

2018-19 SEASON  
PRESENTED BY

MONSANTO  
Fund 



BY **SARAH BRANDT**  
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **NATHANAEL MCCLURE**  
DIRECTED BY **ALAN KNOLL**

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BY **SARAH BRANDT**

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **NATHANAEL MCCLURE**

DIRECTED BY **ALAN KNOLL**

Music Director      Charlie Mueller

Scenic Designer      Scott Loebel

Costume Designer      Marci Franklin

Stage Manager      Carolyn Ivy\*

Director of Education      Marsha Coplon

Associate Director of Education      Sarah Brandt

Education Programs Associate      Brian Coats

**THE COMPANY**

Myke Andrews\*      TOM

Charlie Barron\*      DAD, RALPH, HARVEY

Lana Dvorak\*      MOM, RACHEL, MRS. MILLER

Delaney Marie Piggins\*      JUDY, ANNIE, MRS. PATTON

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



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## Setting the Scene



It is only a few days before Christmas, and Tom and his family are very excited for this time of year. Tom has been hoping for a new pair of ice skates so he can impress all of his friends at the annual ice skating party. When his parents let him open one present early, Tom finds a pair of the best ice skates on the market: Jolly Ramblers. He can't wait to show them off to all his friends. But when he arrives to the pond, Tom discovers that Ralph has also received new skates, and they're even better than Jolly Ramblers.

For Harvey McGinnis, Christmas has been a little different. His mother is sick, so he has been working at Patton's General Store to make some extra money. However, he has not let that ruin his

holiday spirit. In fact, he has managed to find some old dolls to give his little sisters to make their Christmas special this year. Tom, who feels that his holiday has been ruined since he doesn't have the best skates, doesn't understand how Harvey can be so happy to have old, broken dolls for his sisters.

Will Tom be able to get a pair of the best skates in time for the ice skating party? Will Harvey's sisters like the dolls, even though they aren't the in the best shape? Will everyone get to enjoy the annual ice skating party at the pond? Can Tom find his holiday spirit in time to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas?



## Who's Who



**TOM:** A young boy whose main focus during the Christmas season is what sort of presents he's going to get under the tree. All year he has been waiting for a new pair of skates, but when he receives them, they aren't exactly what he was hoping for.

**JUDY:** Tom's sister is happy to spend time with her brother and parents during the holiday season. Unlike her brother, she is less concerned about the gifts that she receives, and more concerned with the meaning behind them.

**MOM:** Tom and Judy's mother is excited to be with her family for the holiday, but worries that Tom doesn't understand what makes Christmas such an important and special time.

**DAD:** Tom and Judy's dad is looking forward to family time this holiday season. He is worried that Tom is focused on the wrong aspects of Christmas, like the gifts, and less on the true values, like giving and caring for others.

**ANNIE:** One of Tom's friends who also skates at the pond. She does not understand why Tom gets upset about Ralph's new skates when he has a brand new pair of his own.

**RACHEL:** Annie's best friend and another of Tom's friends. Like Annie, she doesn't understand why Tom gets upset about not having the best skates when he has brand new skates.

**RALPH:** One of Tom's classmates who enjoys skating at the pond. He always has the most expensive things, including the best skates on the market.

**HARVEY:** Another of Tom's classmates, Harvey works at Patton's General Store in order to help buy things that his family needs. This Christmas, Harvey is excited to have gifts to give to his little sisters.

**MRS. PATTON:** Harvey's boss at Patton's General Store. She also helps Tom earn money right before the holidays by letting him chop firewood for the store.

**MRS. MILLER:** One of Tom's neighbors, whom he helps by hanging Christmas decorations to earn a little extra money to buy gifts.

# Words to the Wise

Please feel free to adapt these materials to suit your classroom needs and reproduce them for future use.



**EMBERS:** small pieces of burning coal or wood in a dying fire

**GRATITUDE:** thankfulness, and the readiness to show kindness in return

**BASK:** to revel in something pleasant

**BALLYHOO:** an extravagant build-up to an event

**BONAFIDE:** genuine or real

**ICE CAPADES:** traveling entertainment shows featuring theatrical ice skating performances

**MARZIPAN:** a sugar and almond substance used in baking, sometimes to cover desserts; it can also be eaten alone, covered in chocolate

**WARRANTY:** a guarantee to repair or replace a purchased item if it breaks soon after it was purchased

**INDISPUTABLE:** unable to challenge or deny; unarguable

**"VOILA":** a French word meaning "there it is!" or "ta-da!"

**TWINE:** a strong thread or string that consists of two or more strands twisted together

**BEAUTICIAN:** a person who does hair styling, manicures or other beauty treatments; a stylist

**TRADITION:** a long-established practice or belief that is passed on, often from generation to generation



## What's the Story?



As the play begins, Tom and his sister Judy have just come home from school, excited to finally be on Christmas vacation. They, along with their parents, share how excited they are for the holidays and the time that they get to spend together. Tom, however, seems to be most excited about the presents. His parents remind him about the joy and spirit of giving, which is what Christmas is all about. Tom convinces his parents to let them open one gift early. Immediately, Tom goes for the biggest one in the pile, assuming it will be the best. However, Dad pulls out a hidden package for each of them. Judy's gift is a necklace that once belonged to her grandmother. Tom gets a pair of Jolly Ramblers, skates that he has been wanting for forever. Now

that he has them, he can go to the skating party with all of his friends, but first he needs to go to the pond to practice.

Once he arrives at the pond, Tom imagines how impressed all of his friends will be by his new skates, which are the best on the market. Annie and Rachel arrive with their skates, and the three share how much they love the winter weather and holiday season, calling it a super, extraordinary day. Ralph, another of their classmates, arrives to skate, and Tom excitedly shows off his skates. However, Ralph also got a new pair of skates: they're called Club House Skates, and they're the newest, most expensive model. Tom's excitement quickly fades as Ralph skates circles around him, and he leaves to go home. On his way, he runs into

Harvey McGinnis, another classmate. Harvey thinks Tom's Jolly Ramblers are amazing, but Tom is unconvinced.

When he gets home, Tom is still upset. He tells his mom that the skates were not a good present, and how unfair it is that he can't have the best pair. After asking his mom if he can open another present, to which she says no, Tom goes to bed.

The next day, Tom is still in a bad mood, so his mother sends him to the store to get him out of the house. At Patton's General Store, Tom finds Harvey, who is working while school is out. Harvey shows him a secret gift that he has for his little sisters: after cleaning out the stock room, he found two old, dirty dolls that Mrs. Patton is letting him have for free. Tom doesn't understand why anyone would want a broken doll, but Harvey assures him that his sisters won't mind, as they will care for them and repair them. In order to keep them a surprise, Harvey asks Tom to take them to his house to hide, and Tom agrees.

Harvey gets back to work and Annie and Rachel appear as Tom exits the store, on their way to go sledding. Tom refuses to join them, explaining how upset he is about the skates. Annie and Rachel are confused, saying that his skates are amazing and it doesn't matter if they're the best or not. Tom convinces himself that he should earn some extra money and buy new Club House Skates for himself. He runs off to find ways to make money. He helps his dad shovel snow, which turns into a snowball fight. After, he goes next door to Mrs. Miller's house and helps her hang Christmas decorations. Finally, he goes to the store and helps Mrs. Patton by cutting firewood. She is very impressed by his hard work and compares him to Harvey, who has been

working at the store to help out his mom while she's been sick and unable to work. For the first time, Tom stops thinking about the skates that he wants to buy. He remembers everything his parents have told him: that Christmas is a time for giving and doing something nice for others. Tom decides to buy some presents for others, picking them out with help from Mrs. Patton.

When he arrives home, Tom's parents are surprised to find him in a better mood. He pulls out the broken dolls and explains to his parents that he would like to fix them up so Harvey can give nice gifts to his sisters. Together, they all work on the dolls, cleaning them and giving them new clothes. They decide to make surprise gift-giving a family tradition. Finally, Tom reveals a final surprise gift: a brand new pair of Club House Skates. Tom's parents are disappointed for a moment before he explains that they are a gift for Harvey, who doesn't have a present of his own.

Harvey arrives to pick up the dolls for his sisters and is completely surprised by the nearly-new dolls, giving Tom a hug in thanks. Then, Tom presents the Club House Skates and invites Harvey to the ice skating party. Filled with holiday spirit, Tom shares a loving moment with his family, happy to have realized that the true meaning of Christmas is not about the gifts you get, but about spending time with the people you love, and spreading joy and kindness.



# Character Profiles

Characters in *The Christmas Skates* have very different attitudes and opinions about what is truly important during the holiday season. In fact, some characters act as foils to other characters in the play; this means that the characters are almost complete opposites. A playwright will often write foil characters to reveal particular qualities about the main characters. The foil characters do not always go through a transformation or character arc because they are written to help the main character complete their own character arc. **Can you think who the foil character or characters might be for Tom? Complete the profiles below to help you support your answer.**

## **TOM**

Three adjectives to describe this character: \_\_\_\_\_

Moments in the play that support these adjective choices: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does this character transform throughout the play, and if so, how? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **HARVEY**

Three adjectives to describe this character: \_\_\_\_\_

Moments in the play that support these adjective choices: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does this character transform throughout the play, and if so, how? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **JUDY**

Three adjectives to describe this character: \_\_\_\_\_

Moments in the play that support these adjective choices: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does this character transform throughout the play, and if so, how? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **RALPH**

Three adjectives to describe this character: \_\_\_\_\_

Moments in the play that support these adjective choices: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does this character transform throughout the play, and if so, how? \_\_\_\_\_

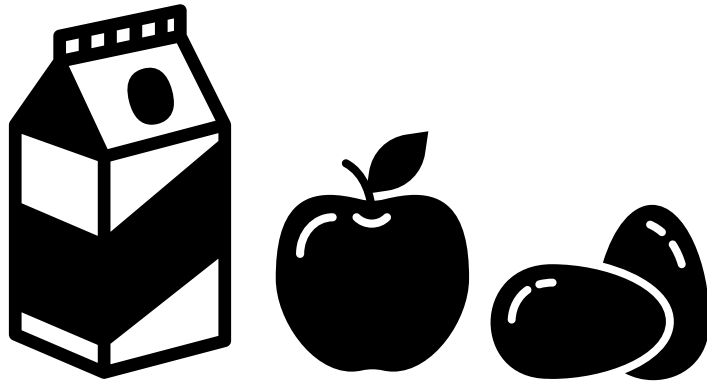
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# Last-Minute Christmas Shopping

Tom's mom sends him to the store for some last-minute shopping for Christmas dinner. Use the price list to help Tom gather what he needs as quickly as possible.

## ITEMS

Butter	50 cents per stick
Sugar	\$1.00 per pound
Flour	\$1.00 per pound
Eggs	10 cents each
Salt	10 cents per spoon
Milk	\$1.00 per cup
Apples	50 cents for two

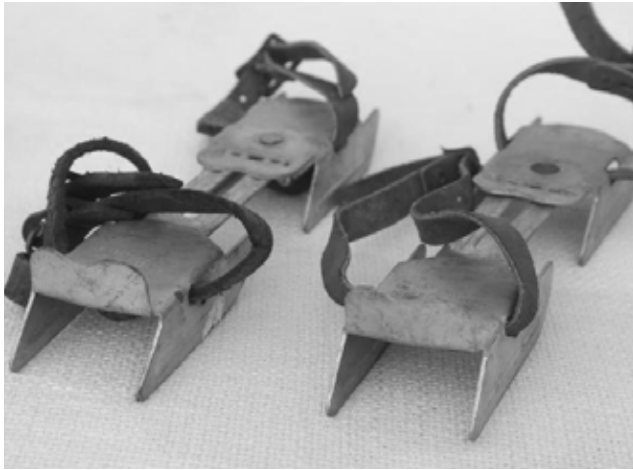


1. Tom's mom needs 2 sticks of butter for Tom's favorite rolls. How much will that cost?
  2. For dessert, Tom's mom makes a delicious apple pie. She will need six apples for a single pie, but she also likes to make an apple pie for Mrs. Miller. How many apples will she need, and how much will they cost?
  3. Eggs are very important in baking, so Tom will need to buy a dozen eggs to ensure that his mom has enough. How many eggs should he buy? How much will a dozen eggs cost?
  4. For Christmas cookies, Tom's mom needs half a pound of sugar and 2 cups of milk. How much will that cost?
  5. Tom also likes to drink milk, so it would be a good idea for him to buy another 3 cups. How much will 3 cups of milk cost?
  6. Flour is used in rolls, cookies, pies and many other baked goods. Tom needs to buy 5 pounds for his mom to have enough. How much will that cost?
- This is Tom's entire shopping list. How much money should his mom give him to buy everything? Which item from the list was not purchased?



# The Science and History of Ice Skating

The characters in *The Christmas Skates* like to spend their days ice skating out on the pond, but the activity has evolved a lot since it first began almost 4,000 years ago in Scandinavia, a landmass of three countries in Northern Europe. Read below to learn more about how ice skating has changed since its creation.



**ICE SKATES:** The first ice skates were very simplistic. They were often just sharp and flat bones that were strapped to the bottom of the foot. Can you imagine that? The first skaters did not really skate on the ice so much as glide on top of it. It was only when steel blades were introduced that skates were able to cut into the ice, the way that they do now. The steel blades were invented by the Dutch in the 13th or 14th century. Since then, ice skates have not really changed all that much. However, there are different types of ice skates that you can wear depending on which activity you plan to do on the ice.

**SKATING RINKS:** As we see in the play, the first ice skaters merely skated on a frozen body of water. This would require extremely cold temperatures to freeze the ice so that it was solid enough to support the weight of people. It makes sense then that the first ice skaters came from the far north, where temperatures get very cold. However, as skating developed throughout history, there came the desire to skate all year round. This led to the invention of ice skating rinks. Skating rinks are frozen bodies of water or hardened chemicals where people can skate or play sports. Natural skating rinks are created by cold temperatures, just like the frozen pond or lake. There are also artificial skating rinks, where a chemical called a coolant produces the cold temperatures. These were first created in the late 1800s, but they were made out of lard and salts, so they had a very bad smell. Did you know that some skating rinks don't feature ice at all? Synthetic rinks are made out of plastic.





**FIGURE SKATING:** A very popular sport that takes place on the ice is called figure skating. In this sport, individuals, pairs or groups perform routines on the ice. Figure skating has the distinction of being the first winter sport to be included in the Olympics all the way back in 1908! Figure skaters glide across the ice in patterns while completing challenging moves like spins, jumps and lifts (in pairs or group routines). Figure skating also has its own type of skate. A figure skate has two grooves on the bottom of the blade that creates two edges, one inside and one outside. Each blade is used to complete the different types of moves that are performed during a routine. Figure skates also feature a toe pick, which is used for take-off on jumps.



**ICE HOCKEY:** Another incredibly popular sport that takes place on the ice is ice hockey. The sport involves two teams of players that carry sticks and try to shoot a puck into the other team's net. Hockey players who have different positions on the team also wear different types of skates. For example, goaltenders wear skates that are cut lower and have shorter blades; this helps them to have a low center of gravity so they can plant themselves firmly on the ice to defend the goal. Like figure skates, hockey skates have two edges that cut into the ice and allow the player to maneuver on the ice. Hockey is played all around the world, and is most popular in Canada, Europe, Russia and the United States.



# Happy Holidays

Tom and his family can't wait for Christmas to come each and every year because it means they get to spend a special day together. The same goes for children around the world, though not all of them are waiting just for Christmas. There are a variety of winter holidays that are celebrated by different people in different places. Check out just a few of the holidays below and see which ones you might already know about.

## HANUKKAH

During the Festival of Lights, Jewish people celebrate an ancient victory over their enemies and a rededication of the temple. The holiday spans eight days, usually somewhere in late November to late December. On each of the eight nights, candles are lit on the menorah while friends and family observe traditions like eating potato latkes, playing dreidel games and exchanging gifts. It is a time to give thanks and be with family.

## KWANZAA

Sometimes called the fastest growing holiday in the world today, Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by professor Maulana Karenga. This holiday is a celebration of African culture, community and harvest, and it comes from the Swahili word for "first fruits." Kwanzaa focuses on ideas to carry on throughout the year including unity, responsibility, creativity and faith.

## BOXING DAY

Boxing Day, a holiday with roots in the Medieval Ages, is celebrated in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Australia annually on December 26. It is a holiday based on the principle of caring for those less fortunate than yourself, and in the old days was when people would give gifts to their servants.

## CHRISTMAS

This winter celebration is the day in which Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a religious holiday but is also a time when families come together. Some Christmas traditions include giving gifts, decorating trees and singing carols.

## WINTER SOLSTICE

In the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice occurs each year at the end of December. This is the day the sun is the greatest distance from the Earth, and therefore produces the shortest day of the year. Winter solstice is celebrated by many different cultures as a nature festival and day of rebirth.

**Do you and your family celebrate any of these holidays? Write a little about your traditions and what your holiday celebration means to you!**

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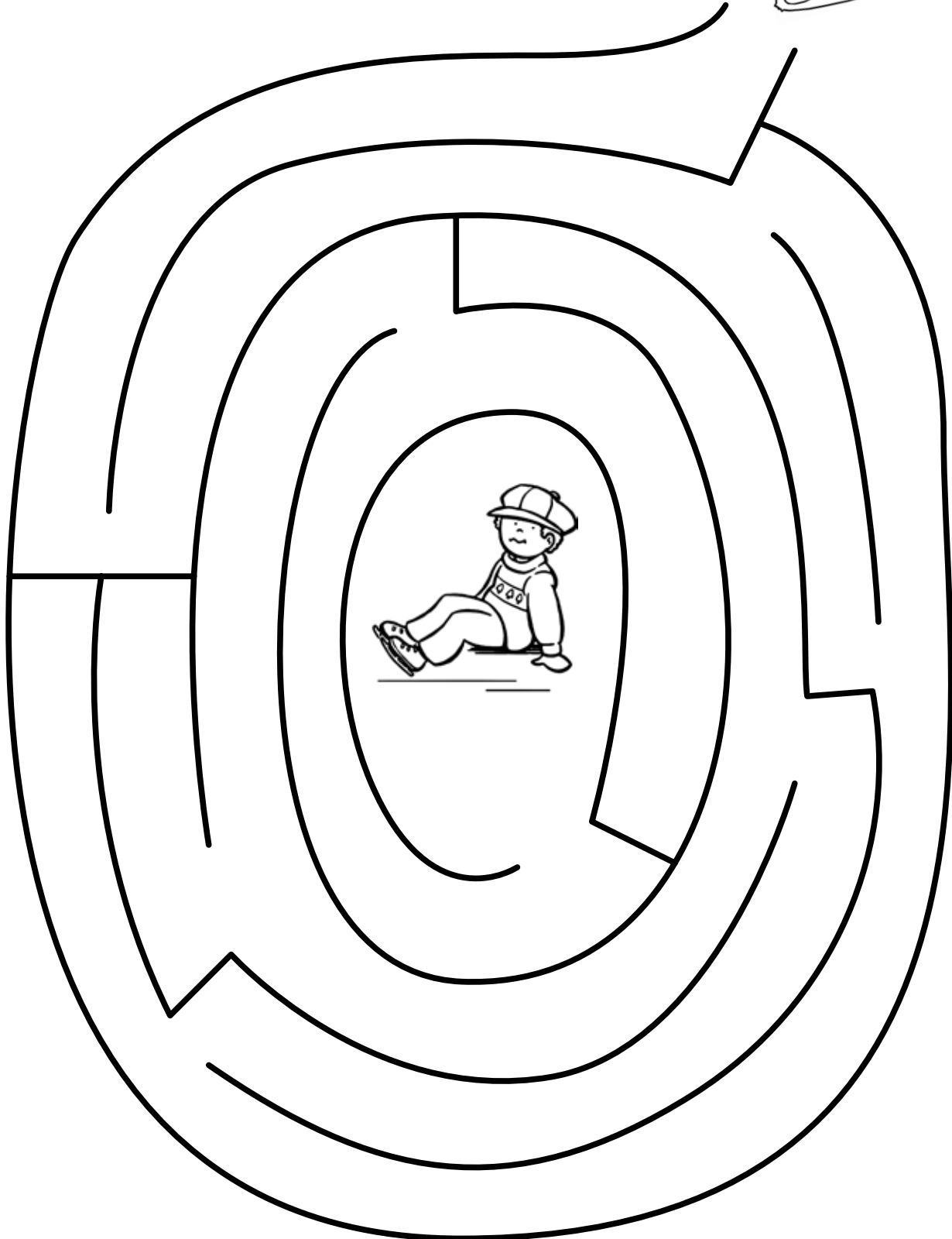
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# Race to the Skating Party

Join Tom, Harvey and all of their friends for the big skating party down at the pond. Grab your skates and get to the center of the ice before the fun begins!



# Design Your Own Skates

Every year, Tom and his friends go to the annual ice skating party down at the pond. Design your own pair of skates so that you can join in the fun and skate with Tom, Harvey and all of their friends!

