

Junie B. Jones

Jingle Bells Batman Smells

Presented by the Thalian Association

November 13-22, 2026

Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 pm

Sundays at 3:00 pm

2nd Street Stage

Hannah Block Historic USO/Community

Arts Center

120 South 2nd Street



By Allison Gregory

Adapted from the book by Barbara Park

Laugh and learn with Junie B. Jones this holiday season! This hilarious and heartwarming tale, based on Barbara Park's best-selling book series, is a festive treat for all! Tattletale May is constantly spoiling Junie B.'s fun. Junie hatches the perfect plan to teach her a lesson when she draws May's name for Secret Santa, but as her first-grade teacher, Mr. Scary advises, "The holidays are the time of year that we spread peace and goodwill." Junie B. has a tough choice to make — keep the best gift for herself or discover the joy of giving. Like many children, Junie B. struggles with resolving her conflicts peacefully and taking others' perspectives. Through her hilarious antics, young audiences explore meaningful lessons about friendship, empathy, and the true spirit of the season!

About the Thalian Association

Thalian Association Community Theatre is a non-profit, membership organization that's dedicated to enhancing the rich artistic environment of the Cape Fear region. Tracing its roots back to 1788, the Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded to provide arts education and bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina. Today the Thalian Association Community Theatre produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall, offers a Youth Theatre program and professionally manages the Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center for the City of Wilmington. In 2007, the North Carolina legislature named the Thalian Association Community Theatre the Official Community Theater of North Carolina.



“Jingle Bells” Mad Libs

In *Jingle Bells Batman Smells*, Junie B. and her class of first graders sing “Jingle Bells” for their school’s holiday sing-along. During rehearsal, Junie B. switches the lyrics and sings a joke version of the song to mess with her nemesis, May. May is a girl in Junie B.’s class who annoys Junie B. to no end. The two girls are constantly arguing and tattling on each other, and they often get in trouble with their teacher, Mr. Scary.

Find out what Junie B. sings by completing the activity below!



Image from azyoungactors.blogspot.com.

Read two versions of the well-known Christmas carol “Jingle Bells.” After reading the original version, read the joke version that Junie B. sings during rehearsal. Then, create your own version using Christmas Carol Mad Libs!

First, read (or sing!) the original version of the Christmas carol:

Jingle bells, jingle bells,

Jingle all the way

Oh what fun it is to ride

On a one horse open sleigh!

Next, read the joke version that Junie B. sings in *Jingle Bells Batman Smells*:

Jingle bells, Batman smells,
Robin laid an egg
The Batmobile lost a wheel
And the Joker got away!



Image from providenceplayers.org.

Before you create your own Mad Libs version of “Jingle Bells,” go over this quick lesson on the parts of speech you will encounter so you know what kind of word to fill in the blanks with.

Noun - a noun can be a person, place, thing, or idea. Nouns can be proper or common. Proper nouns name a specific person, place, thing, or idea, and they are always capitalized.



Image 3 from dmplayhouse.com.

Common nouns name a general person, place, thing, or idea.

Examples - Junie B.
(person, proper noun),
school (place), book
(thing), friendship (idea)

Action Verb - an action verb expresses a physical or mental action that the subject of the sentence is doing.

Examples - run (physical action), think (mental action)

Sensory Verb - a verb that describes how we experience the world through our five senses

Examples - see, hear, feel, smell, taste

Now that you have learned about some parts of speech, use what you learned to complete the song lyrics written on the next page. Fill in the blanks in the verses with your own ideas to create a unique version of the song.

The words you choose to fill in the blanks should match up with the part of speech written underneath the blank space.



Image from columbiagorgeneews.com.

Try to think of words that will rhyme and put them at the end of every other line to create a rhyming verse to create a rhyming pattern like:

A B C B

where the 'B' lines end with rhyming words.

Jingle bells, _____

(Proper noun, person)

_____,'

(Sensory verb or action verb)

(Proper noun, person)

_____ an _____.

(Action verb)

(Noun, thing)

The _____

(Noun, thing)

lost its _____

(Noun, thing)

and the _____

(Noun, person or thing)

got away!

Parts of Speech Practice

Practice learning about more parts of speech by listing as many words as you can that fit under the categories below:

Common nouns

(general person, place, thing, or idea):



Image from dmplayhouse.com.

Proper nouns (specific person, place, thing, or idea, capitalize the first letter):

Pronouns (takes the place of a noun or noun phrase to avoid repetition):

Action verbs (express an action):

Sensory verbs (describes experiencing something through one of the five senses):

Linking verbs (connect a noun or pronoun with its description):

Articles (appear before nouns to show if the noun is general or specific):

Prepositions (show relationships between other words, such as time, place, direction, or position):

Help Junie B. Find a Secret Santa Gift

Junie B.'s class plays Secret Santa, a game where everyone draws names to find out the person who they will secretly get presents for during the holidays.

Unfortunately, Junie B. draws May's name, and the only thing Junie B. feels like getting her nemesis is a lump of coal!



Image 6 - eastvalleytribune.com.

However, giving May a lump of coal will make May upset and get Junie B. in trouble with Mr. Scary.

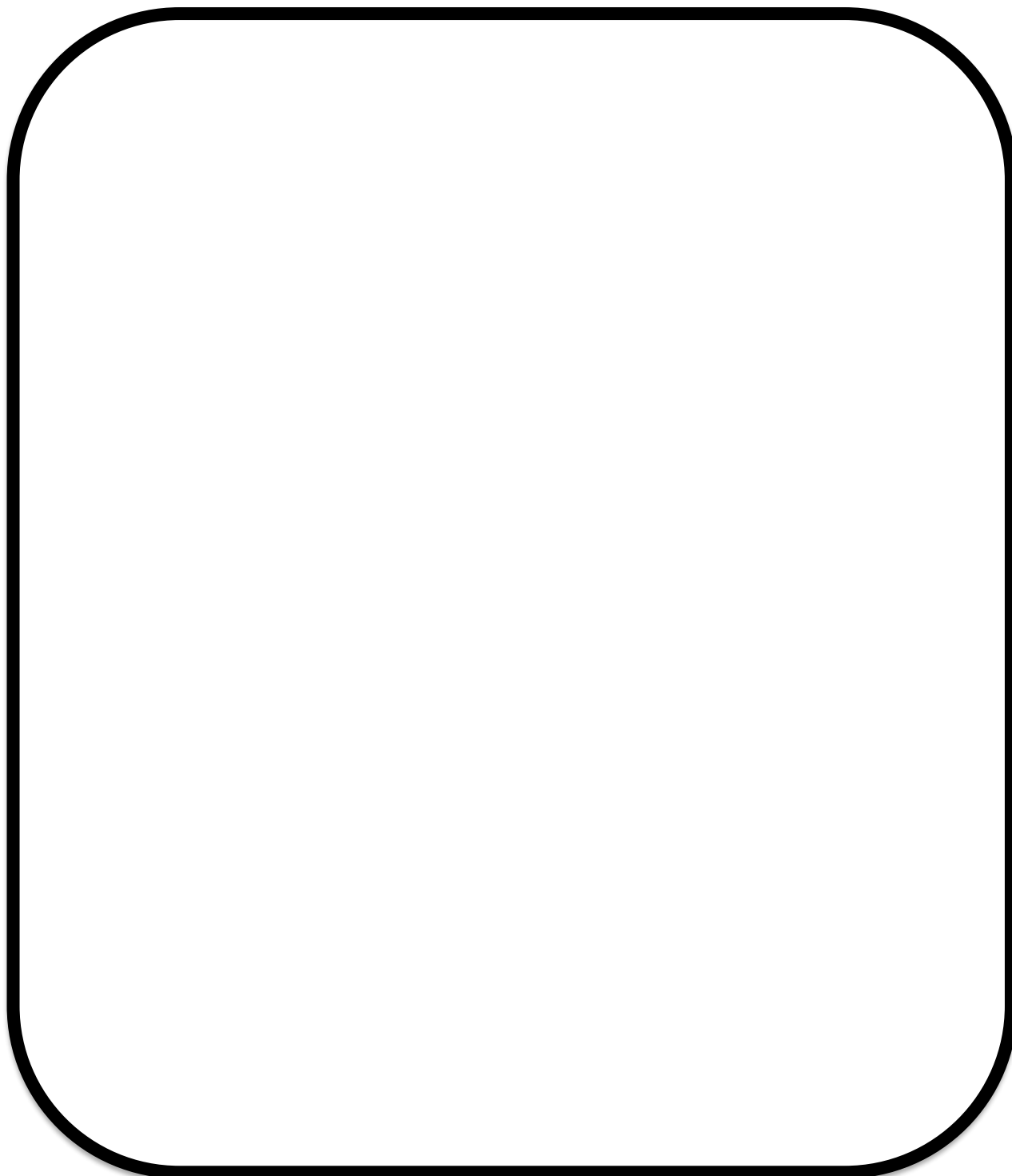
Help Junie B. figure out what to get May for Secret Santa by completing the following brainstorming activity.

Junie B. is shopping for gifts at the holiday fair at her school. She needs to buy gifts for her family and May.

First, take a few minutes to think of a gift that you might buy for one of your own friends or family members at a school holiday fair.

Then, describe and/or draw a fun gift that Junie B. can give May for Secret Santa using the space on the next page.

Using the space below, describe and/or draw a gift that Junie B. could get for May at the school holiday fair. You can use a combination of drawings and words to create a vivid description of the gift.

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a thick black border, intended for drawing or writing.