



Holiday One-Act Play Project

Theatre I – Playwriting, Rehearsal, and Performance

Course: Theatre I

Grade Level: 9–12

Time Frame: 3–4 weeks

Project Type: Group Performance Project

Final Product: 5–10 minute original one-act play



SCHOLARFORGE OVERVIEW

In this project, students work in small groups to **write, rehearse, and perform an original short play** based on a holiday or seasonal theme. Students move through the full theatrical process—from script creation to live performance—culminating in a class showcase and optional school-wide presentation.

The project emphasizes **collaboration, creativity, and performance fundamentals** while giving students authentic experience as playwrights and performers.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Write an original short script with a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Collaborate effectively in an ensemble
- Apply basic acting, blocking, and rehearsal techniques
- Perform confidently for an audience
- Reflect on the creative and performance process

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS & FACILITATION GUIDE

Group Formation

- Students work in groups (size determined by teacher)
- Groups remain intact for the entire project
- Students write scripts **specifically for their group**

PHASE 1: SCRIPT WRITING (1–2 weeks)

Requirements

- Length: **5–10 minutes**
- Theme: Christmas or winter holiday (broad interpretation allowed)
- Genre: Student choice (comedy, drama, fantasy, satire, etc.)
- Script must include:
 - Clear characters
 - Dialogue-driven action
 - A complete story arc

Teacher Role

- Approve scripts before rehearsal begins
- Provide feedback focused on:
 - Clarity
 - Performability
 - Appropriate content
 - Length and pacing

PHASE 2: REHEARSAL & PRODUCTION (1–2 weeks)

- Groups rehearse during class time
- Students are responsible for:
 - Memorization
 - Blocking
 - Props and simple costumes (if used)
- Teacher circulates to coach performance and staging



PHASE 3: CLASS PERFORMANCE

- Each group performs their play for the class
- Audience etiquette and respectful feedback are emphasized



PHASE 4: JUDGING & SHOWCASE (Optional but Powerful)

- Guest judges (other teachers) are invited
- Judges evaluate performances using a simple rubric
- One selected performance is presented to:
 - Another class
 - A school assembly
 - A holiday program

Important: Emphasize that selection is recognition—not the sole measure of success.



ASSESSMENT (Teacher-Flexible)

Suggested evaluation categories:

- Script quality and originality
- Collaboration and rehearsal effort
- Performance skills (voice, movement, expression)
- Professionalism and preparedness

(Point values optional.)

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS **(HANDOUT TEXT)**

Holiday One-Act Play Project – Theatre I

You and your group will write, rehearse, and perform an **original short play** based on a holiday theme. This project allows you to experience what it's like to be both a playwright and a performer.

Your Responsibilities

As a group, you must:

- Write an original script
- Rehearse consistently
- Perform confidently and respectfully
- Support one another as an ensemble

Why This Project Matters

Theatre is a collaborative art. This project mirrors how real productions work and gives you the opportunity to:

- Create original material
- Perform live
- Work as a team
- Share your work with an audience