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Opening extract from
**Horrid Henry's
Christmas Play
(Early Reader)**

Written by
Francesca Simon

Published by
Orion Children's Books

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HORRID HENRY'S Christmas Play

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Francesca Simon
Illustrated by Tony Ross

Orion
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www.orionbooks.co.uk
www.horridhenry.co.uk

*To Joshua,
who knows what it's like*



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Look out for . . .

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www.horridhenry.co.uk
or
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Chapter 1

Horrid Henry slumped on the carpet
and willed the clock to go faster.



Only five more minutes to hometime!
Already Henry could taste those
crisps he'd be sneaking from the
cupboard.

Miss Battle-Axe droned on about
school dinners (yuck), the new
drinking fountain,



blah blah blah,



maths homework



blah blah blah,

the school Christmas play



blah blah . . .



What? Did Miss Battle-Axe say . . .
Christmas play?
Horrid Henry sat up.

“This is a brand-new play with singing and dancing,” continued Miss Battle-Axe.

“And both the older and the younger children are taking part this year.”

Singing! Dancing! Showing off in front of the whole school!



Years ago, when Henry was in the infants' class, he'd played eighth sheep in the nativity play and had snatched the baby from the manger and refused to hand him back.



Henry hoped Miss Battle-Axe
wouldn't remember.
Because Henry had to play the lead.

He had to.

Who else but Henry could be
an all-singing, all-dancing Joseph?



Chapter 2

“I want to be Mary,”
shouted every girl in the class.

