

**RUFUS**   
and the  
**VERY SPECIAL BABY**  
A FROLIC CHRISTMAS STORY



**A  
CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT**

# RUFUS

and the

## VERY SPECIAL BABY



by Carla Barnhill, illustrated by Natasha Rimmington is a Frolic picture book, a 2016 Moonbeam Children's Book Award winning series for Best Picture Book Series. These books help young children solve common childhood challenges with biblical solutions. *Rufus and the Very Special Baby* is the story of Christmas, told from a unique perspective with a twist, emphasizing the theme of generosity and the importance of the event of Jesus's birth as a gift to the world.

### Synopsis:

A very special baby has arrived and the Frolic friends are gathering their gifts to welcome him. Ava, Jo, Hal, and Uri all find something incredible to give, but Rufus wonders what he could possibly offer such a special child. Rufus is discouraged as he watches his friends give their presents to the baby, but after saying a prayer, he learns that he has had the perfect gift for the baby all along.

Turn this charming Christmas story into a play or pageant at your school, church, or wherever you may be. *Rufus and the Very Special Baby: A Christmas Pageant* includes a full script of the story, a list of characters, and lists of suggested props and costumes to help you put on an excellent Christmas show!

Get 20% off *Rufus and the Very Special Baby* using promo code **Christmaspageant** on [beamingbooks.com](http://beamingbooks.com) from now until 12/31/18!

## Rufus and the Very Special Baby Cast

**Narrator:** The narrator introduces the story and comments on actions throughout the story. The narrator has the most lines and the longest lines. Suggested age for the Narrator is 13 years and up.

**Rufus:** Rufus is the main character. He is excited to learn about the coming of God's son but struggles to find a gift worthy of such a baby. Rufus is in the entire play and has the second most lines. Suggested age for Rufus is 12 years and up.

**Ava:** Ava is eager to see Jesus and wants to show her love for him through the present of wool. She encourages her friends to join her on her journey to see Jesus. Ava is in the entire play and has the third most lines. Suggested age for Ava is 11 and up.

**Jo:** Jo is excited when he learns about the birth of God's son. He joins his friends on the journey to see Jesus and brings hay as a gift. Jo is the first character to join Ava and Rufus on their journey. He is in most of the play. Suggested age for Jo is 7 and up.

**Hal:** Hal can't wait to see Jesus and goes with his friends to see him. He decides to give Jesus a flower to look at. Hal is the second character to join Ava and Rufus on their journey. He is in roughly half of the play. Suggested age for Hal is 7 and up.

**Uri:** Uri decides to go with her friends after she learns of Jesus. She decides to give him the gift of song to help him sleep. Uri is the third character to join Ava and Rufus on their journey. Uri is in roughly half of the play. Suggested age for Uri is 7 and up.

**Mary:** Mary is the mother of Jesus and takes care of him when the friends arrive at the manger. She doesn't have any lines and is on the stage for a short period of time. Suggested age for Mary is 5 and up.

**Joseph:** Joseph is Mary's husband and greets the friends when they arrive at the manger. He doesn't have any lines and is on stage for a short period of time. Suggested age for Joseph is 5 and up.



## Rufus and the Very Special Baby Pageant Costume Guide

**Rufus:** Rufus should dress in browns and can have a head band with two pieces of shaped felt attached to it as dog ears.

**Ava:** Ava should dress in whites and can have stuffing around their shirt or a feathery boa.

**Jo:** Jo should dress in blacks and can have a head band with two pieces of shaped felt or paper attached to it as horns.

**Hal:** Hal should dress in browns. If desired, one way to create a hedgehog costume is to hot glue triangular brown felt pieces overlapped onto a beige hoodie. Include little round ears on the side of the hood, and triangles on the hood, for the clearest hedge-hog effect.

**Uri:** Uri should dress in whites and can have some pieces of white paper or fabric attached to the sleeves to appear as wings.

**Mary:** Mary should dress in whites and blues and could wear a dress or long shirt to give the impression of robes. Consider tying a blue or white piece of fabric or tassel around the waist to enhance the impression of robes.

**Joseph:** Joseph should dress in whites and browns and could wear a long shirt to give the impression of robes. Consider tying a white or brown piece of fabric or tassel around the waist.

## Rufus and the Very Special Baby Pageant Prop Guide

**Rufus' Cape:** Use a blanket that can be tied as a cape around Rufus. Make sure that it isn't too long so Rufus doesn't trip over it.

**Jesus:** Use a baby doll to play Jesus. Just wrap the doll in a blanket or two.

**Manger:** If you have a doll bed handy, you can use that, otherwise you can engage kids in the process by decorating a cardboard box.

**Wool:** Use some stuffing from your local craft store, if you are worried about it getting everywhere you can simply use a white pillow.

**Hay:** Use a collection of brown pipe cleaners to be the hay, you can tie them together with a string, so they aren't lost.

**Flower:** Use a green pipe cleaner through a piece of paper that has been cut to look like a flower (the paper can be colored paper or have drawings on it) to use as the flower.

# Rufus and the Very Special Baby Script

NARRATOR:

Rufus the dog was sound asleep having his favorite dream about chasing his tail.

*Rufus tries to chase his tail in his sleep.*

NARRATOR:

When Ava the sheep came running.

*AVA enters onto the stage.*

AVA:

Rufus! Get up!

RUFUS:

(Grumbles)

AVA:

I need to tell you about the baby!

RUFUS:

(Grumbles)

NARRATOR:

But Ava had big news. She had just come from a field in Bethlehem, where angels filled the sky.

AVA:

The baby was sent by God as a gift to the whole world!

*Rufus wakes up.*

RUFUS:

A baby sent by God?!

AVA:

Yes, let's go!

NARRATOR:

Ava and Rufus went off to find the manger where the special baby was born. There was just one problem.

AVA:

I am going to bring some wool for the baby to have a pillow. What are you going to bring?

RUFUS:

I don't know. Maybe a bone... no, no, no, even better! A smelly fish!

AVA:

Those sound like presents for a baby dog, not a baby person!

RUFUS:

(To the audience)

I don't have anything special enough for a baby from God.

NARRATOR:

With Rufus unsure about what he could give the baby, he and Ava ran into their good friend Jo the goat. Rufus and Ava eagerly tell Jo about the very special baby they are about to visit.

AVA:

Do you want to come with us? I am bringing the baby wool for a pillow.

JO:

Yes! I can bring some hay to make a bed! The baby will like having something comfortable to sleep on.

RUFUS:

(To the audience)

Ava has wool and Jo has hay, but what can I give the baby sent by God?

NARRATOR:

The friends kept walking on excited to see the baby and talking about the great gift He is. Then they ran into their friend Hal the hedgehog and told him about the baby.

AVA:

Do you want to come with? I am bringing wool for a pillow and Jo is bringing hay for a bed.

HAL:

Count me in! I will bring this flower I picked. The baby will like something nice to look at.

RUFUS:

(To the audience)

I want to welcome the baby too, but what if I don't have anything to offer him?

NARRATOR:

The friends were getting close to the manger when they saw their good friend Uri the dove. They were all quick to tell her about the baby and invite her to come along with them.

AVA:

Do you want to come with? I am bringing wool, Jo is bringing hay and Hal is bringing a flower.

URI:

Yes! I will bring the baby a song. He will like having something to listen to.

RUFUS:

(To the audience)

Everyone has a gift for the special baby. I want to welcome him too, but I don't have a present.

NARRATOR:

The friends were amazed at the shining light coming from a beautiful star above the manger. Ava, Jo, Hal and Uri entered the small building to meet the special baby and his parents.

RUFUS:

(To the audience)

I can't go in. I don't have anything for the baby.



NARRATOR:

The mother rocks the baby while he fusses. The dad cleans out the wooden manger and Jo puts his hay into it making a comfortable bed for the baby.

*Jo places hay into the manger.*

NARRATOR:

Ava adds some wool to make a nice squishy pillow.

*Ava places her wool into the manger.*

NARRATOR:

The mother gently laid the special baby in the manger. With the hay and wool comforting him, his crying stopped. Hal gave the baby his gift of a beautiful flower.

*Hal places flower into the manger.*

NARRATOR:

The baby smiled at the flower. It was pretty to look at! Next, Uri sang the baby a song.

*Uri sings song.*

NARRATOR:

Uri's beautiful song put the baby right to sleep.

*Rufus walks away from where he was looking in the manger.*

NARRATOR

But there was only one problem.

*Ava goes out to where Rufus is.*

AVA:

What are you doing out here?

RUFUS:

I still don't know what to give the baby.

AVA:

You don't need a present to come inside.

The mother said that the baby's name is

Jesus. He's a gift of God's love to all of us.

C'mon!

*Rufus follows Ava back to the stable but stops outside the door and watches.*

NARRATOR:

Rufus watched the special baby and knew he wanted to show his love for the baby, just as God had done by sending Him. Rufus still didn't have any ideas though. But then he saw the baby shiver.

RUFUS:

I know what to give the baby! But it won't be easy.

NARRATOR:

Rufus did what he always did when he was in a difficult situation, he asked God for help.

RUFUS:

Dear God, you gave the special gift of Jesus to the whole world. Please help me give away something I love to someone that needs it more than me. Amen.

NARRATOR:

Rufus knew what he needed to do and with God's help he was feeling a lot better. He went into the stable where Jesus is and began to untie his cape. Though it was his favorite thing, he knew someone needed it more than him.

*Rufus unties his cape and lays it on top of the baby.*

NARRATOR:

Rufus gently placed his cape on the special baby. Feeling warm and toasty, the baby cooed and fell asleep.

*Ava, Jo, Hal, Uri and Rufus wave to Mary and Joseph and leave.*

AVA:

Your cape is so important to you. I can't believe you gave it away!

RUFUS:

I wanted to give Jesus something special. He's a very special baby.

AVA:

He is.

NARRATOR:

The group of friends continued talking about God's great love and Jesus. They couldn't wait to tell everyone about the good news of Jesus' birth!