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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*

# HORRID HENRY'S Christmas Play



Francesca Simon

*Illustrated by Tony Ross*

Orion  
Children's Books

*Horrid Henry's Christmas Play* originally appeared in  
*Horrid Henry's Christmas Cracker* first published in Great Britain in 2006

by Orion Children's Books  
This edition first published in Great Britain in 2011  
by Orion Children's Books  
a division of the Orion Publishing Group Ltd

Orion House  
5 Upper Saint Martin's Lane  
London WC2H 9EA  
An Hachette UK Company

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

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Illustrations © Tony Ross 2011

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A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978 1 4440 0110 5  
Printed in China.



[www.orionbooks.co.uk](http://www.orionbooks.co.uk)  
[www.horridhenry.co.uk](http://www.horridhenry.co.uk)

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



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## Look out for . . .

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*Horrid Henry's Birthday Party*  
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*Horrid Henry Gets Rich Quick*  
*Horrid Henry and the Football Fiend*  
*Horrid Henry's Nits*  
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*Moody Margaret's School*  
*Horrid Henry Tricks and Treats*

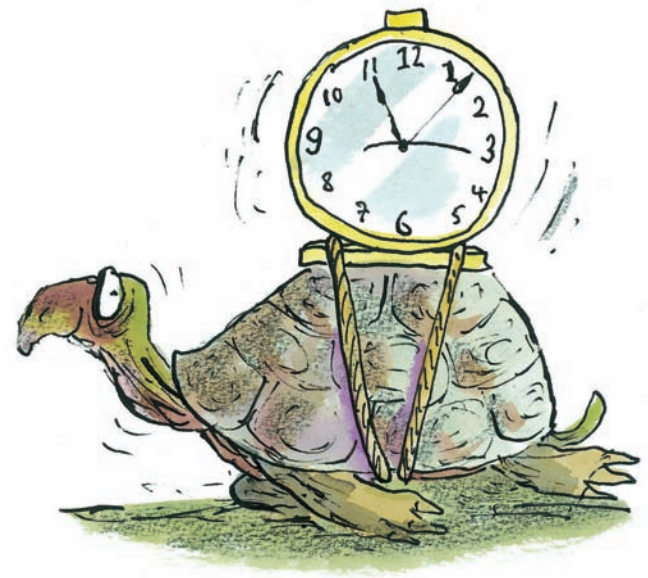
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or  
[www.orionbooks.co.uk](http://www.orionbooks.co.uk)

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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.

