



# MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Adapted by Caleb Marshall

& Erin Keating from the Classic Story by Valentine Davies

November 21–December 29, 2024

2024.25 season

Granville Island Stage

This production is generously sponsored by



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# WELCOME



This guide was created for teachers and students. It contains an overview of the play's story as well as informative resources and activities for teachers and students. The guide aims to provide background knowledge and critical perspectives on the play that will yield fruitful discussion and foster an understanding and appreciation of theatre arts.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for the guide, please contact our Education and Community Engagement Coordinator, Mikenzie Page, at [mpage@artsclub.com](mailto:mpage@artsclub.com).

This study guide was written by Chantal Gallant, River Ironeagle-Mindel, and Mikenzie Page.

The content advisory system was designed and created by Stella Jack-Rennie and the Arts Club Theatre Company's Teacher Advisory Committee.



## ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club of Vancouver was founded in 1958 as a private club for artists, musicians, and actors. It became the Arts Club Theatre in 1964 when the company opened its first stage in a converted gospel hall at Seymour and Davie Streets. Now in its 61st season of producing professional live theatre in Vancouver, the Arts Club Theatre Company is a non-profit charitable organization that operates three theatres: the Granville Island Stage, the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, and the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre. Its popular productions range from musicals and contemporary comedies to new works and classics.

Learn more about the Arts Club Theatre Company at [artsclub.com](http://artsclub.com).



## About this Land: Seḥákw səḥaʔqʷ, The Village of False Creek



The Granville Island Stage stands within the village originally known as Senakw. We ask you to reflect on your relationship with these lands, by learning the history of the nations to whom these lands belong. The area of False Creek was home to Senakw before Granville Island, and the land was home to over 150 people before they were displaced. We remember Senakw and we encourage you to remember Senakw as well. The Arts Club believes we as a community share an obligation to uphold and support our Indigenous neighbours and artists. We recognize our original storytellers and their cultures that cultivate and inspire us, and we send love to our Indigenous creatives whose stories and art we are so thankful to shine the spotlight on.







## PRE SHOW RESOURCES



In the following pages, you  
will find resources that may  
be helpful before attending  
the show

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# Learning Objectives



Through reflecting on the play and engaging in related activities, students will:

- Use creative processes to connect to identity and sense of belonging
- Think critically about commercialism and marketing
- Engage with their local community, expanding their personal awareness and responsibility
- Reflect on the artist practices associated with theatre



## Connections to the BC Curriculum

K – 7



### Arts Education

#### *Big Ideas*

- People connect to others and share ideas through the arts.
- Engaging in creative expression and experiences expands people's sense of identity and belonging.
- Works of art influence and are influenced by the world around us.



### Curriculum Competencies

- Observe and share how artists use processes, materials, movements, technologies, tools, and techniques.
- Explore identity, place, culture, and belonging through arts experiences.
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of personal, social, cultural, historical, and environmental contexts in relation to the arts.



# Connections to the BC Curriculum



## English Language Arts ( K – 7 )

### *Big Ideas*

- Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy.
- Curiosity and wonder lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and the world around us.
- Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and the world.

### *Curriculum Competencies*

- Demonstrate awareness of the role that story plays in personal, family, and community identity.
- Construct meaningful personal connections between self, text, and world.
- Use personal experience and knowledge to connect to stories and other texts to make meaning.



## Social Studies (K – 7)

### *Big Ideas*

- Stories and traditions about ourselves and our families reflect who we are and where we are from.
- Individuals have rights and responsibilities as global citizens.
- Economic self-interest can be a significant cause of conflict among peoples and governments.

### *Curriculum Competencies*

- Construct arguments defending the significance of individuals/groups, places, events, or developments (significance)
- Assess the credibility of multiple sources and the adequacy of evidence used to justify conclusions.
- Explain why people's beliefs, values, worldviews, experiences, and roles give them different perspectives on people, places, issues, or events.



# Connections to the BC Curriculum



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# Connections to the BC Curriculum



## GRADES 8 – 12



### Drama 8 –12

#### *Big Ideas*

- Theatre offers an aesthetic experience with the power to communicate ideas through movement, sound, imagery, and language.
- Drama encourages creativity, innovation, and collaboration in a variety of contexts.
- Drama is a way of sharing and understanding traditions, perspectives, cultures, and worldviews.

#### *Curriculum Competencies*

- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of personal, social, cultural, historical, and environmental contexts in relation to the arts
- Reflect on dramatic or aesthetic experiences and how they relate to a specific place, time, and context
- Examine the impacts of dramatic works on culture and society

### Film & Television 11/12

#### *Big Ideas*

- History, culture, community, and value systems can influence film and television productions
- Technology and emerging media can transform communication in a variety of ways
- Moving images offer dynamic ways to explore identity and sense of belonging

#### *Curriculum Competencies*

- Identify the influences of social, cultural, historical, and contexts in film and television
- Interpret and evaluate how meaning is communicated in moving images through technologies, environments, and techniques
- Reflect on personal experiences and make connections to a variety film and television productions



# Connections to the BC Curriculum



GRADES 8 – 12



## Law Studies 12

### *Big Ideas*

- Laws are interpreted, and these interpretations may evolve over time as a society's values and worldviews change.
- Laws can maintain the status quo and can be a force for change
- A society's laws and legal framework affect many aspects of people's daily lives.

### *Curriculum Competencies*

- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze legal concepts, issues, and procedures; and communicate findings and decisions.
- Assess the justification for differing legal perspectives after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence.
- Make reasoned ethical judgements about controversial decisions, legislation, or policy.



**SPOILER ALERT!**



**Anything past this page may contain major plot  
point spoilers!**

**Read at your own discretion...**



## SHOW INFORMATION

Genre	Christmas Play
Show Dates	November 21–December 29, 2024
Age Range	Recommended for all ages
Venue	Granville Island Stage

## DISCLAIMER/CONTENT ADVISORY

This production may contain water-based fog and haze and flashing lights. Please contact our box office for more information



### Alcohol/Drugs:



Depictions of drinking alcohol onstage, a “drunk” Santa Claus at Macy’s Department Store is depicted in the first scene.

### Violence:



A character is lightly tapped with a cane in a slightly aggressive manner, contains depictions of involuntary institutionalization that while used in a comedic manner, could be triggering for some audience members.

### Strong Language/Sexuality:



No strong language or sexuality; there may be kisses between some characters.



## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM



### VALENTINE DAVIES (ORIGINAL STORY/SCREENPLAY)



Valentine Davies (b. 1905 – d. 1961) was an American film and television writer, producer, director, and author. Best known for *Miracle on 34th Street*, it was during his stint in the U.S Coast Guard (WWII) that he conceived of the idea of a man named Kris Kringle, claiming to be Santa Claus. From there, collaborating with his long time friend, George Seaton, a screenplay for *The Big Heart* (later changed to *Miracle on 34th Street*) was created.

*Miracle on 34th Street* earned Davies an Academy Award for Best Story and sparked an upward trajectory for his career. He continued to write screenplays and adaptations, also serving as the president of the Screen Actors Guild then of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He died at age 55 from a heart attack. According to a friend who was with him, his heart attack was brought on by a deep-bellied laugh.

### CALEB MARSHALL (Playwright)



Caleb Marshall is a New Brunswick born writer, producer, director, educator, actor, and cultural advocate, who is currently working as the Managing Director of Festival Antigonish/Theatre Antigonish in Nova Scotia. Marshall has produced over 80 theatre productions and 25 multi-disciplinary performing arts presentations. He has also developed World Premieres of numerous mainstage plays, one acts and TYA new works with his adaptations being performed across Canada.



## CHARACTER LIST

**KRIS KRINGLE:** A kind old man who believes he is Santa Claus.

**DORIS WALKER:** The Special Events Coordinator for Macy's Department Store. Doris has recently been divorced and is the mother of Susan

**SUSAN WALKER:** A young girl, wise beyond her years, who doesn't believe in Santa Claus. Daughter to Doris.

**FRED GAILEY:** A lawyer and Military Captain, adjusting to civilian life. Romantically interested in Doris.

**SHELLHAMER:** Junior executive and head of Public Relations at Macy's Department Store.

**MRS. SHELLHAMER:** The wife of Shellhamer.

**R.H MACY:** The boss of Macy's Department store. Very concerned with public opinion.

**MR. GIMBEL:** The boss of a rival department store. Enemy of R.H Macy.

**ALFRED:** A Macy's employee and Kris' co-worker.

**SAWYER:** The company "psychologist" in charge of administering Kris' mental examinations.

**MARA:** The prosecutor in the court case.

## CHARACTER LIST



**MORTIMER:** The child of a Macy's shopper

**JUDGE:** The judge presiding over Kris' court case.

**CHARLEY:** Friend of the judge

**TOMMY:** Mara's Son

**ENSEMBLE:** *Stenographer, postmen, Macy's shoppers, bailiff, and other employees.* Various people that interact with the characters above.



## BRIEF SYNOPSIS



When Kris Kringle starts working as a Santa at Macy's department store and begins to spread Christmas cheer, things tumble out of control. He's truly Santa Claus, he insists, but skeptical adults and an unimaginative little girl doubt him. The stakes rise when store executives take Kris to court, where he must prove he's the real thing. Can goodwill triumph in the end? Coming to life on stage, this endearing tale fills our hearts and restores a childhood sense of wonder.





# DETAILED SYNOPSIS



## ACT I

The show opens in New York City in 1948, the morning of the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. A drunk employee, dressed as Santa Claus, is struggling with the store's holiday display. Kris, an older gentleman with a white beard and cane, enters and attempts to assist the employee. Kris soon realizes the man is drunk and begins to scold him for being a "disgrace to the tradition of Christmas." The employee dismisses him, and Kris storms off.

A musical theme plays, and the stage shifts to Doris Walker, the Special Events Coordinator for Macy's, and Shellhammer, a Macy's junior executive and head of Public Relations. Shellhammer commends Doris on all the hard work she did to make this parade happen and finding the best Santa Claus in Macy's history. Doris dismisses the praise and the scene changes to Fred Gailey and Susan Walker, Doris's young daughter. The pair are watching the parade from Fred's apartment when Doris arrives to pick Susan up. Doris and Fred are introduced and share a coffee as Susan continues to watch the parade. It is revealed that Susan doesn't believe in Santa Claus as Doris believes that adults should be realistic and truthful with their children. Doris also remarks that the new Santa Claus was a "last minute addition". The parade ends and Susan invites Fred to their Thanksgiving dinner.

Later that afternoon, Fred arrives at Doris and Susan's apartment with a cornucopia as a gift. He explains that he wanted to bring something like cranberries but this was all he could find in the stores that were open. The three talk about all the things they are thankful for and eat their dinner.

The next day at Macy's, everyone is raving about the new Santa Claus Doris hired. Shellhammer tells Doris that he hired him to be the new store Santa. The pair exit and Alfred, a Macy's employee, and Kris enter. Alfred compliments Kris' "elegant" Santa costume which Kris explains he's had for "years and years". Alfred reveals he also plays Santa Claus sometimes over for the kids at the Y near his block.

Shellhammer enters and offers Kris a few tips on being a good Santa Claus. He also gives Kris a list of overstock items to "suggest" to undecided children that the store needs to move. Shellhammer exits and Kris and Alfred collectively decide to throw the list away before heading over to the toy department for Kris's first Santa shift.

A montage scene of Kris with different customers and children happens. With every family and child, Kris recommends shopping at a different store over Macy's. Customers are surprised but appreciative with some claiming they will now become "regular Macy customers" due to this unique marketing approach.

# DETAILED SYNOPSIS



## ACT I

An elevator to the toy department opens and Fred and Susan exit. Susan is giving Fred a tour of Macy's when Fred convinces her to go say hello to Kris. Susan, humoring him, skeptically introduces herself to Kris. He introduces himself as Kris Kringle, Pere Noel, Saint Nick, and finally Santa Claus. Kris remarks that she doesn't seem to believe him. Susan agrees but concedes that he is the best-looking and most realistic Santa Claus she has seen. As Susan and Kris begin to bond, Doris interrupts, stating it's time to leave. Doris and Fred disagree on Doris' parenting philosophy when it comes to fairy-tales and fantasy. Eventually, a bell-tone rings, signaling the store will be closing.

In Doris' office, she attempts to explain to her daughter that Kris is NOT Santa Claus, eventually buzzing Kris up the office. Doris requests that he tell Susan that he isn't really Santa Claus. Kris refuses and maintains his identity as the real Santa Claus. Doris eventually pulls out his employment file, however even the file has been filled out as though he is Santa Claus. Flustered, Doris attempts to fire Kris when she is called away to speak to Mr. Macy, the boss of the store.

Doris and Shellhammer are called into Mr. Macy's office where he celebrates their new marketing policy of sending customers to other stores to get exactly what they want, instead of up-selling and pressuring customers to spend money at Macy's. He offers both a holiday bonus and praises the new Santa Claus, before leaving. Doris reveals to Shellhammer that she just fired Kris because he thinks he really is Santa Claus. Shellhammer begins to panic about how Mr. Macy and the customers will react when Doris realizes Kris may still be in her office. She rushes out to attempt to rectify her mistake before Kris has left.

Doris bursts into the office, just before Kris was going to leave. She apologizes for the misunderstanding and hires him. Doris does request that he meet with Mr. Sawyer, the company psychologist, on Monday. Kris doesn't seem phased and leaves. Once he's gone, Doris looks again at his employment file. She decides to call a number on his employment card and is connected to Brooks Memorial Home, where she requests to speak to the doctor in charge.

The lights fade to reveal Sawyer's office. Kris enters and the examination begins, however Kris seems to flip the examination onto Sawyer, a nervous man going through marital challenges. Eventually, Kris seems to hit a nerve when asking about Sawyer's wife and is shooed out of office. Doris enters with a man, Doctor Pierce, who is Kris Kringle's doctor at Brooks Home to discuss Kris' employment. Sawyer claims that Kris failed the examination, must be dismissed immediately, and should be institutionalized. Dr. Pierce disagrees, arguing that Kris is incapable of harming himself or others which is the criteria for involuntary institutionalization. Eventually the group agrees that if someone were to "take custody" of Kris during his time at Macy's, his employment could continue. Doris agrees to take Kris for the evening while Shellhammer convinces his wife to allow Kris to stay with them.

# DETAILED SYNOPSIS



## ACT I

Kris asks Fred about his feelings for Doris, which he admits is true but she doesn't seem interested. Kris offers to help which Fred accepts. The pair exit and the scene changes to the next morning.

The next scene opens to the sounds of a bustling store as Shellhammer is overwhelmed by customers shopping at Macy's in response to their new policy of "being kind". He exits, attempting to keep his department in some semblance of cleanliness. As he exits, the scene shifts to Doris and Mr. Macy who are discussing the new policy. It is revealed Gimbel's, a rival store, is now adopting the same policy. While Mr. Macy is angry that the competition is copying them, Doris sees the opportunity to turn this into even more publicity. She suggests that the two store owners take a publicity photo, shaking hands with Santa Claus. The two store owners hesitantly agree and the scene shifts to the day of the photo.

Mr. Gimbel and Mr. Macy argue the entire way through the photo, which they take with Kris as Santa Claus. They exit, bickering and vowing to destroy each other's businesses. Alfred comes up to Kris and the pair begin to chat. Alfred tells Kris that Mr. Sawyer has told him to stop volunteering as Santa Claus at his local Y as men who do this are "psychologically wrong". As Alfred continues, Kris begins to realize what a fraud Mr. Sawyer is and exits in a hurry.

Kris bursts into Mr. Sawyer's office and berates him for being a malicious fraud. In the heat of the argument, Kris taps his cane on Mr. Sawyer's head to "knock some sense into him" and exits abruptly. Mr. Sawyer swoons from the so-called "attack" and Doris and Shellhammer race in. Mr. Sawyer accuses Kris of being delusional and violent. It is decided that Kris must pass a series of mental competency exams, however Doris refuses to be the one to break the news to him due to their new friendship. She exits and Shellhammer and Mr. Sawyer begin to scheme about how they will trick Kris into taking the tests.

The scene shifts to Macy's while Kris is working as Santa Claus. Shellhammer enters and lies to Kris, stating they are taking another promotional photo at City Hall. Kris agrees to go once he has finished at Macy's with all the children. Shellhammer exits and Kris continues to greet children, unaware of what will really be happening at City Hall.

## END OF ACT I



# DETAILED SYNOPSIS



## ACT II

The act opens on a dejected Kris, sitting alone in a grey metal room. Fred enters with a duffle bag of Kris' things. They greet each other and it is revealed Kris failed the tests on purpose, as he has given up on making Doris and others believe. Fred points out that Kris can't just think of himself because what happens to him matters to other people, like Susie and Doris, who are just beginning to believe. Kris is convinced and it is revealed that Fred will be his lawyer at the hearing tomorrow morning. Fred exits, promising he will come up with something to get out of this institution.

The scene changes to Mr. Macy's office with Mr. Macy and Mr. Sawyer. Mr. Macy is berating Sawyer for sending Kris away and claiming he's a lunatic. Mr. Macy tells him to make this "insanity thing go away" and Kris is returned to his position as the store Santa Claus. When Mr. Sawyer says no, Mr. Macy threatens him to which Sawyer quickly changes his tune. He exits the office and the lights fade to reveal the courtroom the next day.

The judge and Mara, the district attorney, are about to sign Kris' commitment papers when Fred enters. He requests a formal hearing which they are granted for the next week. As he leaves the courtroom, Sawyer approaches him and explains that Macy's wishes to drop the whole case right now to avoid any unwanted publicity. This gives Fred an idea and he abruptly exits, leaving Sawyer in a panic.

The day of the hearing has arrived and the judge, Kris, Fred, Mara, and Sawyer are all in attendance. Fred brings in the daily newspapers, all which have headlines about the looming court case which has now made national news, much to Sawyer's displeasure. Kris Kringle is asked to take the stand and the hearing begins.

Mara begins his questioning of Kris, who charms the courtroom. Mara asks him if he truly believes he is Santa Claus to which Kris responds that absolutely, he does. Surprised, Mara rests his case and Kris is able to leave the witness stand. The judge questions Fred and asks if he wishes to defend his client. Fred explains that he does and reveals his big idea; he intends to prove that Kris is Santa Claus. Everyone is shocked by this ploy and court is adjourned until the next day so the judge can go review the case with this new statement in mind. Before Kris leaves, Fred asks how he can legally prove his identity. Kris responds that "he's no lawyer - just Santa Claus" before exiting the room.

The lights fade and the scene changes to reveal Doris waiting outside the court, reading a newspaper that has a headline about the court case. Suddenly Fred enters, kisses her cheek, and tells her that they are going to celebrate tonight after his great day in court. Doris is surprised and questions his method, claiming he can't possibly prove that Kris is Santa Claus. Fred explains that it doesn't matter and she needs to believe in human kindness, joy, love, all the intangibles, and have faith in him. Doris disagrees and the pair end their new relationship.

# DETAILED SYNOPSIS



## ACT II

The scene changes to Doris' apartment where Susie is struggling with what the papers are saying about Kris. Doris attempts to comfort her when Susie decides to write a letter to Kris to cheer him up. Susie asks Doris if she would like to write anything and she declines. Susie leaves, leaving Doris on stage alone. She takes a moment before taking a crayon and adding to Susie's letter. She exits and the lights fade, revealing the hallway outside the courthouse the next day.

Fred and Kris talk outside the courtroom, both worried about how the case might go. Kris reveals he knows about Fred and Doris ending things, to Fred's surprise. Kris offers him hope before Sawyer enters and the three walk into the courtroom.

The scene begins with Fred calling Mr. Macy to the stand. Fred asks him a few questions about Kris' time at the company and if he believes this Kris Kringle is really Santa Claus. Hesitantly, Macy agrees as he doesn't want the publicity of people thinking Macy's would hire a fraudulent Santa. Sawyer calls him deluded and in response, Mr. Macy fires him.

Mara begins to object to the trial, claiming Fred has made a mockery of the court as Santa Claus does not exist. Fred asks Mara if he can offer any proof that there is no Santa Claus to which the prosecutor refuses. Mara pressures the judge to rule on the debate to which the judge decides to take a short recess.

The scene shifts to the judge, who is reviewing the case, when he is approached by his old friend, Charley. Charley suggests the judge leave town for a bit and let someone who isn't running for re-election handle the case. The judge refuses, and Charley reminds him that he is the reason the judge was elected. Charley begins to explain that by having "Santa Claus" on trial for lunacy and ruling that there is no real Santa Claus, no one will ever vote for him again. Kids will stop hanging up stockings and believing in Christmas, which will then lead to people not purchasing gifts, so toy manufacturers will sell less stock, resulting in eventual layoffs. Charley exits and the judge is left alone.

Returning to the courtroom with a decision, the judge announces that the court will keep an open mind on the existence of Santa Claus and requires evidence for the hearing to proceed. Fred offers that he has evidence and calls Mara's son to the stand, much to the prosecutor's shock. Tommy, Mara's young child, takes the stand and confirms that Kris is the real Santa Claus. Tommy exits and Mara is forced to concede the existence of Santa Claus. However in response, Mara demands that Fred must offer authoritative proof that Kris is Santa Claus, to which Fred requests a recess as he doesn't have any substantial evidence that isn't based on personal opinions. A recess is granted and the scene shifts to the street and a mailbox outside.

# DETAILED SYNOPSIS



## ACT II

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A postman enters to empty the mailbox when Doris runs up to him with her and Susie's letter. She gives it to him and makes him promise he will have it sent urgently. The postman agrees and Doris exits. Louie, another postman, enters and the pair joke about all the letters they have to deliver to Santa. Louie explains to his colleague about the trial happening at the courthouse, and the pair decide to use this as an opportunity to get rid of all the undeliverable Santa letters by bringing them to Kris at the courthouse. They laugh as they both exit, pleased that they found a way to get rid of all the extra letters taking up space. As the pair exit to bring all the letters to Kris, Susie runs out to examine the mailbox. She is worried Santa won't get her letter but Doris reassures her it will. The pair share a moment before walking off.

It is Christmas Eve and everyone is back in the courthouse, where Kris is holding Susie's letter. Kris announces Susie's letter is worth more than the hearing and all the pardons in the world. Mara stands and requests that the judge sign the commitment papers immediately so everyone can return to their families for the holiday. Louie, the postman, enters while Mara is speaking and gives Kris three more letters before whispering in Fred's ear and exiting.

Mara points out that a single letter from a little girl is "hardly authoritative proof" when Fred gets an idea. He begins to recite the history of the United States Post Office and states that the law of the U.S makes it a criminal offense to willingly misdirect mail or intentionally deliver it to the wrong party. Fred hands one of the letters he received from Louie, the postman, as evidence to which Mara disagrees. He then hands over three more letters to which Mara points out that the post office receives thousands of letters a year so therefore the three Kris received mean nothing. Fred calls out to the outside of the courtroom and numerous ushers bring in bags of thousands and thousands of letters. Fred argues that because the United States Post Office delivered these letters to Kris, he is officially recognized by a branch of the federal government as the real Santa Claus.

The judge who is buried in letters at this point agrees and the case is dismissed. Kris and Fred celebrate and Doris invites Kris over for dinner that evening. He turns her down as it's Christmas Eve so he will be very busy that evening. Kris exits and Doris congratulates Fred, inviting him to dinner. Fred turns her down and exits.



# DETAILED SYNOPSIS



## ACT II

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# DETAILED SYNOPSIS



## ACT II

The scene changes to Macy's on Christmas day. Doris, Alfred, and Kris are all there, the latter dressed as Santa Claus'. Kris deputizes Alfred as the new Macy's Santa Claus and sends him away to go hand out gifts to the children. Various characters enter in and out of the scene, thanking Kris for their perfect Christmas gifts. As everyone celebrates the holiday at the store, Susan is disappointed as the house she asked for isn't under the tree. She expresses that she should've known Kris wasn't actually Santa Claus as Santa isn't real. Doris reminds her about having faith which Fred overhears. Doris invites Fred to come with her and Susan to drive around and look at Christmas lights which Kris suggests they should drive over to Long Island. He even offers a specific address for them to look at. The party continues and the scene shifts to Doris, Fred, and Susan driving around.

Susan frantically asks Fred to stop the car and runs out to look at the house Kris directed them to. Outside the house, there is a for sale sign and Susan realizes this is the house from her drawing. She is elated as she realizes Kris Kringle really is Santa and she begins to celebrate. Fred and Doris reunite, deciding to buy the house when they notice a strangely familiar cane leaning against the for-sale sign. When they look closer, they discover it's Kris' cane and realize who he is and the magic of believing in Santa Claus.

## END OF PLAY



# CONTEXT: ADAPTATIONS



An adaptation is a movie, television, or theatre show that has been adapted from another piece of work, typically a novel. This piece has been adapted from the original 1947 movie and short novella of the same name, written by Valentine Davies. There have been at least five different adaptations of *Miracle on 34th Street*, including the original film, remakes, TV movie adaptations, and musical stage play.



## Context: History of *Miracle on 34th Street*

*Miracle on 34th Street* is an American Christmas comedy drama film released in 1947. The film has become a holiday classic and in 2005 was selected for preservation in the United States Film registry by the Library of Congress for being “culturally, historically or aesthetically significant”.

Starring Maureen O’Hara as Doris Walker, a thriving divorced businesswoman, the film received backlash from the Legion of Decency. In the early days of cinema, a lack of an official ratings system caused film studios to self-regulate their productions (e.g. the Hays Code) and created groups like the Legion of Decency which would rate films depending on how acceptable the content was for public consumption. Due to its “reflection of the acceptability of divorce”, *Miracle on 34th Street* was given a B rating and deemed “morally objectionable”.

20th Century Fox decided to make the risky decision to air the film, unaltered, even though numerous other studios would re-edit their films to remain on the Legion’s good side. Luckily the film was a success with huge box office returns, favorable reviews, and four Oscar nominations.





## PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

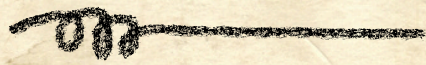
- Have you seen a play before? What are some elements that make up a play?
- Do you know anything about *Miracle on 34th Street*?
- If you were Santa Claus, what's a gift you'd want to give someone?
- What is a miracle?
- Do you think people are more or less generous around the holidays?
- What's something you love to do with your family over the winter break?
- How can you be a respectful and supportive audience member?







## POST SHOW RESOURCES



In the following pages, you  
will find resources that may  
be helpful after attending  
the show



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## POST SHOW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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- What is a moment that stood out to you from the play?
- What was a design element you enjoyed (costumes, set, lighting, sound)?
- What do you think is the message of the play?
- Is it important to believe in something?
- How can you respectfully engage with people who disagree with you?
- If you were to have a conversation with Santa Claus, what would you ask him?
- Why do you think adults may be more hesitant to believe in wonder/the unexplainable than children?
- How did Susan change over the course of the play?





# Activity #1 – Christmas / Holiday Live Commercial

Drama, ALL AGES

## Before Ask:

- What is the best gift you've ever received?
- What did the play have to say about marketing/commercialism
- What is an item/invention you think the world really needs to make it better?



Miracle on 34th Street highlights the commercialism around Christmas. Step into the role of a marketing executive and pitch your original product/invention, just in time for the holiday rush. In small groups, develop the product and create a mock prop. Write a brief script to try and sell your product and include a short “jingle” at the end! Be creative and have fun. Your live commercial must include:

- An original product
- An exciting/captivating hook to get the audience's attention.
- A demo/testimonial of the product, displaying its use and benefits.
- Other relevant information (cost/side effects/ sale information)
- A jingle (a little song/tune) to wrap it up
- 1 minute max
- *Bonus: Use Christmas or winter holiday-related props/costumes to add a little sparkle!*



## After Ask:

- After seeing your classmate's commercials which product would you want to buy?
- What can you give people that doesn't cost any money?

## Activity #2 – Class 3D Ornament Mobile

*Visual Arts, all ages*

### **Before Ask:**

- What are holiday traditions or winter traditions you have with your family?
- What one of the best winter memories you have?
- What is a place or activity you think of when you think about winter holidays?
- What are some quotes from the play that you loved or think are important?

Create an ornament that share/reflects your personal winter holiday traditions, or things that you love doing in the winter months. This ornament should reflect you. Hang up the ornaments in your classroom together on a mobile!

### **Materials:**

- Colourful Cardstock or other paper
- White Glue
- Twine/String/ribbon
- Scissors
- Beads
- Large stick, or wooden circle to attach ornaments to
- Paper clips/clothes pins



# STEPS



**Step One:** Brainstorm together on a white board or brown butter paper the “before” questions found above.” This will help students get inspired.

**Step two:** Draw out your circles/oval shapes. 6, 8, or 10 are recommended shapes.

**Step three:** Cut out the shapes



**Step four:** Fold each in half, lengthwise

**Step five:** Glue the shapes together and let dry, but leave the final two sides unglued for now (this is where you will glue in the string/ribbon later).

**Step six:** Write or paint scenes/symbols on the sides of the ornament (note: you can do this before gluing if you label the sides appropriately).

- These should be scenes/images/memories that are meaningful to you.
- On one inner side, with a marker, write out a quote from the play that resonated with you.

**Step seven:** In between the final sides that have not yet been glued, set your string/ribbon in between and glue. Different lengths will give the mobile more variety.

**Step eight:** Hang everyone’s 3D ornaments together and admire! Your own class mobile!

*Tip: clothes pins/or paper clips can help keep the paper together while the glue dries.*



## Resources:

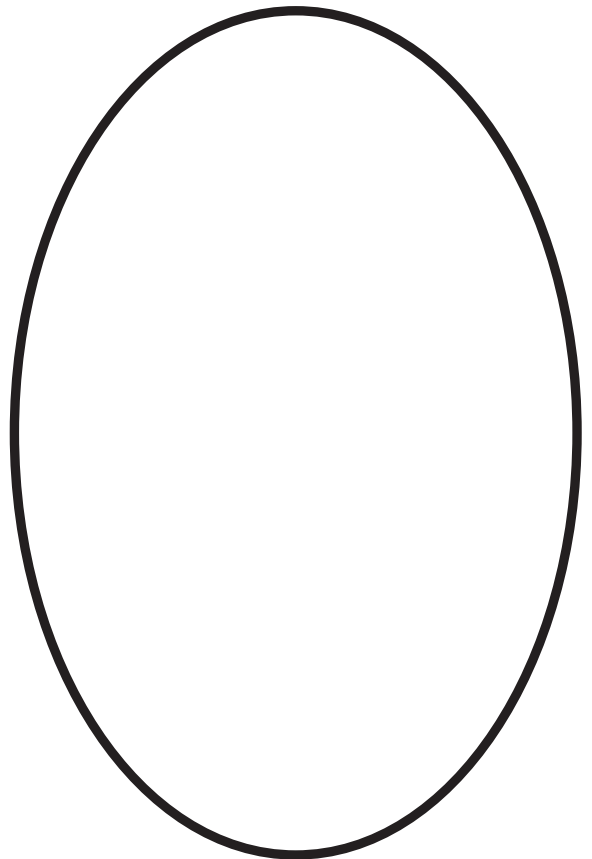
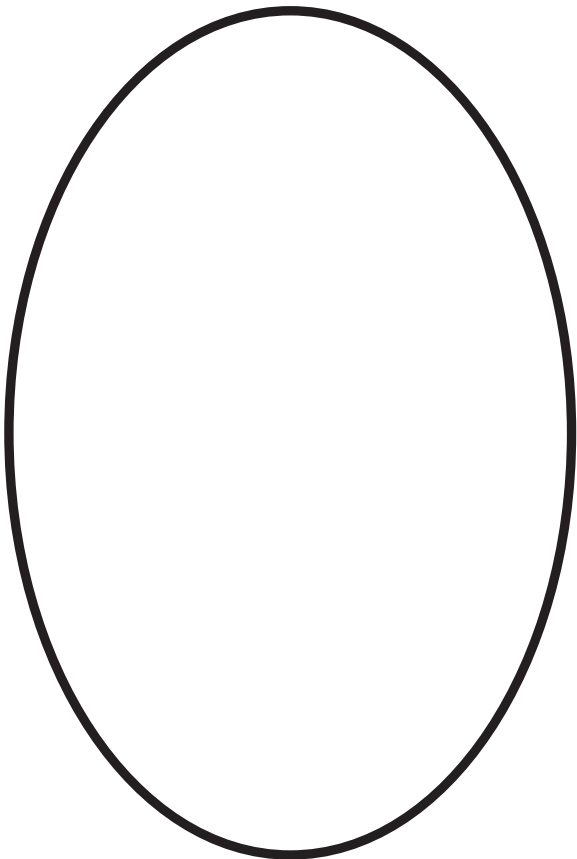
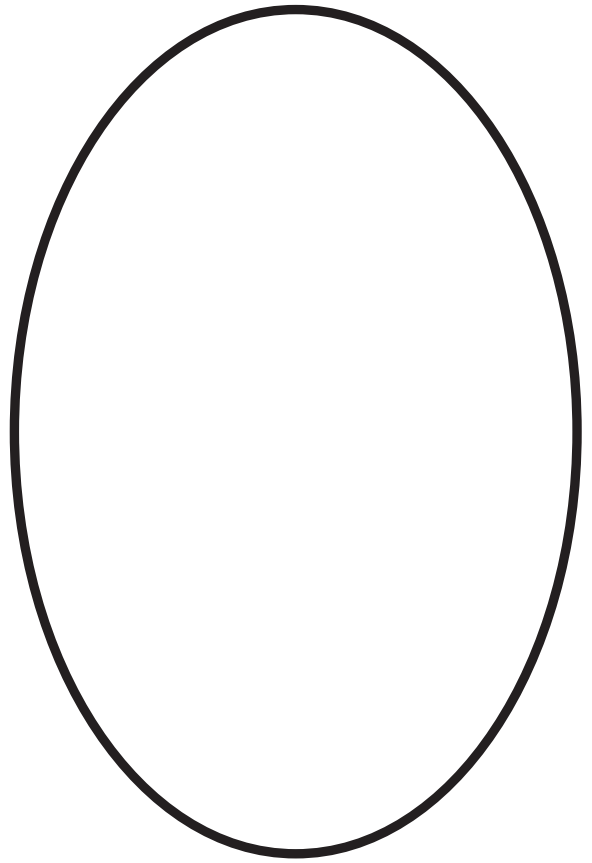
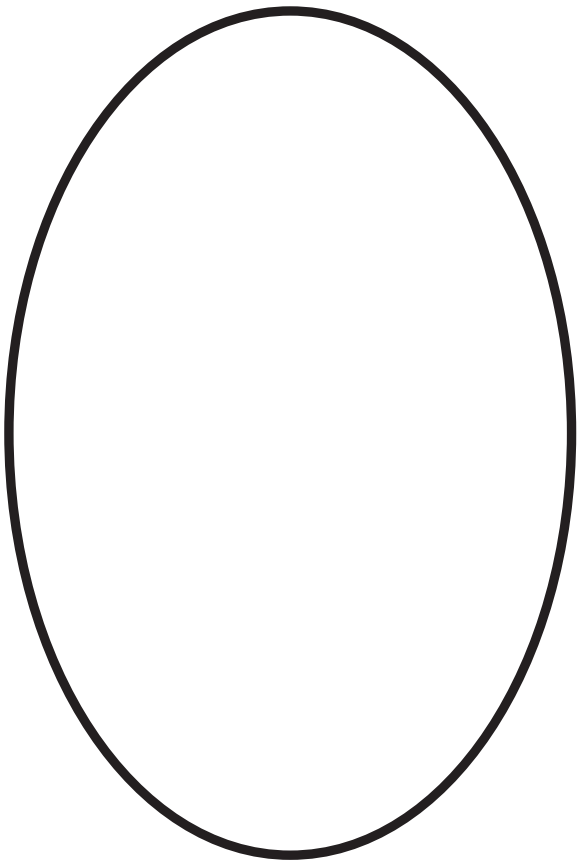
- <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/23995810508459397/>
- <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/481955597636550165/>
- YouTube Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6b8erLu1B8>  
(Don’t do the glitter step unless you really feel like chaos!)

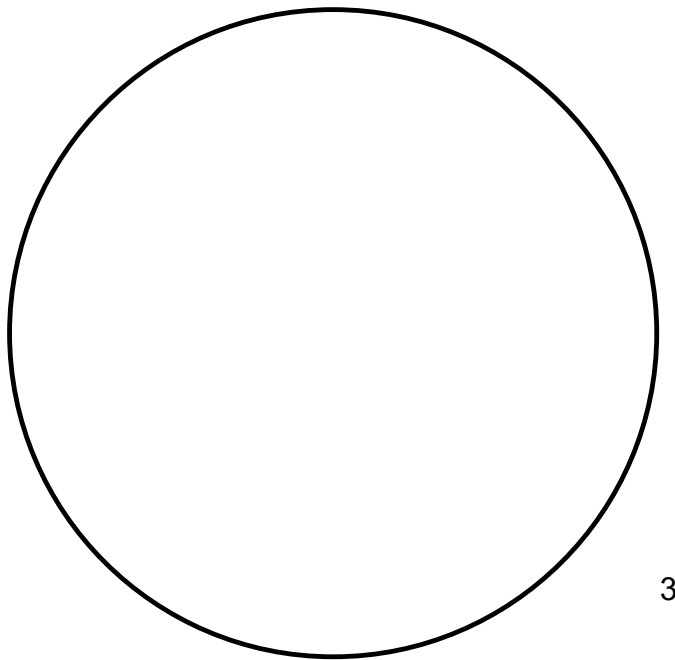
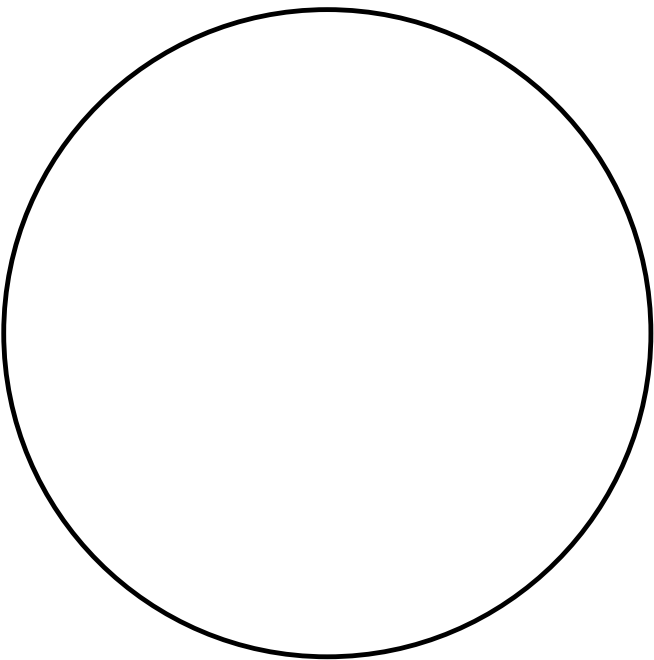
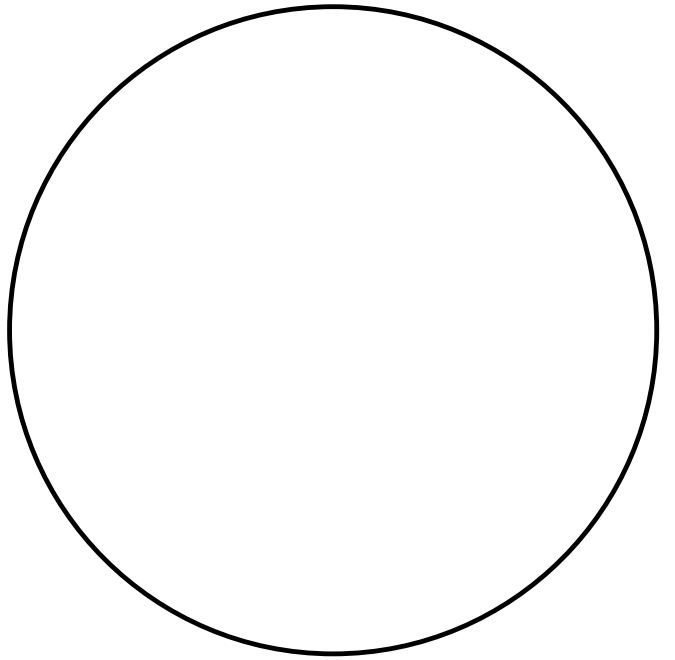
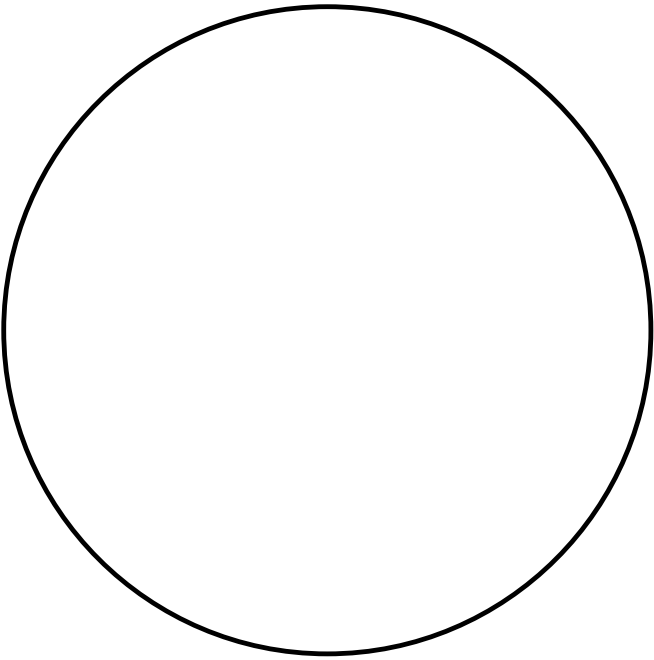
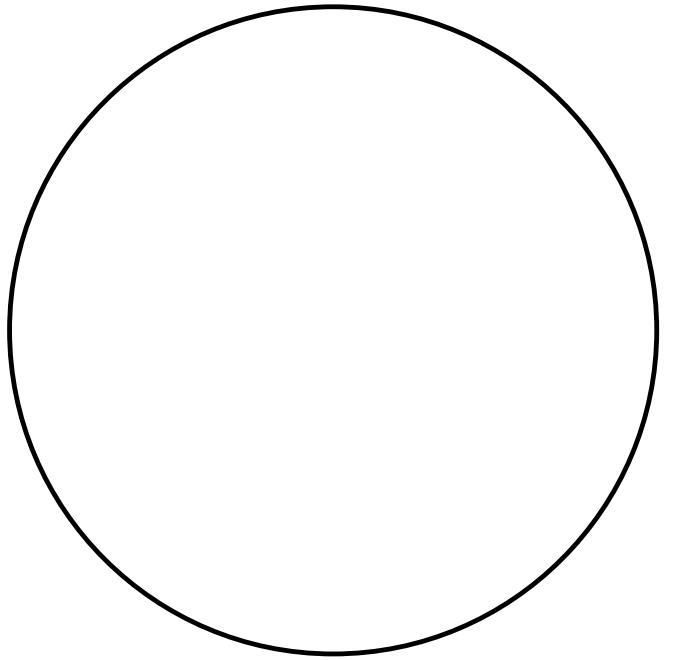
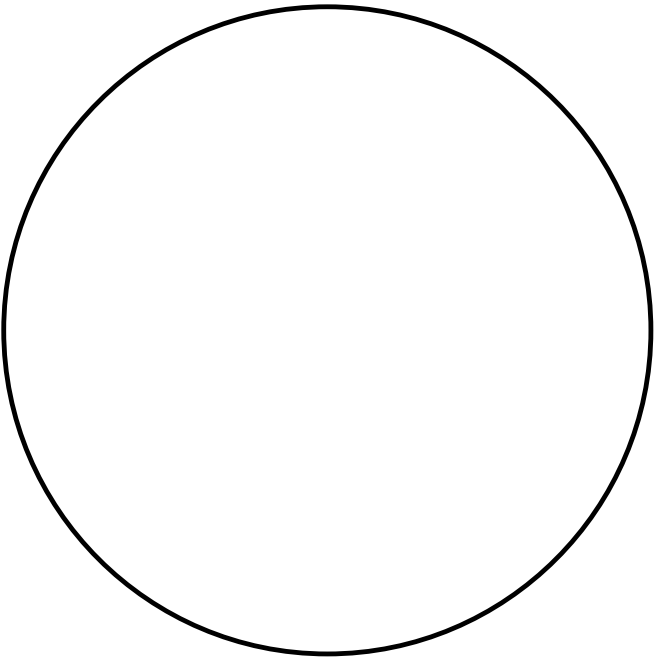
## After Ask

- What did you learn about your classmates?
- Why is it important to celebrate or make time to do things with the people you love?



# Activity - 3D ornament Templates





## Activity #3 – Serve Project on Your Street!

Do something kind this holiday season! Consider the organizations/nearby communities your class may want to help during the winter seasons. As a class, consider who you can help or connect with:

Some ideas:

- Care packages for a local shelter
- High school students organize a hot chocolate hand out with a local elementary school
- Organize a garbage clean up around your neighbourhood
- Write kind cards and send to a local senior's centre
- Toy or food drive



Within the school:

- Ask another classroom/teacher if you can do a group clean up in their space
- Write kind notes to your custodial or admin staff
- Secret Santa for a staff member
- Bake cookies and deliver them to friends



**After Ask:**

- How does it feel to give versus to receive?
- What's something you learned about your community through the serve project?
- What's one thing you can do regularly to support your community?



# RESOURCES



Norad Santa Tracker: <https://www.noradsanta.org/en/>

Canada Post Santa Letters: <https://www.canadapost-postescanada.ca/cpc/en/our-company/write-letter-to-santa.page>

3D ornament Youtube tutorial: YouTube Tutorial:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6b8erLu1B8>

The Legend of Santa Claus:  
<https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/santa-claus>

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