

# Christmas Plays

On the twenty-third of December, nineteen hundred twenty-five, the pupils of the seventh and eighth grades gave a Christmas play called "The Holy Grail," at Bradford Memorial Hall in the morning and the Dutch Reformed Church in the evening. At the same time the other grades presented "Christmas Eve in Fairy Land."

The first play is a story of the Knights of King Arthur's Round Table who, after the king had a dream in which he saw the Christ Child, Mary and Joseph in the stable in Bethlehem, set out in search of the Holy Grail, which one of the Three Wise Men of the East had presented to the child.

In the dream the wise man said that not until the best Knight of the world had come, would the Holy Grail appear to the sight of man. After King Arthur had this dream, he felt a great desire to see the Holy Grail. So the next morning his knights set out to seek it.

After searching a year and a day for the Holy Grail, the Knights returned to the Court of King Arthur, wearied and tired. They had travelled far and wide and had had many adventures, but none, not even Sir Launcelot, Arthur's favorite Knight, had seen the Holy Grail.

All the Knights had assembled in the hall at the castle of Camelot, and each had presented the King his gift and had taken his seat sadly, when into the hall strode Sir Launcelot. Beside him was a comely youth clad in a suit of golden armor. Sir Launcelot presented him to Arthur as Sir Galahad. Just then music was heard in the distance, sounding nearer and nearer, when into the hall appeared two angels bearing above them the Holy Grail.

Instantly the King and knights leaped to their feet at the sight. Sir Galahad fell to his knees in reverence but arose as the angels approached the Siege Perilous, holding the sacred cup above it. The Siege Perilous was the seat at the Round Table, in which the best Knight of the whole world, Sir Galahad, would be allowed to sit. Sir Galahad sat down and a great light shone around him. Then the angels still holding the Holy Grail above them, passed from the hall of Camelot.

The play was acted in pantomime and the story was told by John VanLiew of the high school department, accompanied with soft music played by Doris Burr.

The play was ably directed by Miss Pearl Ditmars of the seventh and eighth grades.

The second play was about two children, a boy and a girl, who every Christmas received everything they wished. But in spite of the fact that they had everything they wanted, they were very selfish. Because of their selfishness, on Christmas Eve, Santa Claus became ill when it was almost time to begin delivering the toys to the good little boys and girls of the world. The news that Santa was ill was brought to the Queen of the Fairies, who was very much worried when she heard it. So the Queen sent a messenger to bring the two selfish children to her and another to summon all the Fairyland folk to the Fairy Court.

When the children arrived in Fairyland, they were terribly frightened and still more so when they saw all the Fairy folks. Each person of Fairyland was asked if he or she would help Santa distribute toys to the children of the world, and each promised to do his or her bit. There was Little Bo-Peep, who had lost her sheep; and Tom the Piper's Son, who had stolen a pig; and Little Jack Horner, who has eaten a plum pie; and Jack be Nimble, who had jumped over the candlestick; and Jack and Jill, who had fallen down a hill; and Contrary Mary, and many others who were known by all. Lastly and by far not the least was Mother Goose. Mother Goose was very much provoked by the behavior of the two children and thought that a vigorous whipping would do them a great deal of good.

The Fairy Queen was much troubled as she didn't wish to spank the children. So she asked them if they would promise not to be selfish again. The little boy and girl promised and just as they had finished talking, a messenger arrived from Santa Claus, saying that he had recovered when the children had promised, and was now ready to go forth to deliver his toys. At this news everybody was very happy and the children were allowed to go home, and were very unselfish ever after.

Misses Denison, Fowler and Elizabeth Ditmars coached this play.