

# BIG BAD BEN OF BETHLEHEM



# BIG BAD BEN OF BETHLEHEM – SCRIPT SAMPLE

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Thank you for looking at this sample from 'Big Bad Ben Of Bethlehem'. Please note the following:

**EDITABLE SCRIPTS** You will receive editable versions of the script, so that you can easily adapt it to suit your specific needs. Lots of ideas and advice for ways to easily cut or add to the script, are included in the material that you will receive.

**TIMING** If you stick exactly to the script, this performance should take about 25-30 minutes. If this is too long or too short for you, suggestions are included as part of the material you receive, which should help you easily shorten or lengthen the production by 10-15 minutes either way.

**CAST SIZE** The cast list below is VERY flexible. This play can easily be performed by a small handful of children or with a cast of 100+. Suggestions are included as part of the material you receive, which should help you easily add dozens more parts if required.

## CAST LIST

Part	Details
Narrator/s	There are thirty-two passages in the script marked for a narrator or group of narrators. Several of these passages can be further split into smaller parts, giving scope for an even larger number of children to have spoken roles.
Big Bad Ben	The starring role. Ben is onstage for most of the performance. He has around twenty lines to learn and has two optional solos.
Innkeeper	A very large part. The innkeeper (Ben's dad) is onstage most of the time. He has one optional song to sing as a duet with Mrs Innkeeper and has around thirty-five spoken lines. <i>Please note that about half of these lines are simple responses to 'knock-knock' jokes (e.g. 'who' or 'who's there') and therefore don't have to be learnt.</i>
Mrs Innkeeper	A large part. Mrs Innkeeper is onstage for most of the time. She has around fifteen lines and has one optional song to sing as a duet with Mr Innkeeper.
Teacher	Ben's teacher is only onstage at the start and end of the play. He or she has around ten lines to learn.
Bethlehem School Pupils	Ben's classmates are onstage at the start and end of the play. You can have as few or as many as you like. Six of them have one spoken line each.
Gabriel	A fairly large part. Gabriel is onstage most of the time. Gabriel has thirteen lines to learn and one optional solo.
Roman Soldier	A smaller role. The Roman soldier has five lines to learn.
Inn Guests	You can have as many inn guests coming and going as you want. There are small spoken parts of a line or two each for five different inn guests.
Mary and Joseph	Onstage constantly from the fifth song onwards. They each have around six lines and one song to sing as a duet.
Shepherds & Wise Men	Three shepherds and three wise men have one line each and one song each.
Optional Extras	In the full version of this product, this section of the cast list gives several ideas for ways to easily add lots of extra parts

# **BIG BAD BEN OF BETHLEHEM – SCRIPT SAMPLE**

**A children's Christmas performance by Stuart Ross © 2011 Learn2soar Limited**

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**PLEASE NOTE** For copyright reasons, only partial song lyrics have been included in this sample document. The full version contains full song lyrics.

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NARRATOR Welcome to our nativity play. This nativity is different! It's not all about the shepherds, or the wise men, or Mary and Joseph, though we'll of course be meeting them all later.

NARRATOR No, this nativity play is centred on a character that you won't have met before. This is the story of the most mischievous boy in Bethlehem. His name was Ben, but most people called him 'Big Bad Ben of Bethlehem'!

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## **SONG 1**

### **Big Bad Ben**

VERSE 1 Big Bad Ben, Big Bad Ben,  
Big Bad Ben of Bethlehem,  
Horrid Henry would be afraid,  
If he saw Big Bad Ben coming his way... etc...

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NARRATOR *(Enter Ben and his parents)* Big Bad Ben was actually the son of the Bethlehem innkeeper and his wife and he did indeed drive them mad! Ben was lazy...

INNKEEPER Ben, you're lazy!

BEN Yup!

NARRATOR Ben was often grumpy...

MRS INNKEEPER Stop being so grumpy all the time!

BEN I CAN BE GRUMPY IF I WANT TO!

NARRATOR And Ben never cleaned his bedroom!

BEN I LIKE IT MESSY, OK!

ALL GASP!

BEN What are you all gasping at? Kids are meant to have messy rooms.

ALL *(Nodding at each other in general agreement) Suppose so! (Ben's parents exit right, shaking their heads as they go. Several of Ben's classmates and his teacher enter left. They all stand in the corner away from Ben)*

NARRATOR At school everyone tried to stay away from Big Bad Ben because of the tricks he played on people.

PUPIL 1 Mr Teacher, Ben put a spider down my trousers!

BEN The spider just wanted to find a new home.

PUPIL 2 Mr Teacher, Ben took my lunch and fed it to the camels.

BEN They were hungry. I was being kind really.

PUPIL 3 Mr Teacher, Ben asked if he could come to my house to play hide and seek.

TEACHER That's a good thing isn't it?

PUPIL 3 No, he locked me in a cupboard and said, "You hide there while I seek your sweets!"

BEN And the sweets tasted very nice thank you. Yum-yum! *(The children crowd round the teacher and all start speaking at once, complaining about all the tricks Ben has played on them). I've had enough of this... ROOAAARRR!!! (The pupils and teacher all scream and run offstage)*

## **SONG 2**

### **I'm Big Bad Ben**

*(Sung by Ben)*

I'm Big Bad Ben, or so they say,  
When people see me they run away... etc...

*(Ben exits. Ben's parents enter right).*

MRS INNKEEPER Husband, we've got a problem. The couple staying in room twelve are very unhappy about something. I think they're getting ready to leave.

INNKEEPER But they've only just arrived. What's happened?

MRS INNKEEPER I don't know but here they come now. *(Enter two hotel guests with a suitcase)*

GUEST 1 WE ARE LEAVING NOW! THIS INN IS A DISGRACE!

INNKEEPER What on earth is the matter?

GUEST 2 That son of yours put a snake in our bed. *(The guests produce a rubber snake and throw it into the audience).* And then, as we were coming out of

our room screaming, he started shooting water at us! *(Enter Ben shooting a water pistol, at the audience as well as his parents and inn guests)*

GUEST 1                    WHAT TERRIBLE BEHAVIOUR! GOODBYE! *(The guests storm off)*

INNKEEPER                BEN YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE! GO TO YOUR ROOM! *(Exit Ben still squirting water)*

NARRATOR                Then to make matters worse for Mr and Mrs Innkeeper, Big Bad Ben's teacher suddenly arrived.

TEACHER                    *(Enter teacher. He knocks on the door)* Knock, Knock.

INNKEEPER                Who's there?

TEACHER                    Teacher.

INNKEEPER                Teacher who?

TEACHER                    A teacher who's upset because of your son!

INNKEEPER                Well that's not a very funny 'knock, knock' joke. You can't come in unless it's funny.

TEACHER                    Oh... Ok... knock, knock.

INNKEEPER                Who's there?

TEACHER                    Broken sword.

INNKEEPER                Broken sword who?

TEACHER                    Never mind, it's pointless.

INNKEEPER                *(Opening the door)* Yes that's a bit funnier! Come in.

MRS INNKEEPER        Husband, behave yourself. Sorry, teacher, Mr Innkeeper likes his little jokes.

INNKEEPER                Yes, our son is making us very upset too and 'knock, knock' jokes are the only thing that makes us smile!

TEACHER                    I have something to read to you... *(He opens up a roll of parchment and reads)*... "I don't like coming to school because of Ben, he makes me feel sad all the time. Ben calls me names, Ben makes fun of me in front of the other children and Ben plays nasty tricks on me. One day he even put camel droppings in my lunch!"

MRS INNKEEPER        Oh, the poor pupils.

TEACHER That's not written by the pupils, it's written by me! *(The teacher bursts into tears)*... Ben is not nice to me as well as to the children.

INNKEEPER And did you eat the camel droppings?

TEACHER *(Crying loudly now)*... Y... Y... Yes! It was disgusting!!!! I'm sorry, but this can't go on. Ben can't come to school any more. Not unless he starts being better behaved ALL the time. *(Teacher exits still crying loudly)*

MRS INNKEEPER What are we going to do? Ben's out of control! If he can't go to school, that means he'll be here all day, every day.

INNKEEPER Think of the havoc he'll cause! No one will want to stay at our inn any more. We'll go out of business! *(They both start to cry)*

**SONG 3**                      **The Prayer Of Ben's Parents**                      *(Sung by Ben's Parents)*

Dear God will you help us please,  
 Look at us we're on our knees,  
 We love Ben, we love him so,  
 But when we say yes, he says no... etc...

NARRATOR God heard the prayer of Mr and Mrs Innkeeper and saw how upset they were. He also had some big plans in store for their inn with some very important visitors on the way.

NARRATOR So God gladly answered the prayers of Mr and Mrs Innkeeper. He sent them his best angel straight away.

GABRIEL *(Enter Gabriel)* Knock, Knock.

INNKEEPER Who's there?

GABRIEL Angel.

INNKEEPER Angel who?

GABRIEL The one standing at your door. Let me in please. *(Ben's parents look at each other in shock and then run to answer the door)*

MRS INNKEEPER Are you really an angel?

GABRIEL Yes, Gabriel's the name. Sorting mischievous children out is the game.

INNKEEPER BEN! COME HERE! *(Enter Ben)* There's bad news and good news.

MRS INNKEEPER    The BAD news is that you're not allowed to go to school any more, not until you learn to behave properly.

BEN                      What's the good news then?

MRS INNKEEPER    The GOOD news is that there is someone here to teach you how to behave properly!

BEN                      We'll see about that! *(He looks at Gabriel and laughs)* It's a big fairy!!!

GABRIEL                The name is Angel Gabriel! But you can call me Super-Nanny Gabriel!

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**SONG 4**

**Super-Nanny**

*(Sung by Gabriel)*

CHORUS                I'm Super-Nanny, sent from above,  
Come to fill your home with peace and love,  
No need to worry, no need to fear,  
Super-Nanny Gabriel is now here... etc...

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