**Curve** and **Rebel Sparks** co-production



# DAISY and the TROUBLE with CHRISTMAS

Based on the book by **Kes Gray** Adapted for stage by **Sarah Middleton**

Co-Directors **Hannah Stone** and **Ria Ashcroft**
Music and Lyrics **Darren Clark**
Set and Costume Design **Abby Clarke**

# TEACHER'S EDUCATION RESOURCE

Original artwork ©Nick Sharratt, 2009

# Welcome to the DAISY AND THE TROUBLE WITH CHRISTMAS Education Pack!

**This pack is for anyone who has read the book, or seen the show, or just wants something really fun to do with little ones! We aim to extend your children's theatrical experience when they get back to nursery, school, or at home as a fun family activity.**

**You can adapt the activities to suit the age and ability of your children.**

**The activities are designed to get imaginations working and bodies moving.**

**There are no wrong answers, the main thing is to have fun whilst you do them.**

**MRS PETERS' TIPS:**

**Throughout the resource pack, you will see tips from Daisy's very own teacher, Mrs Peters. She hopes these will help you make the most out of the activities and unlock new levels of creativity.**


Before the Show ..... 3

DRAMA ..... 4

Activity 1: Music and Movement ..... 4

Activity 2: Using Our Voices ..... 5

Activity 3: Epic Freeze Frames ..... 6

ART & CRAFT ..... 7

Activity 1: Design a Costume! ..... 7

Activity 2: Design a Poster ..... 8

Activity 3: Make Your Own Christmas Decorations ..... 9

Activity 4: Make Your Own Reindeer Antlers ... Just Like Daisy's! ..... 10

PUZZLES & PROBLEMS TROUBLES ..... 11

Activity 1: Daisy's Christmas Letter ..... 11

Activity 2: Agent Daisy and the Amber Warnings ..... 12

Activity 3: If I Was In Charge Of Christmas ..... 13

APPENDIX ..... 14

Printout: Design a Costume! ..... 14

Printout: Christmas Decorations ..... 15

Printout: Make Your Own Reindeer Antlers ..... 16

Printout: Daisy's Christmas Letter ..... 17

Printout: Agent Daisy and the Amber Warnings! 1/2 ..... 18

Printout: Agent Daisy and the Amber Warnings! 2/2 ..... 19

Printout: If I Was In Charge Of Christmas ..... 20

# Before the Show

If your class is coming to see the production, here are some questions and conversation starters to build excitement and anticipation.

Let the children know that the show is about a girl called Daisy, who is preparing for Christmas. There's a nativity show to rehearse, a Christmas list to write, and lots of festive fun to be had. But as usual with Daisy, things don't always go to plan!

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**
**You might allow time for children to share their thoughts with a partner before feeding back to the group.**



# DRAMA

## Activity 1: Music and Movement

During the show, Daisy sings about an awesome Christmas feeling that takes over your whole body! Here are some of the lyrics:

***It tickles your toes, it nibbles your nose,***
***It gives you twinkly fingers and a wobbly thumb,***
***It goes into your knees, it's an infectious disease,***
***It gets into your brain and takes control of your bum!***

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**
**If the children have not seen the show and you don't know the tune to the song, you can sing it as a rap. It is more important to keep a rhythm to the lyrics than to have an accurate tune.**

### Step 1: Learn the Actions

Ask the children to come up with a simple action for each line, or you could teach them these example actions:

- ***"Tickles your toes"*** – wiggle your toes and point to them
- ***"Nibbles your nose"*** – scrunch up your nose and wiggle it
- ***"Twinkly fingers"*** – jazz hands, twinkling all ten fingers
- ***"A wobbly thumb"*** – stick your thumbs up and wobble them about
- ***"Goes into your knees"*** – wobble your knees in and out
- ***"An infectious disease"*** – pretend to sneeze dramatically
- ***"Gets into your brain"*** – tap your head and make a dizzy face
- ***"Takes control of your bum!"*** – wiggle your bottom!



### Step 2: Perform Together

Practice the song and actions all together.
Start slowly, then once everyone knows them, try it faster.
Then try it really, REALLY slowly in slow motion.
Then try it without making any sound... just the actions!

### Step 3: Stage It

In small groups, ask the children to stage the song as a mini-performance.

- They could perform it all together, or divide the lines so each child (or a pair) takes responsibility for a different movement
- You might want to add a starting pose and an ending pose
- If you're feeling really silly, you could choose one person to be a conductor, who signals when to start, speed up, slow down, and freeze.

Each group can now perform their version to the rest of the class.

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**
**For younger children, you can keep it simple and perform the actions together as a whole class. For older children, staging in small groups adds a layer of creativity and teamwork.**

# Activity 2: Using Our Voices

In the show, Daisy's friend Gabby practices her nativity line over and over ... and over again, trying out lots of different ways of saying it. This activity explores how voice, emotion, and delivery can completely change a line.

## Whole Group Exercise

Choose a simple line that everyone can say. It could be "I am the star of the show!", or "I'm playing Mary's helper!", or a line from your own Christmas show. Stand in a circle. The teacher/leader calls out a style, and everyone tries to say the line in that manner.

Start off with the whole group speaking at the same time. If the children seem comfortable and confident, you can ask them to take turns around the circle with a different style for each child.

## Here are some examples:

- Say it like you're whispering a secret
- Say it like you're the running to catch a bus
- Say it like you just woke up
- Say it like you're feeling sad about it
- Say it like you're shocked by the news
- Say it like you're a robot
- Say it like you're a member of royalty
- Say it like you've eaten too many sprouts
- Say it like you're trying not to laugh
- Say it really, really slowly
- Say it as fast as you can



## Small Group Task

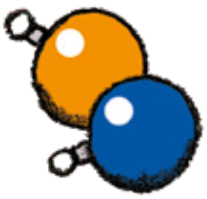
Break into smaller groups and give each child a different style to say their line in. The groups then take it in turns to perform for the rest of the class, who can have fun trying to guess which emotion or character each child is playing.

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**

**For younger children, the teacher can demonstrate each style first, and the children copy. For older children, challenge them to come up with their own styles without being prompted.**







# Activity 3: Epic Freeze Frames

## Part 1: Nativity Freeze Frames

It's time to create some scenes that might appear in the nativity show at Daisy's school. In small groups of 4 or 5, the children choose a scene from the nativity story, and create a still image, like a photograph.

## They must think about:

- What part of the image each person is going to be
- How to stay completely still
- How we know who they are pretending to be and what they are doing ... without them moving
- Facial expressions: what is each character feeling or thinking?
- Making the image interesting: can they be at different heights and levels?

## Suggested scenes:

- Knocking on the door of the inn
- The shepherds visiting the baby in the manger
- The angels appearing to the shepherds
- The wise men following the star

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**

**In Daisy's play they are performing the nativity, but if the nativity story isn't relevant to your group, you might want to think of scenes from a different story they are familiar with.**

## Part 2: Making it Epic!

In the show, Daisy's friend Jack thinks there should be pirates in the nativity! What other funny and unexpected characters could you add to the story?

Ask each group to choose a brand-new character that DOESN'T belong in the nativity ... something unusual and exciting. It could be:

- A dinosaur
- An astronaut
- A superhero
- A dragon
- A unicorn
- A firefighter

Have each child in the group pick a different new character. Now get the group to create the SAME nativity freeze frame again... but with all their new characters in it! What does "knocking on the door of the inn" look like when a dinosaur is doing the knocking and an astronaut is the innkeeper?

Share both versions (classic and epic) with the class.

## Questions to consider:

- What changed when you added the new characters?
- Which version was more fun to do?

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**

**You can take this even further by asking the children to add one noise and one simple movement to the scene. Or you could ask them to bring the scene to life by adding one line for each child. Could you develop a full story from one scene?**

# ART & CRAFT

## Activity 1: Design a Costume!

Daisy and her friends are going to need some awesome costumes to make the show the best it can be. Can the children help design a costume for one of the characters?

Ask the children to choose a character from the nativity. It could be Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, a king, an angel, a star, an animal or any other character they can think of. Even the narrator! Now they can use the Design a Costume print outs, and their own creativity, to create a costume.

### If you want a discussion first, you could ask:

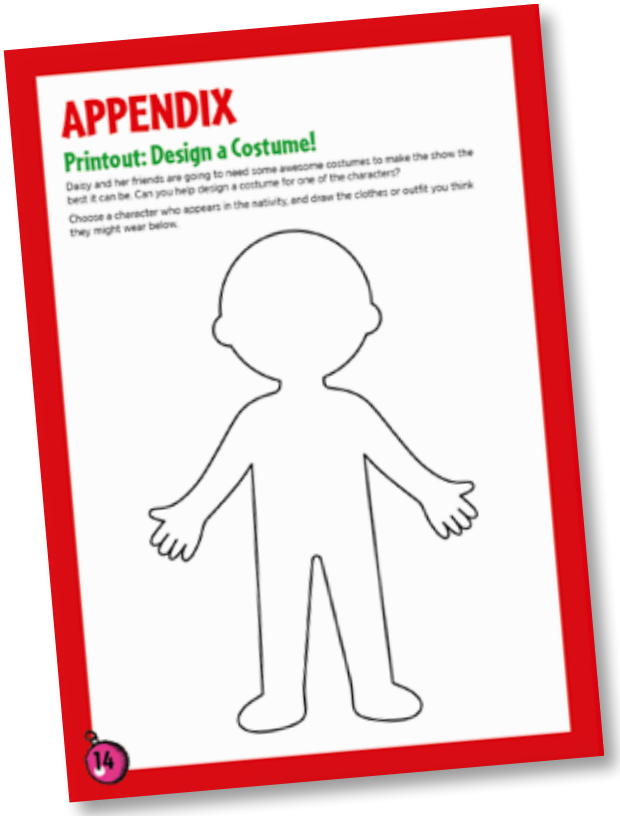
- How can we tell who each character is from their costume?
- What would a shepherd wear? What would a king wear? What would Mary wear?
- What colours might each character wear?
- What special details would make the costume stand out?
  (A sparkly crown? Fluffy sheep wool? Shiny angel wings?)

### You will need:

- Print outs of the Design a Costume sheet from the Appendix
- Colouring pencils, crayons or felt tips
- Collage materials (e.g. tissue paper, fabric scraps, cotton wool, foil) and glue or sticky tape

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**

**If your children are not familiar with the nativity, you could imagine they are putting on a play of a story they know well and create costumes for those characters instead.**


APPENDIX

Printout: Design a Costume!

Daisy and her friends are going to need some awesome costumes to make the show the best it can be. Can you help design a costume for one of the characters?

Choose a character who appears in the nativity, and draw the clothes or outfit you think they might wear below.

14

# Activity 2: Design a Poster

Daisy wants the whole of Leicester to come and see her show.
She needs to design a poster to tell everyone about it.

Ask the children to design a poster to advertise their own Christmas show.

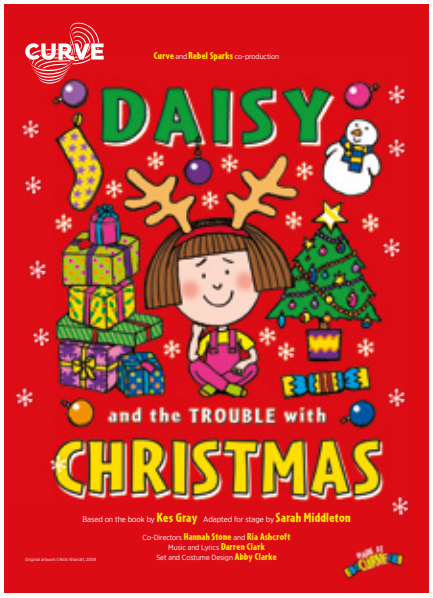
Their poster should include:

- The title of their show
- A picture of what the audience will see
- When the show will be
- Where the show is happening
- A fun sentence to get people excited (e.g. “The most EPIC Christmas show EVER!”)

## You will need:

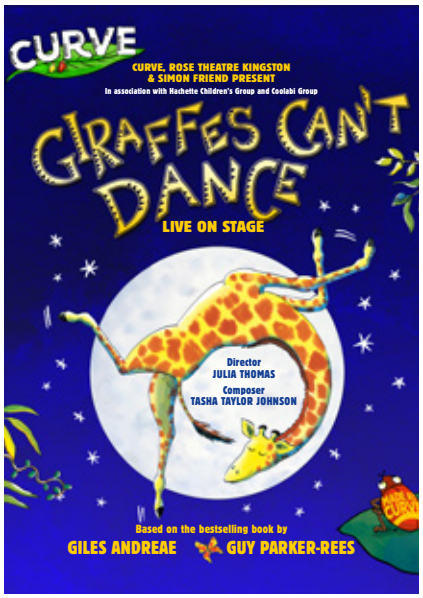
- Blank sheets of paper
- Colouring pencils, crayons or felt tips

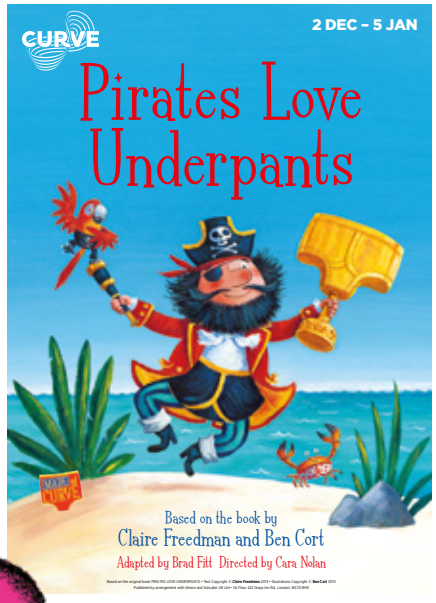
Here are some examples of previous posters to give you some ideas:

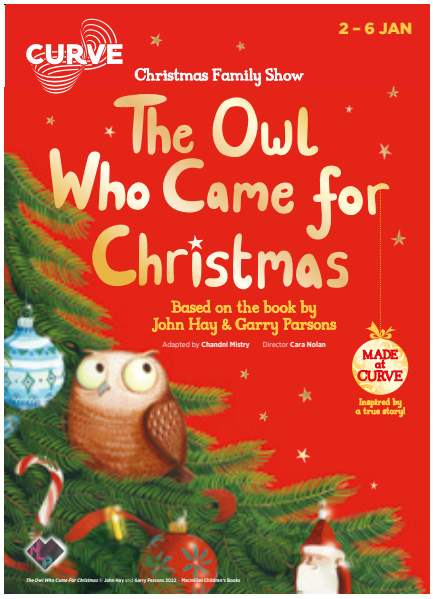











# Activity 3: Make Your Own Christmas Decorations

Daisy is desperate to decorate her house for Christmas, with a huge sign that says ***"Santa Please Stop Here"*** Why not get the children to create their own decorations for their home or the classroom?

You can use the print outs of Christmas Decoration Signs in the Appendix to start, or you can ask the children to design their own.

They can decorate it however they like: with stars, presents, reindeer, snowflakes or anything festive.

You can then glue it to card, and tape a ribbon to the back so the sign can be hung on a tree or hook.



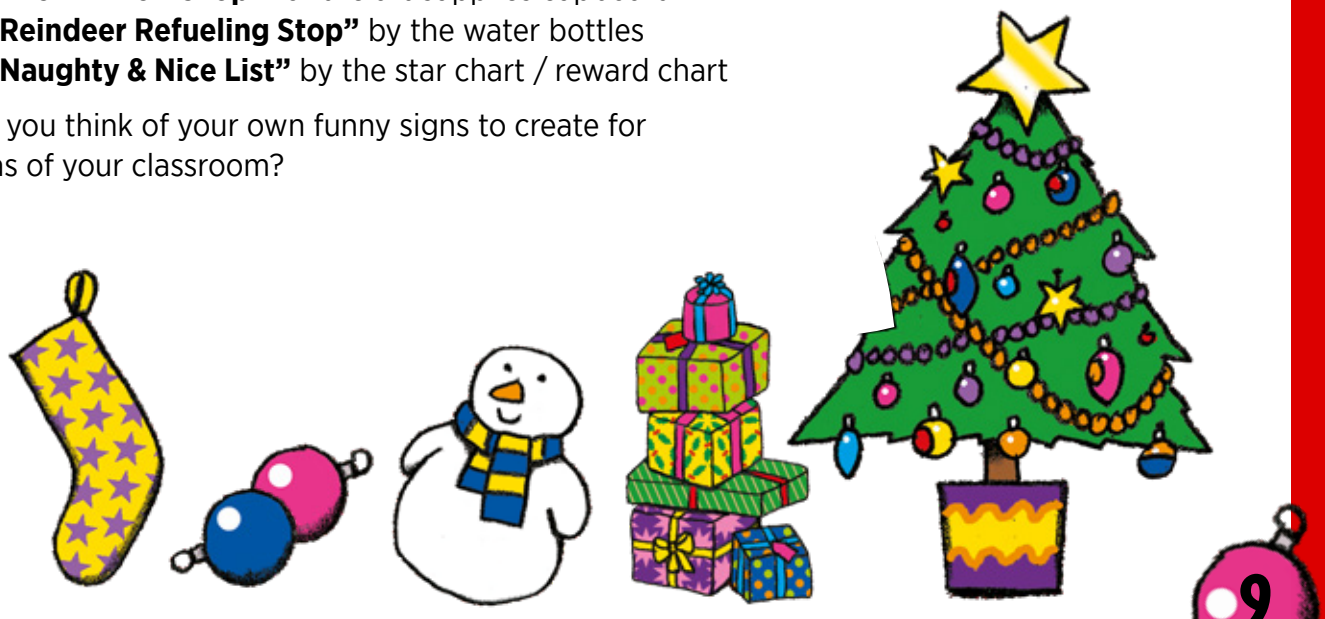

## You will need:

- Card or thick paper
- Colouring materials
- Glitter, stickers, cotton wool, etc
- Glue or sticky tape
- Ribbon or string
- Craft scissors
- Print outs of the Christmas Decorations sheets in the Appendix

## How could you creatively decorate the classroom with Christmas Signs? For example:

- **"Reindeer Parking"** for the coat hooks or by the door
- **"Santa's Grotto"** for the toy storage
- **"The Elf Workshop"** for the art supplies cupboard
- **"Reindeer Refueling Stop"** by the water bottles
- **"Naughty & Nice List"** by the star chart / reward chart

Can you think of your own funny signs to create for areas of your classroom?



# Activity 4: Make Your Own Reindeer Antlers... Just Like Daisy's!

On the poster for the show, Daisy wears a fantastic pair of reindeer antlers...
and now the children can make their very own to wear too!

## You will need:

- Print outs of the Make Your Own Reindeer Antlers template on stiff paper or card
- Strips of stiff paper or card for the headband
- Safety scissors
- Glue or tape (or if glue dots if you have them)
- Colouring pencils, crayons, or felt tips
- Optional decorations: glitter glue, sequins, cotton wool, pom-poms, stickers etc.

## Step 1: Decorate Your Antlers

Give each child a copy of the antler template. Before cutting anything out, the children should decorate their antlers however they like. They could colour them brown like a real reindeer, or make them as colourful and epic as they want. This is where they can unleash their creativity.

## Ideas for decoration:

- Stick pom-poms on the points of the antlers
- Add glitter glue for a sparkly frost effect
- Glue on bits of tinsel
- Draw patterns like stars, stripes, or zig-zags
- Stick cotton wool along the bottom for a fluffy trim

## Step 2: Cut Out the Antlers

Once decorated, the children carefully cut out both antlers along the outline.
Younger children may need help here.

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**
**If the card is thin, you could glue the decorated template onto a thicker piece of card before cutting, so the antlers stand upright.**

## Step 3: Make the Headband

Cut a long strip of paper or card, approximately 4cm wide and long enough to wrap around the child's head. If using long strips of A3 paper, you may find this is long enough. Alternatively, you may need to overlap two strips of A4 paper and tape them together.

Now wrap the headband around the child's head to measure and stick the loose end down with tape to make a comfortable fit.

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**
**We find glue dots work really well here and can speed up sticking the strips of paper together when working with the class.**

## Step 4: Attach the Antlers

Glue or tape the base of each antler to the outside of the headband strip. Make sure they sit at the top of the headband when worn – both facing the front with one of the right of the head and one on the left.

## Step 5: Fit and Wear

Ask the children to pop on their antlers and give everyone their best reindeer face! Wait... what does a reindeer face look like?

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**
**Why not ask each child to give their reindeer a name? What makes each of their reindeers special?**

# PUZZLES AND ~~PROBLEMS~~ TROUBLES

## Activity 1: Daisy's Christmas Letter

Daisy has written a Christmas letter to Santa really, REALLY early. But the trouble with writing the letter so early is that some words in the letter got smudged before she could send it.

Can the children find out which gift is meant to go where in the letter, to match the problem Daisy wants to solve?

### You will need:

- Print out the Daisy's Christmas Letter handout from the Appendix
- Pencils


Printout: Daisy's Christmas Letter

Daisy has written a Christmas letter to Santa really, REALLY early. But the trouble with writing the letter so early is that some of the words got smudged before she could send it.

Can you find out which gift is meant to go where in the letter, to match the problem she wants to solve?

Cookbook | Torch | Earmuffs | HUGE roll of sticky tape | Microphone

Dear Santa,

I have been SOOOO good this year, so please can I have these things for my Christmas presents?

I'd like _____ because I need something to help me see in the dark when I'm breaking downstairs to check the stockings.

_____ because last year ALL my wrapping paper fell off the presents too early, and it was a HUGE DISASTER.

And a pair of _____ because the carol singers next door are VERY loud, and I need to concentrate on my Christmas preparations.

_____ because Mum says I can't just eat chocolate for dinner, and I need to find recipes for things that have chocolate IN it.

And a _____ because I want everyone to hear what I have to say when I'm doing the Christmas play.

Love,
Daisy
xxxxxxxxx

17

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**
**Why not ask the children to add one more item to Daisy's Christmas List? Ask them to draw the gift and explain what problem it would solve.**

# Activity 2: Agent Daisy and the Amber Warnings

Agent Daisy is on a top-secret mission from Agent Mum. She must get from the start of term to the end of term without hitting a single Amber Warning from school! Can the children help Daisy find a safe way through to the end of term and avoid all the obstacles?

## What is an Amber Warning?

In Daisy's school, they use a "traffic light" system to help children behave. Everyone starts on Green for good behaviour. But if you start to get into trouble... you get an Amber Warning. This is a chance to PAUSE and THINK about their behaviour, and to make better choices. If you still get into trouble, you move from Amber to Red ... which means consequences for your behaviour. Like being banned from Daisy's school's End of Term Christmas Show!

## You will need:

- Print out the Agent Daisy and the Amber Warnings handouts from the Appendix
- Pencils

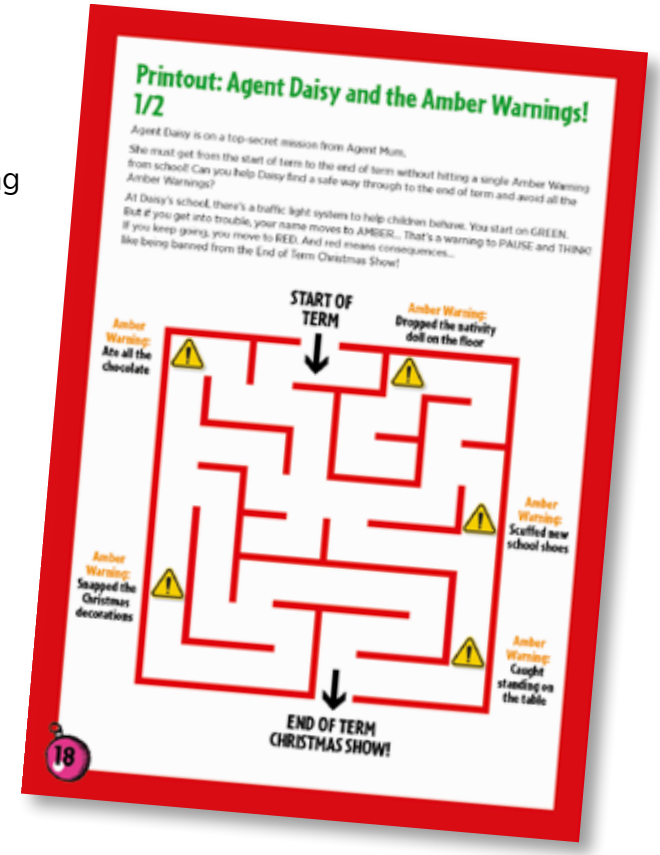
**MRS PETERS' TIP:**

**Ask the children to design their own amber warnings. What other things might cause trouble for Daisy? Can they add their own warnings to the second maze for a friend to solve?**

## Here's a suggested class discussion on behaviour and consequences:

- Can anyone explain what "consequences" are?
  A consequence is what happens because of something you do – and that can be good OR bad.
- What's the difference between making a mistake, getting carried away, and choosing to do something you know is wrong?
- Daisy sometimes gets carried away with her excitement for Christmas.
  Is that the same as being naughty?
- Can you think of an example of each:
  a mistake, getting carried away, and choosing to do something you know is wrong?
- There might be consequences for all three!
  What might the consequences be for your examples?





# Activity 3: If I Was In Charge Of Christmas

In the show, Daisy has lots of opinions about how Christmas should be done. Now it's the children's turn to take charge!

Ask the children to imagine that they are in charge of Christmas for just one day. What would they change? What would they like more of? Less of?

Then ask them to complete the "If I Was In Charge Of Christmas" worksheet.

## You will need:

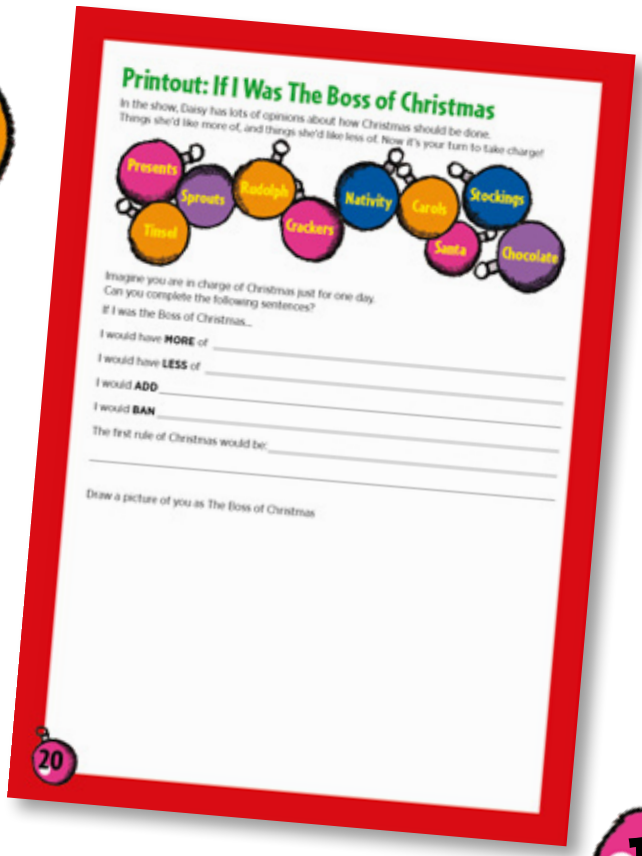
- Pencils
- Colouring pencils, crayons or felt tip pens
- Print out the If I Was The Boss of Christmas worksheet from the Appendix

**MRS PETERS' TIP:**
**After the exercise, why not take a vote as a class on the most popular or funniest changes.**

Here are some of the things Daisy mentions in the show to help you get started:





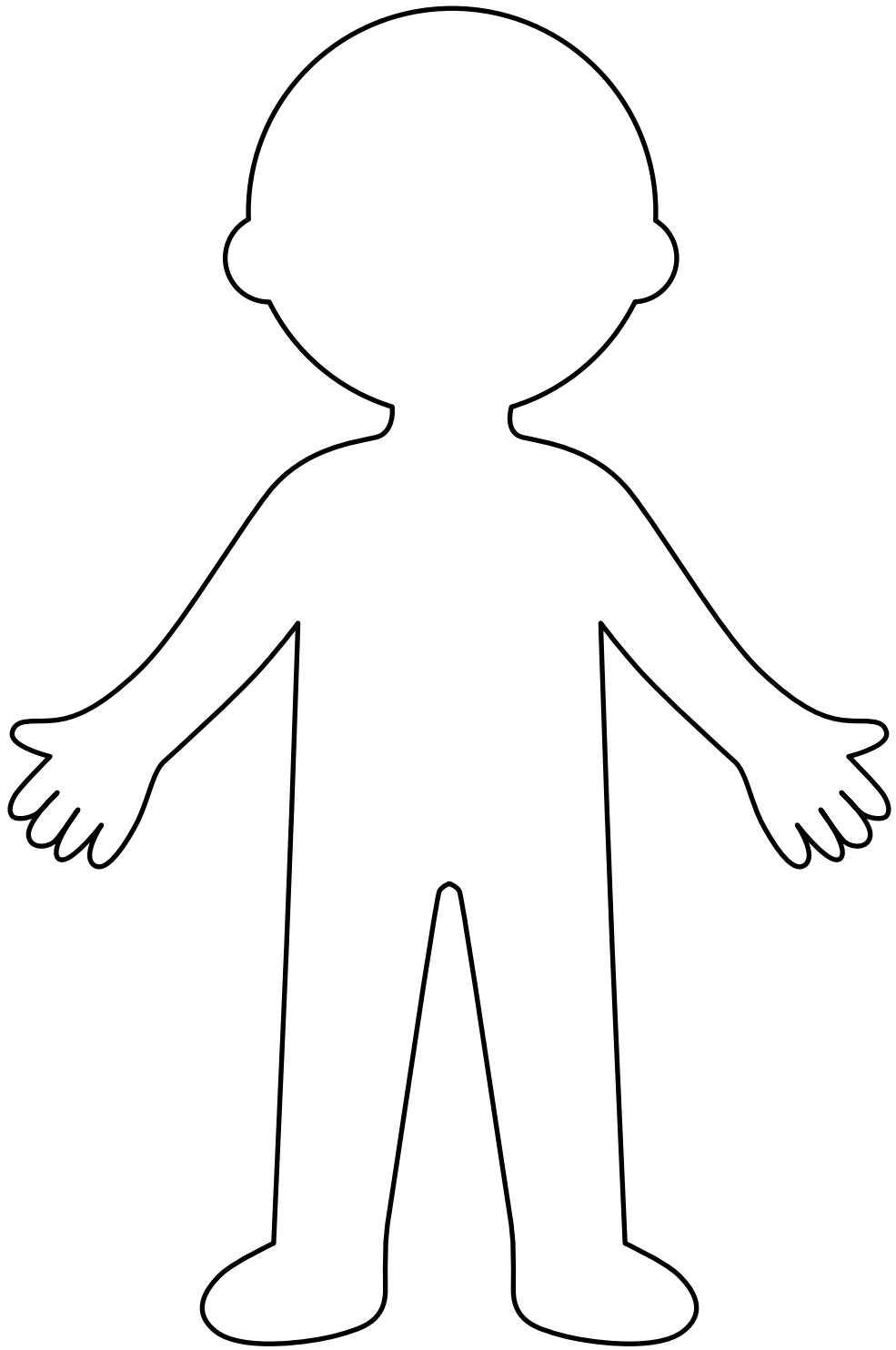



# APPENDIX

## Printout: Design a Costume!

Daisy and her friends are going to need some awesome costumes to make the show the best it can be. Can you help design a costume for one of the characters?

Choose a character who appears in the nativity, and draw the clothes or outfit you think they might wear below.



# Printout: Christmas Decorations





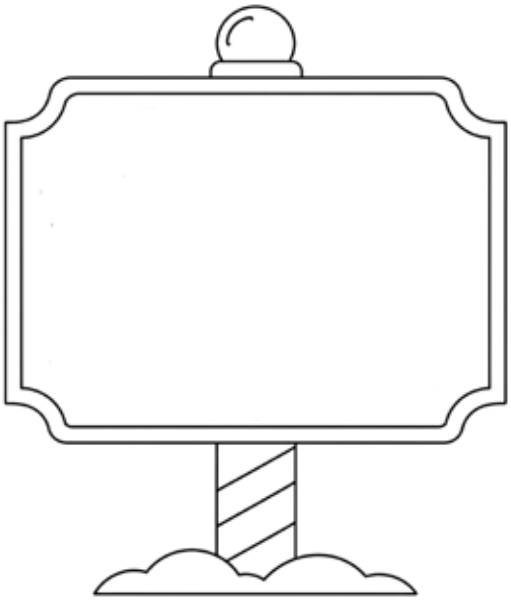




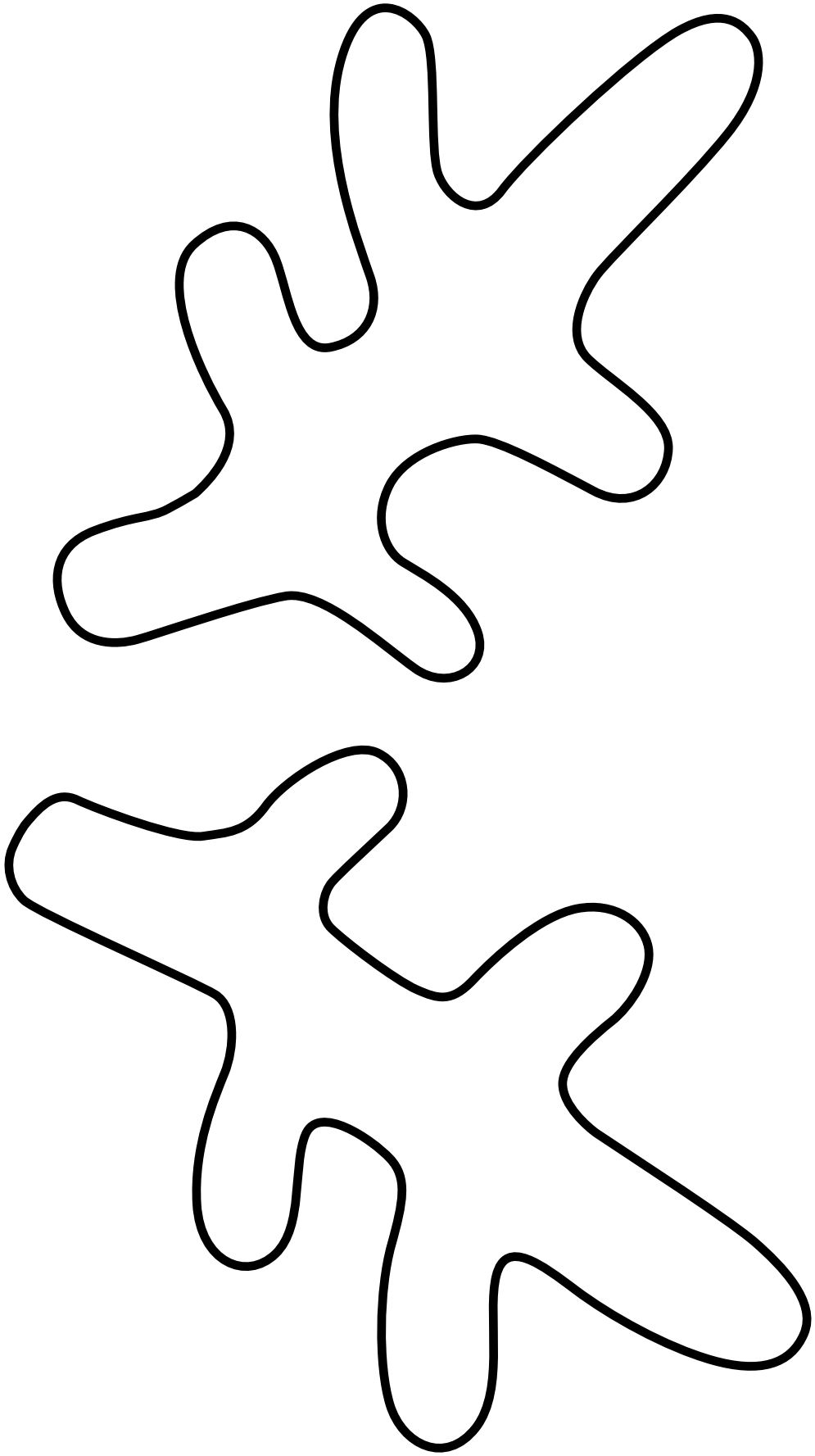






# Printout: Make Your Own Reindeer Antlers



# Printout: Daisy's Christmas Letter

Daisy has written a Christmas letter to Santa really, REALLY early. But the trouble with writing the letter so early is that some of the words got smudged before she could send it.

Can you find out which gift is meant to go where in the letter, to match the problem she wants to solve?




**Cookbook** | **Torch** | **Earmuffs** | **HUGE roll of sticky tape** | **Microphone**

*Dear Santa,*

*I have been SOOOO good this year, so please can I have these things for my Christmas presents?*

*I'd like* _____ *because I need something to help me see in the dark when I'm sneaking downstairs to check the stockings.*

_____ *because last year ALL my wrapping paper fell off the presents too early, and it was a HUGE DISASTER.*

*And a pair of* _____ *because the carol singers next door are VERY loud, and I need to concentrate on my Christmas preparations.*

_____ *because Mum says I can't just eat chocolate for dinner, and I want to find recipes for things that have chocolate IN it.*

*And a* _____ *because I want everyone to hear what I have to say when I'm doing the Christmas play.*

*Love,*

*Daisy*

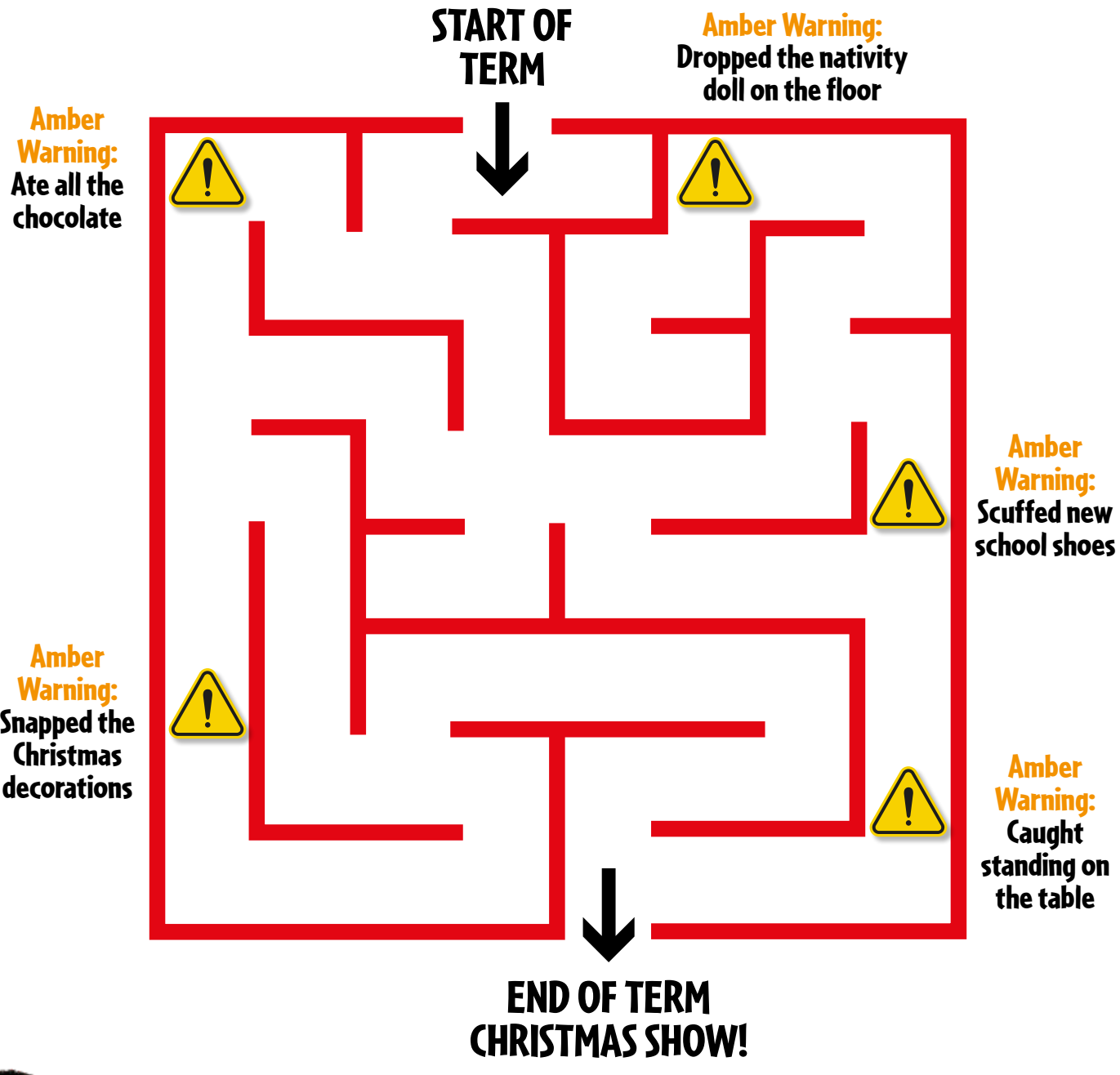
*xxxxxxxxx*

# Printout: Agent Daisy and the Amber Warnings! 1/2

Agent Daisy is on a top-secret mission from Agent Mum.

She must get from the start of term to the end of term without hitting a single Amber Warning from school! Can you help Daisy find a safe way through to the end of term and avoid all the Amber Warnings?

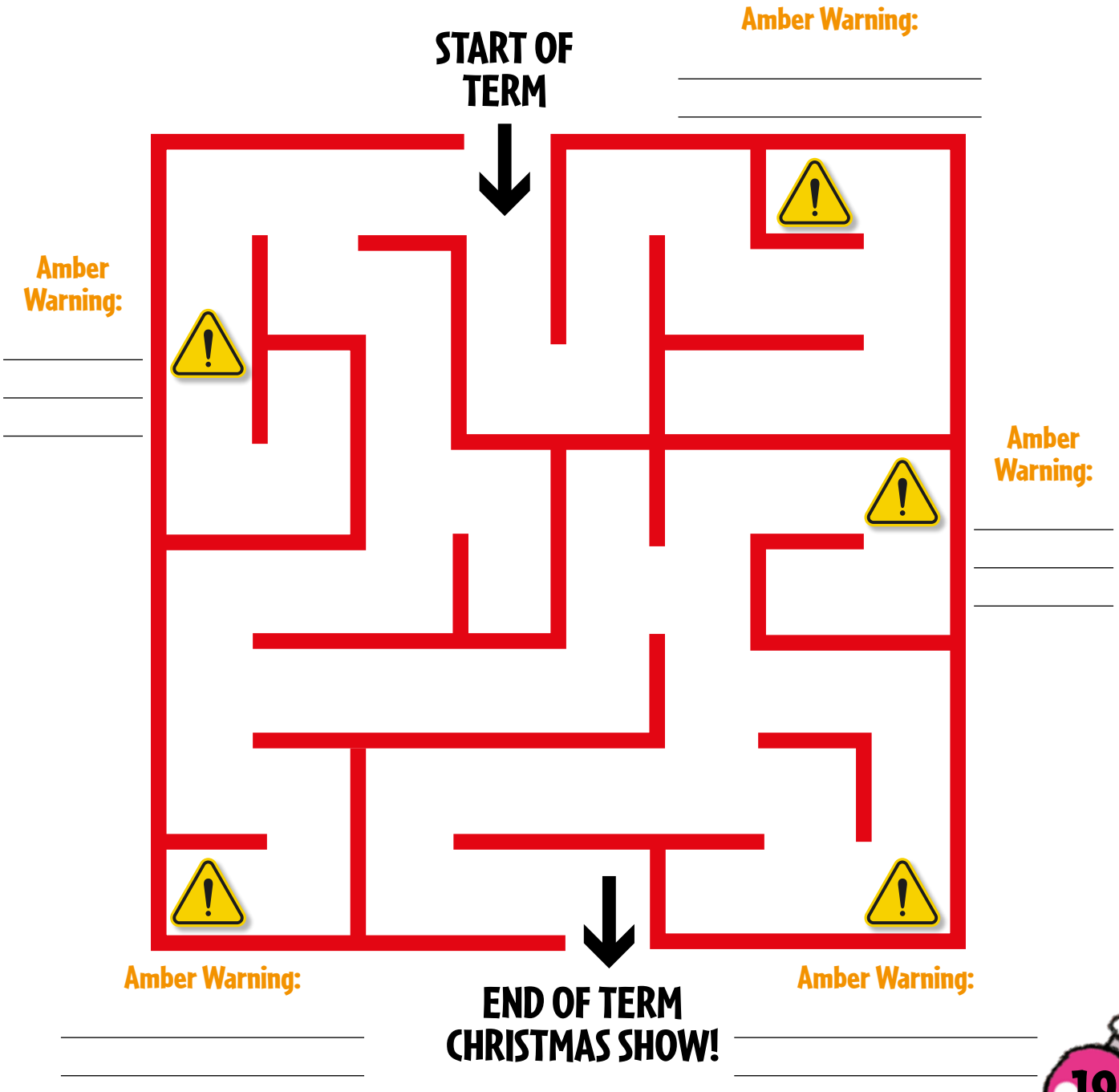
At Daisy's school, there's a traffic light system to help children behave. You start on GREEN. But if you get into trouble, your name moves to AMBER... That's a warning to PAUSE and THINK! If you keep going, you move to RED. And red means consequences...
like being banned from the End of Term Christmas Show!



# Printout: Agent Daisy and the Amber Warnings! 2/2

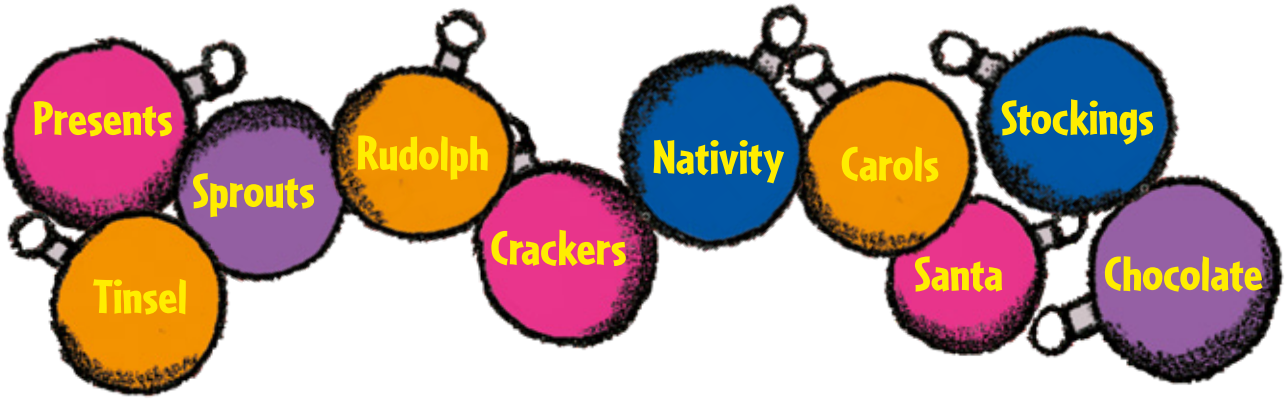
Can you create your own Amber Warnings for Daisy to avoid? What might get her in trouble with Mrs Peters? Write in your own Amber Warnings on the maze and then see if you can guide Daisy safely through the maze to the End of Term Christmas Show!

At Daisy's school, there's a traffic light system to help children behave. You start on GREEN. But if you get into trouble, your name moves to AMBER .. That's a warning to PAUSE and THINK! If you keep going, you move to RED. And red means consequences...
like being banned from the End of Term Christmas Show!



# Printout: If I Was In Charge Of Christmas

In the show, Daisy has lots of opinions about how Christmas should be done.
Things she'd like more of, and things she'd like less of. Now it's your turn to take charge!




Imagine you are in charge of Christmas just for one day.
Can you complete the following sentences?

If I was in charge of Christmas...

I would have **MORE** of _____

I would have **LESS** of _____

I would **ADD** _____

I would **BAN** _____

The first rule of Christmas would be:_____

_____

Draw a picture of you in charge on Christmas Day.

MADE AT CURVE



@CurveLeicester /CurvetheatreLeicester curve_leicester Curvetheatre @curveleicester Curve in Conversation

# WWW.CURVEONLINE.CO.UK

## CURVE THEATRE, LEICESTER

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Curve Theatre (Leicester Theatre Trust Limited, registered charity no. 230708) gratefully acknowledges the continued support of Arts Council England and the generosity of our donors (including Gifts in Wills), corporate partners and trust and foundation supporters.