

Finding Santa Visual Story



A visual resource for children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

This resource is intended to help prepare any visitors for a new experience and to help them to become familiar with the show, surroundings and situation.

Finding Santa has three performers. Two actors who play the parts of the Elves, and one puppeteer, who brings all of the other characters to life with either puppets or masks.

The show is approx. 1 hour with no interval.

There is recorded music in the background of some parts of the show.

Finding Santa is a show that has choices. There are different scenes and you won't see all of them. At three points in the show members of the audience are given the opportunity to choose what happens next. This visual story will show you all of the different options and scenes, but you won't see them all when you watch the show—It will depend which ones are chosen during the performance you see.

Characters

The Elves

Pumpkin Fizzletwist – Santa's elf. Superintendent of Christmas Letter Collection

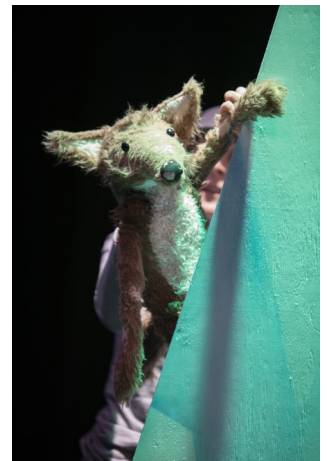
Tatty Wigtoes – Santa's elf. Assistant Superintendent of Christmas Letter Collection



Tatty, Pumpkin and the Puppeteer



Squirrel



Wolf



Penguin



Arctic Giraffe



Troll



Witch



When you enter the auditorium and sit down to watch the show Christmas songs are playing and the two Elves are talking to the audience. They might come and talk to you.

During the show the Elves sometimes talk to the audience to ask the audience to help them decide what to do next.

Finding Santa

In this visual story special alerts are written in blue ink.

The lights get darker.

The show begins with a shadow puppet film. A recorded voice narrates the film. The shadow film explains that every year, on the day before Christmas Eve, two of Santa's elves travel to Skarsvag on Santa's splendid flying sleigh. And there they collect the sack of Christmas letters written to Santa from children all over the world. One year something goes wrong!



The story begins with Pumpkin and his new assistant Tatty falling out of the sleigh and into the snow below, before they have delivered the Christmas letters to Santa.

The film ends and Pumpkin and Tatty fall to the floor with a shout. The Puppeteer is watching from behind a mountain. They are ok but they start to panic as they watch the sleigh disappear without them. They start to argue about whose fault it was that they fell out of the sleigh. Luckily they still have the bag of letters.



Once they have recovered themselves and stopped arguing they realise they need to get to Santa with the letters as soon as possible as time is running out! They need to go north, as Santa lives at the North Pole, but they can't work out which way north is.

They can see that in one direction there is a dark, dark forest and in the other direction there is an endless icy plain. They ask the audience to vote which way they should go by putting their hand up. Whatever gets the most votes will be the next scene.

The Dark Dark Forest

Pumpkin and Tatty set off into the dark dark forest. [The lights turn green and it gets a little bit darker.](#) They keep hitting dead ends. Tatty is very hungry and she can't stop thinking about food.

They notice something moving and realise it's a Wolf! At first they are worried about the wolf, especially when he tells them that he is an Elf eating Wolf, but then they realise he doesn't seem that scary at all and actually maybe the wolf is scared of them!



The Wolf wants them to go away but they decide they should try and make friends with him so that he will help them. Tatty tells him a riddle (her speciality as she used to be the Elf in charge of writing jokes and riddles for Christmas crackers). [The answer to her riddle is BaBOOM! Which she shouts so loudly that the wolf runs away!](#) He thinks it's the sound of a gun.

Pumpkin tries to get the wolf to come back and apologises for being so loud. The Wolf doesn't like shouting. They also discover that the Wolf is frightened of lots of other things, like going deeper into the forest, spiders, tigers and Alien-terminator-zombies with seven heads! Pumpkin convinces the Wolf that he isn't at risk from any of those things, and actually the scariest thing in the forest is probably the Wolf himself!

The Wolf is really happy now that he isn't feeling scared any more and he helps Pumpkin and Tatty find the path north.



The Endless Icy Plain

Pumpkin and Tatty set off across the endless icy plain. They keep going but are not sure if they are going the right way. Tatty is very hungry and she can't stop thinking about food.

Music plays and a squirrel enters. The squirrel rushes about.

Tatty and Pumpkin speak to the squirrel to ask for help but the squirrel is very busy. She has lost her winter store of nuts.

Tatty and Pumpkin realise that the squirrel is so

focused on looking for her nuts that she won't help them. Tatty has the idea of trying to grab her attention by telling her a joke. This plan does not work and the squirrel continues to look for her nuts.

Pumpkin decides that what is needed is some sense and logic instead of riddles and jokes so he decides the best way to get the squirrels attention would be to offer to help to find the nuts. He asks her if she remembers what she did when she hid them.

The squirrel recalls the steps, jumps and leaps she made when she buried the nuts and Tatty re-traces her steps until she gets to the point where the nuts might be.

They dig in the spot and finds the nuts! Now that the squirrel has her nuts she can concentrate on other things, so when Tatty and Pumpkin ask her to help them find north she is able to tell them that the sun rises in the east and it sets in the west so she is able to work out which way is north.

Tatty and Pumpkin set off to the north.



ALL PERFORMANCES

THIS SCENE, WILL BE IN ALL PERFORMANCES WHETHER TATTY & PUMPKIN HAVE COME FROM THE DARK FOREST OR THE ENDLESS PLAIN.

Tatty and Pumpkin are freezing cold, but they are now on the right path heading towards the North Pole. Pumpkin is really pleased that used sense and logic to solve their problems so far along the way.

They are looking for the Northern Lights. When they see them in the sky they will know they are at the North Pole.



Tatty tries to cheer Pumpkin up by telling a joke, but Pumpkin doesn't laugh. He tells Tatty that he has never been very good at laughing,

Suddenly they come across a split in the path. They don't know which way to go.

There are two potential choices at this point,

The sea.

A gap in the mountains.

Tatty and Pumpkin will ask someone in the audience to choose which way they go next. They might come into the audience to find the person to ask.



The Sea

Pumpkin and Tatty head for the sea and are happy that they are heading North.

Tatty wants to carry the bag of letters but Pumpkin doesn't trust her—He thinks she will be distracted by other things.

Suddenly they realise that they have to get across the sea and are not sure how!

Tatty tries to jump on an iceberg and use it as a boat. Even though it is wobbly and slippery she manages to convince Pumpkin to jump on too.

As they are wobbling around on a block of ice a penguin hops into view. They are surprised to see a penguin in the north as they usually live in the south. The penguin explains that she has been separated from the rest of her group when the iceberg she was standing on split due to global warming.



The Penguin tells Tatty and Pumpkin the best way to get across the sea is to jump from ice block to ice block. Tatty is happy to try this but Pumpkin is scared.

He thinks that because he is not penguin he won't be able to do it, but Tatty convinces him to think like a penguin! Pumpkin thinks this is completely illogical, but Tatty encourages him and once he starts jumping across the ice blocks he realises that being logical isn't always the best way!



The Gap Between the Mountains

Pumpkin and Tatty head for the gap in the mountains.

Pumpkin is worried that Tatty is not taking the situation seriously enough, but Tatty is looking on the bright side of things!

Tatty wants to carry the bag of letters but Pumpkin doesn't trust her—He thinks she will be distracted by other things.

As they carry on walking they come across a very unexpected steep slope. They are terrified and don't know what to do next.

Music plays as a giraffe enters! This is a very unusual animal to see in the North Pole, but he explains that he is an arctic Giraffe who lost his way and now enjoys life in the snow! The Elves ask the Giraffe for help to get north as quickly as possible.

The Giraffe tells them that they should slide down the slope as this is the fastest route! He has done it and it's great fun! Tatty is excited by this idea but Pumpkin is very nervous.

Tatty and the Giraffe manage to convince Pumpkin to be brave and they slide down the slope together towards the North Pole **shouting ahhhhhhh as they go.**



ALL PERFORMANCES

THIS SCENE, WILL BE IN ALL PERFORMANCES.

Tatty and Pumpkin have slid down the slope / floated across the sea. They are out of breath and in high spirits, jumping and playing.

Pumpkin is happy that they have made it this far, so happy that he actually laughs!

They stop to have a rest and wonder how close they are to the North Pole. They can't see the Northern Lights yet, so they know they still have some way to go, but it does feel colder, **so cold that it starts to snow! Paper snow falls on the stage.**

Pumpkin wants to carry on but Tatty won't let him until he catches a snowflake on his tongue, which he eventually does! **They cheer!**

They set off for shelter as the snow storm gets stronger, and as they do they realise they don't have the sack of letters any more. Pumpkin put it down when he was trying to catch a snow flake, and now it's been blown away in the storm.

Pumpkin dashes off to try and catch it as it blows away in the storm but he can't find it, it has gone.

They decide that they still need to carry on heading towards the North Pole, and hopefully they will find the bag of letters along the way.

As they set off they come across a giant split in the ice. Unsure how to get across it they search for a way. In the distance they spot a frozen bridge that goes across the crack, in the other direction they see an ice house—There might be someone inside who can help them?

Tatty asks the audience to shout out to help them decide if they should go over the frozen bridge or visit the ice house.



The Frozen Bridge

Pumpkin and Tatty head for the frozen bridge

As they walk the set is moved and there is a BANG as one piece is crashed down.

Behind them a troll is ambling around. He speaks directly to the audience but Tatty and Pumpkin don't notice him. He tells the audience that he is very grumpy, and that he guards the bridge and won't let anyone cross it!



As Tatty and Pumpkin try to decide if they are going to cross the bridge again the Troll comes back—They still don't see him but he speaks to the audience again telling them he his glad they followed his instructions not to try and cross the bridge, and that he was a bit happier because he had found a lovely soft pillow to rest on—It's the bag of letters!

He tells the audience he is going to have a sleep on his new pillow and asks the audience to wake him up if anyone tries to cross the bridge.

He lies down and hides himself under a blanket so he looks like a rock.

Tatty and Pumpkin arrive at the bridge and decide to cross it.

The audience might shout out to warn them about the Troll, you can shout out if you want to.

Tatty and Pumpkin think it's just a rock and keep going. As they get closer to the Troll they think they hear snoring, and then they see his face and realise it IS a Troll!

The Troll is really angry to be woken up. He does not want to let them cross the bridge.

Pumpkin spots the sack of letters on the floor. They try to make him fall asleep by singing a lullaby but that doesn't work. The Troll won't give the letters back and threatens to eat the Elves if they try and fight for them.



Pumpkin suggests that Tatty tries one of her riddles. For once Tatty does not think this is a good idea, but she agrees to give it a go.

Luckily it works and they manage to grab their bag of letters and dash across the icy bridge towards the North Pole.

The Ice House

A witch enters. She spots the Elves and decides to trick them into believing she is just a harmless old lady. She wants to shrink them and add them to her collection of tiny things in little glass bottles.

She transforms into an old lady by removing her witch 'mask'.

She tempts them by offering them food, so they go inside the house.

She tells them that she has her own bridge but before they can use it she transforms back into a witch and tells the Elves that she likes to shrink things and put them in jars for her collection and that she is going to shrink them!

Pumpkin spots the sack of letters in one of the jars. She has made it tiny. They offer her lots of presents in return for the bag but that doesn't work.

Pumpkin suggests that Tatty tries one of her riddles. For once Tatty does not think this is a good idea, but she agrees to give it a go. bef

The witch can't work out the answer to the riddle and **screeches in despair**. She disappears.

Luckily it works and they manage to grab their bag of letters and dash across the icy bridge towards the North Pole as we **hear the sound of the glass jars smashing**, setting everything trapped in them free.



ALL PERFORMANCES

THIS SCENE, WILL BE IN ALL PERFORMANCES.

Tatty and Pumpkin come running on stage gasping for breath. Pumpkin has the sack of Christmas letters.

They are relieved and happy that they have made it! They congratulate each other on using their skills of common sense and riddling, working together as a team!

They spot the Northern Lights in the sky and watch them glowing.

They are both happy, especially Pumpkin, who has never smiled so much in his life! He asks Tatty to be his full time assistant.

They find the sleigh and **the lights get darker** as they sit together happy that they will soon be with Santa and their job will be complete in time for Christmas.

The performance ends with another shadow puppet film.

The film tells us that Tatty and Pumpkin still work together. Every year, the day before Christmas Eve, they fly to Skarsvag.

So far, they've never failed to bring the letters safely back to Santa! Let's hope they never will!



Merry Christmas, to one and all.

The film ends and the performers take a bow. You can clap to show you enjoyed it if you like.