

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson

Roles

The Bradleys:

Beth Bradley: 12-16 years old. Narrator of the story; smart and funny.

Grace Bradley: Mother of Beth and Charley, the woman who volunteers to run the Christmas Pageant when the usual director breaks her leg. Must live up to her name (grace) even in the midst of the chaos of all the kids she is herding.

Bob Bradley: Father of Beth and Charley, the wry husband who supports his wife's efforts.

Charley Bradley: Beth's younger brother. One of those kids who always tells it like it is, which amuses and embarrasses his parents. Must have great comic timing.

The Herdmans (the neighborhood bullies):

Ralph: The oldest Herdman, also the biggest. Plays Joseph in the Pageant. 14-18 years old

Imogene: The real brains of the Herdman clan, just a bit younger than Ralph. Should be roughly the same age as Beth Bradley. Winds up playing Mary in the Pageant, we see the meaning of the Christmas story really hit her. A great challenge for a teenage actress.

Leroy: Picks on Charlie and steals his lunch. One of the Wise Men.

Claude: Looks up to Leroy, plays one of the Wise Men, always in competition with Olly for Leroy's attention.

Olly: Looks up to Leroy, plays one of the Wise Men, always in competition with Claude for Leroy's attention. MAY BE CAST AS A BOY OR A GIRL.

Gladys: The youngest Herdman, should be small and full of energy.

Other Children:

Alice: The squeaky clean, prissy girl who usually plays Mary in the Pageant. A goody two shoes, friends with Beth and Maxine.

Maxine: Friend of Beth and Alice, Maxine narrates the Pageant itself.

Hobie: Good friend of Charley's.

Elmer: Usually plays Joseph

Assorted other Angels and Shepherds - looking for additional 10-15 kids for these roles; all have lines and lots of stage time.

Children should be elementary school age or older. May consider younger children depending on their interest and ability to follow directions.

Other Adults:

Mrs. Armstrong: The bombastic woman who usually runs the Pageant. May be a voice over or may appear onstage in wheelchair with leg in cast.

MRS. Slocum & MRS. McCarthy: Stereotypical church ladies, the funnier the better.

Rev. Hopkins: The harried minister of the church.