fine memories of Christmas with my family. Every year, Granny made homemade sugar cookies and baked them in the wood stove. When the cookies cooled down, Granny and I heaped on sticky frosting and shook on sugary sprinkles. Those were the best cookies I ever ate.

**COOKIE:** (*Mumbling*) You could make sugar cookies.

**DARRYL:** Straight shootin' I could! Good thinkin', Cookie!

**DWIGHT:** We'll lend a hand, Darryl.

**DUB:** (*Enthusiastically*) Santy loves cookies!

**NARRATOR:** Darryl measured, mixed, and rolled the sugar cookie dough. Then he cut out cookies and fried them . . . .

**DARRYL:** (*Disappointed*) . . . to a crisp.

**COWS:** (*Disgusted*) Moo!

**NARRATOR:** Dwight frosted the cookies with sticky . . .

**DWIGHT:** (*Even more disappointed*) . . . molasses.

**COWS:** (*More disgusted*) Mooooo!

**NARRATOR:** And Dub did what only Dub would do. On every single cookie he sprinkled . . .

**DUB:** . . . beans! (*Explaining*) We ain't got no sprinkles.

**COWS:** (*Horrificed*) Moooooooooooo!

**NARRATOR:** Finally, the cowboys sampled the burned sugar-molasses-bean cookies.

*(The cowboys spit, choke, and gag.)*

**DARRYL:** These don't taste one bit like Granny's cookies.

**DWIGHT:** They're downright awful.

**DUB:** *(Sighing)* Santy ain't gonna like 'em.

**COOKIE:** Off to bed, cowpunchers. Tomorrow's Christmas Eve.

**NARRATOR:** And the cowboys headed off to bed with a not-so-tasty Christmas memory.



## SCENE 3

**NARRATOR:** Come sun up, the Circle D dudes headed out to high country with their mangy, mooing cattle.

**COWS:** (*Insulted*) Moo!

**NARRATOR:** All day long the boys herded bovine, and haggled with misfits. At the end of a long, hard day they dragged themselves back to camp. Later that night, they sulked 'round the campfire again.

**DUB:** I've got me some Christmas memories, too. As a matter of fact, I remember when Pa turned our hay wagon into Santy's sleigh and Momma stitched reindeer costumes for the horses. Daddy would drive that sleigh around and around our house. The bells would jingle and sleigh tracks would cut through the snow.

**COOKIE:** (*Mumbling*) You could do all that, if you had half a mind to.

**DWIGHT:** (*Joking*) Or had half a mind at all!

(*Dwight and Darryl break into laughter.*)

**DUB:** (*Ignoring the others*) Darn tootin' I could! That's a great idea, Cookie!

**DWIGHT:** Not with our horses you don't.

**DARRYL:** That goes double for me.

**NARRATOR:** Dub lashed twigs onto the herd's heads instead. Then he tied bandannas to their tails and dangled cowbells 'round their necks.

**DUB:** (*Proud*) Perfect!

**COWS:** (*Embarrassed*) Mooooooo!

**NARRATOR:** Then Dub asked Dwight and Darryl to have a look at his cow creations.

**DARRYL:** Those heifers look ridiculous!

**DWIGHT:** Downright pitiful!

**DUB:** (*Sniveling*) Nothing like Santy's reindeers.

**COOKIE:** Off to bed, cow wranglers. Tomorrow's Christmas, and my day off.

**NARRATOR:** Once again, the cowboys went to sleep feeling mighty un-Christmas-y. And so did the cows.

**COWS:** Moo!

# SCENE 4

**NARRATOR:** On Christmas morning, the cowboys drove the cattle out to graze. Cookie headed into town to enjoy his day off.

**DARRYL:** Well, boys, another day, another cow.

**DWIGHT:** Looks like we missed Christmas all together.

**DUB:** (*Whimpering*) And Santy Claus missed *us* all together.

**NARRATOR:** The cowboys spent Christmas day mending fences, minding the herd, and feeling miserable. What they didn't know was that a special visitor had come to camp. Near sunset, the boys rounded up the cattle and shuffled back towards camp. As they got closer . . .

**DUB:** Hey! Did ya'll just hear jinglin' bells?

**NARRATOR:** The cowhands listened. (*Cowboys cup hands to ears*)

**DARRYL:** I think I smell something mighty fine.

**NARRATOR:** The cowpokes sniffed. (*Cowboys sniff in unison*)

**DWIGHT:** Do ya'll see somethin' glowin' down at camp?

**NARRATOR:** The cowboys stared. (*Cowboys hold a hand over their eyes and gaze towards camp*) Then the boys rushed as fast as they could to their camp.

**SANTY:** Ho! Ho! Ho!

**DUB:** Santy Claus?

**SANTY:** Merry Christmas, boys!

**DUB:** Yeehaw! Santy, you found us all the way out here!

**NARRATOR:** By the light of the Christmas campfire, the cowboys chowed down with Santy, tore open presents, and sang carols 'round the Christmas tree. Later that night, Santy disappeared with a jingle and a jangle, and all was quiet at camp again.

**COWS:** (*Whispering*) Mooooooo.

**NARRATOR:** In no time, Cookie galloped back into camp.

**DWIGHT:** Howdy, Cookie! Boy, you missed a rip-roarin' good time.

**DUB:** And Santy Claus!

**COOKIE:** Ya don't say.

**NARRATOR:** The cowboys and Cookie settled 'round the campfire, and the cows settled down for the night.

**COWS:** (*Yawning*) Moo.

**DWIGHT:** Six days 'til New Years Eve.

**DARRYL:** And we're stuck out here with cows.

**DUB:** Do ya think we'll have a party?

**COOKIE:** Could be. Could be.

OPTIONAL ENDING SONG

**WE WISH YOU A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Traditional English carol, Public Domain

Additional lyrics by Rob Sanders

We wish you a Merry Christmas;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;  
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Oh, bring us a sugar cookie;  
Oh, bring us a sugar cookie;  
Oh, bring us a sugar cookie and a cup of cocoa.

We won't go until we get some;  
We won't go until we get some;  
We won't go until we get some, so bring some out here.

We wish you a Merry Christmas;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
*YEE-HAW!*