

THE CHRISTMAS CAPER

“Did Grandma Get Run Over By A Reindeer?”



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Scenes & Characters

<u>Scene No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Characters</u>	<u>Props</u>
1	House Garage	Grandpa	Broom
2	Front Porch or Sidewalk	Angry Grandkids	Coats, Ice Cream Container
3.	House Living Room	Aunt Elda & Uncle Fred	Pie Plate
4.	Side of the Road Somewhere	Forest Ranger	Flashlight, Ranger Costume
5.	House Kitchen	Ethel the Old Family Friend	Apron

Opening – Have all the students meet at a central location (church, parking lot, house). Tell the students that they may not know it but an extremely significant holiday event happened in this area many years ago. Although the event has never been explained or fully understood, you know that the truth is out there. So once and for all they will have the opportunity to set the record straight and let the world know whether or not.....”Grandma truly got run over by a reindeer.” To find out for sure they will need to visit five locations, listen to the people reenact that dreadful event, and then meet at _____ by ____ p.m. where we will answer this question once and for all. (you’ll need to give each group a map and clue sheet to fill out).

Scene #1 Grandpa’s Garage

Grandpa – (sweeping the floor and whistling or singing to himself) Oh the weather outside is frightful and my singing is so delightful and since we’ve no place to (looks up and sees students).....Oh hello there. I’m just tidying up a little. You just missed Grandma, she went to pick up the grandkids and borrow a pie plate from Aunt Elda. Big Christmas celebration comin’ she gets so excited about the holidays and all. I like them too. Of course, this year I’m a little upset. For the past ten years I’ve been saving my quarters in coffee cans so I could buy a new golf cart. Well someone broke in last night and stole all my quarters!! I had ten full coffee cans, that’s a lot of money. And I think the thief had to be a youngster, I found sneaker foot prints. Grandmas car leaks a little brake fluid and the culprit walked right through the puddle. Boy that makes me so mad. Anyway, you kids better run along, you don’t want to be standing there when Grandma comes pullin’ in the driveway. The eyes ain’t what they used to be. See ya later.

Scene #2 Sidewalk or Front Porch

Grandson – (pacing back and forth) Man, where is she.

Granddaughter – Stop pacing, she’ll be here.

Grandson – This is just like Grandmom. She always does her own thing in her own time. How’s the ice cream doing?

Granddaughter – (hold up the dripping container) Not so good, I think we’re losing it. Y’know maybe her car broke down or something, you know that old Chevy has been falling apart for years.

Grandson – (laughs) Or maybe Grandpa finally drove her nuts with his golf obsession.

Granddaughter – Yeah, I don’t think she likes how much he’s out of the house. (looks at container again) This ice cream is not going to make it. Maybe I should go put it back in the freezer or we’ll have to stop on the way and get some more.

Grandson – Well that’s it. I’m tired of waiting. Let’s go call Uncle Fred, maybe he can come get us.

Granddaughter – Okay, I hope grandmom’s alright though.

Grandson – I’m sure she’s fine. Come on.

Both walk away.....

Scene #3 Aunt Elda & Uncle Fred's House

Uncle Fred – (on the phone) You're where? Alright, I'll come and get ya'll, just stay put now. (hangs up the phone)

Aunt Elda – Who was that dear?

Uncle Fred – That was your nephew. You mother never showed up to get them, they've been waiting over an hour so I reckon I'll go pick them up. Where do you suppose your mother got off to?

Aunt Elda – I don't know, she has been acting a little suspicious this year. She came over the other day and asked if I'd show her how to use the computer. When I asked what she needed she just told me not to worry. I thought she might be trying to find something for dad, but she's been so mad at him lately with all the golfing.

Uncle Fred – Well maybe she ordered something for the grandkids and went to go pick it up. Or maybe she needed stuff for her famous Christmas pies.

Aunt Elda – Hmm, she did call and ask to borrow my pie plate. Still, if she doesn't show up soon maybe we ought to start looking for her.

Uncle Fred – (with a smirk) Hey maybe she finally took that trip to Las Vegas she keeps talking about. (pulls a pretend slot machine lever) Whooo-who!! Grandma hits it big!! (laughs)

Aunt Elda – Alright Fred, that's enough. Go pick up the kids.

Uncle Fred – (still laughing) Chaa-ching, go grandma, go!

Scene #4 Side of the Road

Jeep or SUV is pulled off to the side, a man dressed in uniform is walking down the road with a flashlight in his hand looking for clues or something.

Officer – (holds his hands up) Hold it right there!! This is officially a crime scene. I know you're going to think I'm crazy but something really strange has happened here. Back down the road a ways there's an old Chevy sitting on the side of the road. From what I can gather, someone broke down, started walking and got shishka-bobbed but a large deer or possibly a small rhinoceros. Probably the deer is the better explanation though. Terrible tragedy. Whoever it was, was carrying a bag of flour or sugar or something. It's all over the road back there, that's probably what attracted the deer. If I didn't know any better I'd guess this may have been some type of reindeer. Apparently, someone got run over by a reindeer, walking back to their house on Christmas Eve! Well, you can say there's no such thing as Santa, but I gotta tell you, I'm starting to believe.

Anyway, I've got to get these deer tracks analyzed. There was one other set of tire tracks, they look like those cheap treads that a taxi would use. But no taxi would come out here unless they were called so that rules that out, I didn't see a cell phone anywhere. This poor soul, they never saw it coming. You kids move along, I don't want my crime scene messed up for my report. I better go get that license plate and notify the next of kin as well. I'll see you later.

Scene #5 Ethel's Kitchen

Ethel – (Ethel is sitting at the table playing solitaire) Come on in and sit a spell. Nice to see you young folks. I'm sure you're here to find out if I've seen Maude or, pardon me, Grandma. She and I have been friends for years and years. There's a lot about her that people don't know. Did you know she still can play tennis? Sure she plays every week at the gym. Did you know that she doesn't like to bake? She doesn't at all. All these stereo types. She's not your average grandma, despite what people think. And that husband of hers, he drives her nuts with his golfing. I keep saying one day she's going to crack and he'll finally get what's coming to him. Oh look at me, gossiping. I really shouldn't say anything.

Maude was here earlier, she borrowed a bag of sugar, made a phone call from the den and said goodbye. I expect she'll be back to see me later this week. You kids have a nice Christmas and tell Maude not to worry about the sugar, I'll get some more myself. Good night. (continues playing cards).

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Solution Sheet

Name of Group _____

Did Grandma get run over by a reindeer? _____

Where is grandma? _____

How do you know? _____

Excellent work!! Please return this sheet to Pastor Tim at the _____

by _____pm. Be ready to explain your answers.

Solution:

Did grandma get run over by a reindeer? NO

Where is Grandma? Las Vegas with grandpa's money

How do you know?

Grandma was fed up with Grandpa's golfing.

Grandma had always wanted to go to Las Vegas.

Grandma used her daughters computer to purchase airline tickets (assumed).

Grandma still plays Tennis, so she's got sneakers

Grandpa's quarters are missing, the thief wore sneakers

The officer says no taxi would come out there without being called
Grandma made a call from Ethel's den before she left to the taxi company

The Grandkids mention that it's not unlike grandma to do her own thing