

# Max's Christmas

## MAX'S CHRISTMAS

By Rosemary Wells (Dial)

Theme: Holidays, Siblings, Christmas

Grade Level: Pre-K - 2

Running Time: 5 minutes, animated

## SUMMARY

**MAX'S CHRISTMAS** is a charming tale about a little brother named Max and his older sister Ruby. It's Christmas Eve and Ruby gets Max ready for bed so that Santa can come down the chimney with his holiday gifts. As Ruby helps him prepare for bed, Max is full of questions about Santa. When Max asks why he can't see Santa, a frustrated Ruby answers "Because!" Ruby finally gets Max into bed, only to have him climb out, sneak downstairs, and wait by the fireplace for Santa. When Santa arrives, Max begins with his questions again. Santa eventually says it is time for him to go, and for Max to go sleep. When Max asks "Why?" Santa answers "Because!" Santa leaves his hat, along with the presents, and flies up the chimney. Ruby comes downstairs and sees Max, covered by a bulging, bumpy blanket, and wearing Santa's hat. Ruby asks why the blanket is so bumpy, and as she pulls it off Max discovering the Christmas packages as Max answers, "Because!"

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about the Christmas holiday.
- Children will explore bedtime rituals.
- Children will explore sibling relationships.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book, **MAX'S CHRISTMAS**, with children. Then ask:

- How did Max feel the night before Christmas?
- How do you feel?

- Would you like to see Santa Clause? Why? Why not?

Share other books about Christmas with children. If children celebrate this holiday at home, have them bring in some of their homemade decorations or other symbols of Christmas they might have.

Encourage children to describe these items, and their family's Christmas traditions, to the group. Talk with children about other winter holidays they celebrate with their families. Encourage children to describe their holiday celebrations to others in the group. Ask:

- How does your family prepare for the holiday?
- What is your favorite part of the holiday?
- What other things does your family do together to make the holiday special?

Discuss children's bedtime routines. Encourage them to talk about the things they do every evening, including the health care routines they follow before going to bed. Have children compare their own rituals to those that Max and Ruby follow. Ask:

- Which of the things that Ruby helps Max do before bed do you do at home?
- Who helps you?
- What might happen if you forget to do some of these things?

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss the Christmas stockings children saw in the story. Then play a game of "Guess What's Inside the Stocking?" Provide a large sock. Have children close their eyes and place an object into the sock. Have them open their eyes and take turns reaching into the sock and, without looking, feel the object. See if children can identify the object simply by feeling it. Continue the game by placing different objects in the sock.

Talk about how people around the world celebrate

Christmas in Scandinavia, France, Spain, etc. using books about Christmas from the library.

Suggest this as a story starter: "One Christmas Eve I couldn't sleep so I sneaked downstairs. There before my eyes was..."

Talk with children about the relationship between Max and Ruby in the story. Ask:

- How do you think Ruby feels about caring for Max?
- How do you think Max feels about being cared for by his sister?

Encourage children to describe their own sibling relationships, including how they feel about being cared for by older siblings.

## OTHER STORIES ABOUT WINTER HOLIDAYS AVAILABLE FROM WESTON WOODS INCLUDE:

- **CHICKEN SOUP WITH RICE**, by Maurice Sendak
- **THE CLOWN OF GOD**, by Tomie dePaola
- **THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY**, by Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati & Harry Simeone, ill. by Ezra Jack Keats
- **MERRY CHRISTMAS, SPACE CASE**, by James Marshall
- **MORRIS'S DISAPPEARING BAG**, by Rosemary Wells
- **SAM AND THE LUCKY MONEY**, by Karen Chinn, ill. by Cornelius Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu
- **SEVEN CANDLES FOR KWANZAA**, by Andrea Davis Pinkney, ill. by Brian Pinkney
- **THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**, by Robert Broomfield
- **ZLATEH THE GOAT**, by Isaac Bashevis Singer, ill. by Maurice Sendak

**CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!**

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction