



A New Coat for Christmas Story Notes

This resource is for children and young adults to use as much or as little as they like to prepare to visit the Burton Taylor Studio to see a performance of *A New Coat for Christmas*.

We are still making the show, so this version explains the story, but pictures will be added later. Please check back nearer the time for an updated version.

This resource can be used in conjunction with the Burton Taylor Studio Venue Story.

The Show

The show will last 55 minutes. There is no interval.

There will be two actors in the show. They pretend to be different characters throughout the show.



The show has recorded music and some singing in it. You might be asked to join in a few times. You can join in if you like. But if you don't, that's fine too.

Play Notes

These play notes tell you what happens in each part of the show. We will tell you if there are any unusual or sudden **!!** sounds or actions by using this symbol.

We will tell you if there are parts of the play where you can join in or where you might be asked to do things using this ****** symbol.

Meet the Characters

Kitty is a tailor's apprentice. That means she is learning how to make clothes.

Margaret is a tailor. She is teaching Kitty how to be as good as she is at making clothes.

In the play, Kitty and Margaret dress up as different characters (and some animals!) to tell us the story of Anna and her new coat for Christmas.

Kitty will dress up as Anna.



Margaret will dress up as lots of characters. She dresses up as Anna's Mummy, a Farmer, a Weaver, and lots of other characters.

There are some animals in the show. These are played by puppets. There are sheep and birds.

The Stage



There is a stage at one end of the room. You can sit on any of the cushions and beanbags on the floor. The actors will mainly be on the stage but will sometimes walk around the back of the audience.

The stage looks like a tailor's shop, with a large cabinet and some mannequins with clothes on, as well as some boxes and tables.

The Play

Before you come into the studio there will be a dressing up box in the waiting area. You can play with the clothes here before the show, if you like.

!! When you walk into the Studio, Kitty and Margaret will pretend you are walking in to their shop. They will ring the shop bell when you walk in. **!!**

When you go into the Studio, you can sit on the beanbags and cushions. When you come in there will be music playing quietly in the background. It will be a little bit dark, but you will still be able to see.

****** Kitty and Margaret might talk to you or ask you to try on some of the clothes that they have made. If you don't want to, that's okay. You can just sit and watch. ******



!! Throughout the show, there will be recorded music playing, but it won't be very loud. **!!**

Once everyone is sitting down and the actors are ready, it will go quiet for a moment and then the play will start.

At the start of the show we meet Margaret the tailor and her apprentice Kitty. They work in a shop that makes clothes.

Margaret and Kitty sing a song about making clothes.

After singing the song, Kitty and Margaret want to start making some new clothes, but there is a problem. They have no orders in the order book!

Kitty thinks of some things that they could make. When Kitty finds a blue coat in the cabinet it reminds Margaret of a story. The story is about Anna's new coat for Christmas.

To tell the story of Anna and her coat, Kitty and Margaret will dress up as the different characters. They use different clothes from in their shop. Some of these clothes are on the mannequins.

Margaret and Kitty sing a song about stories. They like telling stories and they like listening to stories.

*** Margaret will ask for your help to tell the story. When she asks if you will help her, you can shout 'Yes!' if you want. ***

[The Story about Anna](#)

Kitty dresses up as Anna and Margaret dresses up as Mummy. You will be able to recognise Anna by her coat and Mummy by her head scarf.

As they start to tell the story snow will appear from the ceiling, as if by magic.

Mummy and Anna have their dinner. There isn't much to eat, so they have to share one potato between the two of them. After

dinner, Mummy and Anna play games, like dressing up (Mummy dresses up as a dragon! Don't worry, she isn't scary and it doesn't last long).

Mummy is worried because Anna's coat is too small for her. But Mummy has an idea; Anna could get some wool from the farmer for a new coat

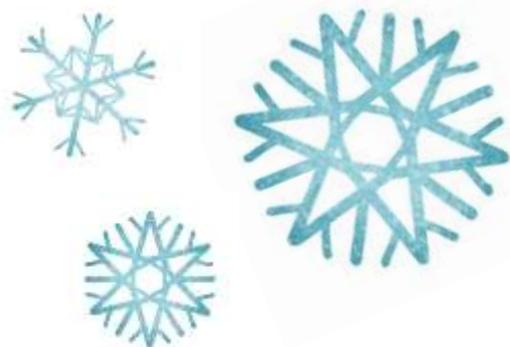
!! Here there are some sounds of bells and clock-ticking. !!

Mummy and Anna need to find some precious things that they have hidden in their house. They can give these precious things to people that help them make a new coat for Anna.

** Mummy and Anna will ask for your help to find the precious things. You can join in and help them if you like. They are hidden in boxes around the room. Don't worry if you just want to sit and watch, that's fine too. **

When all the precious things have been found there will be a pocket watch, a lamp, a necklace and a teapot. Anna needs to decide which one the farmer would like. ** You can shout out here to help Anna make her choice. ** Anna chooses the watch that tells the time to give to the farmer.

Anna goes to the farm on her bike. She uses a set of handlebars to show you that she is on her bike. !! Music and animal noises play as Anna cycles. !!



Anna meets the Farmer

!! There is the sound of a sheep !! when Anna arrives at the farm. The sheep comes to meet Anna. ** The sheep might come and introduce themselves to you by sniffing you. You can stroke them if you want. But if you don't want to, that's fine too. **

After saying hello to the sheep, Anna meets the Farmer. The Farmer is Margaret dressed up as a new character. When Anna asks the farmer if she can have some wool, he explains that it takes a long time to grow wool.



!! There is the sound of some birds to show that it is now spring time. !! The birds will fly over your heads! Don't worry, they won't touch you or fall on your head.

Anna and the Farmer will shear the wool off the sheep.

** Anna will pass the fleeces that they have cut to someone in the audience. If she passes one to you, just hold on to it. You don't need to do anything, just hand it back to Anna when she asks you to. **

Anna shows the fleece to Mummy, who tells her that the wool has got to go to a Spinner before it is ready to wear.

Anna needs to choose which precious object to give to the Spinner. ** You can help her with this by shouting out when she asks, if you like. **

Anna chooses the lamp to give to the Spinner. ** Anna needs to collect the lamp from the audience to take it to the Spinner. If you have the lamp you can pass it to her now. **

Anna meets the Spinner

Now Anna cycles to the Spinner by the river. She knocks on the door, but there doesn't seem to be anyone there. !! When Anna walks around the Spinner's house you will hear some creaking and squeaking sounds. It might seem scary, but don't worry, she will find the Spinner soon. !!

Anna meets the Spinner. The Spinner is Margaret dressed up as a new character. The Spinner struggles to hear what Anna is saying.

Anna asks the Spinner for help making the yarn for the coat. The Spinner tells Anna that she has to wait until the summer to pick up the yarn.

While she is waiting Anna sings a song.

At the end of the song, the birds will fly back to see Anna. The bird now has a baby, which tells us that it's summertime. Anna can now go and pick up the wool.



The Spinner gives Anna the yarn and she passes it to a person in the audience. ** Anna might ask you to hold the yarn to help her. If you want to, you can take it and help, but if not, that's okay. **

Anna is now one step closer to wearing her new coat. Before taking it to the weaver, Anna decides that she wants a red coat. Mummy has an idea to dye the yarn with lingonberries. Anna needs to find the lingonberries in the woods.

Anna dyes the yarn with Mummy

!! The lighting will change here to show that we are in the woods. There will be the noises of a wood, like an owl hooting. !!

** Anna and Mummy need your help to pick the berries from the bushes. You can pick them and put them in the baskets if you want. If not, it's okay to just watch. **

Anna and Mummy put the berries into a pot to make the dye. Anna starts to sing a song to make the stirring easier. ** You can join in with the singing and the actions if you like. **

When Mummy puts the yarn into the dye it comes out bright red!

Anna meets the Weaver

Next, Anna cycles to the Weaver's house, with the sparkling necklace.

The Weaver is in their house singing a song. The Weaver is Margaret dressed up as a new character. The Weaver's loom makes a click-clack rhythm to sing the song to.

As summer turns to autumn, Anna picks up the cloth for her new coat from the weaver.

Anna meets the Tailor

Finally, Anna cycles to the Tailor's shop. She takes the teapot with her.

Anna meets the Tailor. The Tailor is Margaret dressed up as a new character.

The Tailor measures Anna so that he can make her new coat.



When it is Christmas time Anna and Mummy return to the Tailor's shop. Anna sees her new coat and tries it on. It's perfect.

Anna and Mummy's Christmas Party

To thank everyone that helped them make Anna's new coat, Anna and Mummy have a Christmas party to celebrate. They decorate the room and welcome all the characters from the story.



!! The sheep come back to wish Anna a Merry Christmas. Don't worry if they come near you. They are very friendly. !!

Mummy's gift to Anna is some candles – the ones we're using are electric. Anna will pass the candles around the audience. Take one if you would like. **

** Anna and Mummy will sing a Christmas song. Join in if you would like. **

After singing the song Anna and Mummy will change back into Kitty and Margaret, the tailor and tailor's apprentice, for the end of the play.



Kitty and Margaret's New Coat for Christmas

The story has cheered them both up.

When Kitty looks in the order book she finds an order, for... a new coat for Christmas!



** All the lights will go out for a moment. Lots of people will probably clap to show the audience they enjoyed the play. You

can join in if you want. The actors will come out and bow and the play will be over. **

It's time to go home. Thank you for coming! We hope you enjoyed the play.

