

# The Twelve Days of Christmas... Vacation

By Carol Montgomery

Time = about 3 1/2 min.

Flesch-Kincaid Readability = Grade 3.8

## Cast (12):

Reader 1

Reader 7

Reader 2

Reader 8

Reader 3

Reader 9

Reader 4

Reader 10

Reader 5

Reader 11

Reader 6

Reader 12

## Suggestions:

1. Have the students work on individualizing the interpretations of their lines—facial expressions, tone of voice (e.g., sweet, silly,,), motions...
2. This script is probably best done to the tune or cadence of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. You could have the instrumental version (or a simple guitar strum) playing behind the readers for the rhythm, if you want. Staying in time with audio support will make it harder to practice, though.

## Vocabulary:

twelve  
shabby  
eleventh  
redeem  
coupon  
vacation  
notecards  
twelfth  
crusty



## The Twelve Days of Christmas... Vacation

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**Reader 12:** The Twelve Days of Christmas... *(pause)* Vacation.

**Reader 1:** On the first day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
A coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 2:** On the second day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 3:** On the third day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 4:** On the fourth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Four fancy feathers.

**Reader 3:** Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 5:** On the fifth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me  
Five... lonely socks!

**Reader 4:** Four fancy feathers.

**Reader 3:** Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 6:** On the sixth day of Christmas my mother gave to me...  
Six silly stickers.

## The Twelve Days of Christmas...Vacation

**Reader 5:** Five... lonely socks!

**Reader 4:** Four fancy feathers.

**Reader 3:** Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 7:** On the seventh day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Seven pocket puppets.

**Reader 6:** Six silly stickers.

**Reader 5:** Five... lonely socks!

**Reader 4:** Four fancy feathers.

**Reader 3:** Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 8:** On the eighth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Eight crusty critters.

**Reader 7:** Seven pocket puppets.

**Reader 6:** Six silly stickers.

**Reader 5:** Five... lonely socks!

**Reader 4:** Four fancy feathers.

**Reader 3:** Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 9:** On the ninth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Nine missing marbles.

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**Reader 8:** Eight crusty critters.

**Reader 7:** Seven pocket puppets.

**Reader 6:** Six silly stickers.

**Reader 5:** Five... lonely socks!

**Reader 4:** Four fancy feathers.

**Reader 3:** Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 10:** On the tenth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Ten tricky treasures.

**Reader 9:** Nine missing marbles.

**Reader 8:** Eight crusty critters.

**Reader 7:** Seven pocket puppets.

**Reader 6:** Six silly stickers.

**Reader 5:** Five... lonely socks!

**Reader 4:** Four fancy feathers.

**Reader 3:** Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies.

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 11:** On the eleventh day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Eleven empty trash bags.

**Reader 10:** Ten tricky treasures.

**Reader 9:** Nine missing marbles.

## The Twelve Days of Christmas...Vacation

**Reader 8:** Eight crusty critters.

**Reader 7:** Seven pocket puppets.

**Reader 6:** Six silly stickers.

**Reader 5:** Five... lonely socks!

**Reader 4:** Four fancy feathers.

**Reader 3:** Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 12:** On the twelfth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Twelve thank-you notecards.

**Reader 11:** Eleven empty trash bags.

**Reader 10:** Ten tricky treasures.

**Reader 9:** Nine missing marbles.

**Reader 8:** Eight crusty critters.

**Reader 7:** Seven pocket puppets.

**Reader 6:** Six silly stickers.

**Reader 5:** Five... lonely socks!

**Reader 4:** Four fancy feathers.

**Reader 3:** Three shabby shoes.

**Reader 2:** Two curly cookies!

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.  
I guess it's time to redeem the coupon, right?

**Readers 2-12:** (*enthusiastically*) Right!



## Teacher's Cheat Sheet for "The Twelve Days of Christmas...Vacation"

**Reader 12:** The Twelve Days of Christmas...(pause) Vacation.

**Reader 1:** On the first day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
A coupon for a broom to clean my room.

**Reader 2:** On the second day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Two curly cookies! *(Repeat Reader 1 gift as in script)*

**Reader 3:** On the third day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Three shabby shoes. *(Repeat Readers 2-1 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 4:** On the fourth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Four fancy feathers. *(Repeat Readers 3-1 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 5:** On the fifth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me  
Five... lonely socks! *(Repeat Readers 4-1 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 6:** On the sixth day of Christmas my mother gave to me...  
Six silly stickers. *(Repeat Readers 5-1 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 7:** On the seventh day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Seven pocket puppets. *(Repeat Readers 6-1 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 8:** On the eighth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Eight crusty critters. *(Repeat Readers 7-1 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 9:** On the ninth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Nine missing marbles. *(Repeat Readers 8-1 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 10:** On the tenth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Ten tricky treasures. *(Repeat Readers 9-1 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 11:** On the eleventh day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Eleven empty trash bags. *(Repeat Readers 10-1 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 12:** On the twelfth day of Christmas, my mother gave to me...  
Twelve thank-you notecards. *(Repeat Readers 11-2 gifts as in script)*

**Reader 1:** And a coupon for a broom to clean my room.  
I guess it's time to redeem the coupon, right?

**Readers 2-12:** *(enthusiastically)* Right!



## The Twelve Days of Christmas....Vacation Curriculum Links (Valid as of April 2020):

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Twelve\\_Days\\_of\\_Christmas\\_\(song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Twelve_Days_of_Christmas_(song))

Explains the **possible origins of the song**. Notice the twelve days of Christmas go from Christmas to Epiphany (always January 6th).

<http://www.crivoice.org/cy12days.html>

Although there is a lot of discussion on the claim that “The Twelve Days of Christmas” represents Christian teachings, this website gives a balanced view and a clear explanation of **potential Christian symbolism**.

[http://archive.dimacs.rutgers.edu/nj\\_math\\_coalition/framework/ch11/ch11\\_03-04.html](http://archive.dimacs.rutgers.edu/nj_math_coalition/framework/ch11/ch11_03-04.html)

Rutgers used to have a **math lesson for teachers based on “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”** That page no longer exists; however, here’s a similar idea from the link above (for grades 3-4, Standard 11:5) Just adapt it for your own use & skip the link: “Students read *The Twelve Days of Summer* by Elizabeth Lee O'Donnell and Karen Lee Schmidt. Using the same pattern as the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, the authors tell the story of a young girl on vacation by the ocean. On the first day, she sees "a little purple sea anemone," on the eighth, "eight crabs a scuttling," and so on. Since she sees everything that she has previously seen on every succeeding day, the book offers the obvious question ***How many things did the little girl see today?***”

### You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJXqRFwtjKQ&feature=related>

**Sing along version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” with the words highlighted as you sing.** 4:12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDBMzGq1vhs>

**John Denver and the Muppets sing “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”** Although there are problems with the pixels in this video, the puppet characters each have unique interpretations that may give your students ideas. 3:51

**Warning:** Google has injected random Ads

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaD8xat6VDw>

This one is **for the homeschool moms:** “**The Twelve Days of a Large Family Christmas.**” 5:29

