

Student Packet

Grades 3–4

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Barbara Robinson

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THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER

by
Barbara Robinson

Student Packet

Written by
Jean Jamieson



*Ralph, Imogene, Leroy, Claude, Ollie and Gladys.
The Herdman children of the town
Decide to join the Sunday School.
They've been told there's food to down.*

*Instead of food, they feast on the story
Of the birth of a babe so long ago.
Relating their lives and struggles to others,
The Herdmans go on to steal the show.*



Note

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Novel Units, Inc.
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Name _____

Activity: To read for information

Special Trees

Originally, the trees used by many families in their homes in December came from the forest. Nowadays, most evergreen trees used for this purpose are plantation-grown.



Plantation trees are grown in cultivated plots, sheared and cared for in order to provide consumers with the best possible tree.

These trees usually begin life in a nursery where superior seeds are planted and grown to two-year-old seedlings. The seedlings are taken from the nursery beds and replanted. It takes constant and skilled care over several years for a plantation-grown tree to get a healthy start.

While growing, the trees serve as wildlife habitats, they increase soil stability, and provide a pleasant looking environment for people. However, during the five to sixteen years that these trees are growing into well-shaped, top-quality marketable trees, they face many hazards. There can be too much or not enough rain and/or sunshine, and insects or disease may attack. They also may be stolen by tree thieves.

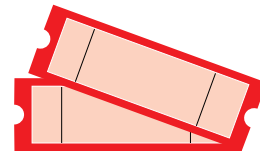
Fall is the time for the tree harvest. The best trees are cut down, bundled with twine for transporting, and trucked around the country, to be sold and then enjoyed by many. Even after the holidays, evergreen trees are useful. They make good backyard bird feeders, the branches make good mulch for a garden, and the stumps can be cut into firewood.

Read the following statements. Mark each either T (True) or F (False).

- ___ 1. Most evergreen trees used for decorating homes in December are plantation grown.
- ___ 2. Plantation trees do not require a great deal of care.
- ___ 3. The trees are useful as wildlife habitats while they are growing.
- ___ 4. These trees take more than five to sixteen years to be ready for market.
- ___ 5. Thieves do not steal trees.
- ___ 6. Fall is the time for the tree harvest.

Source for Information: National Christmas Tree Association.

Name _____



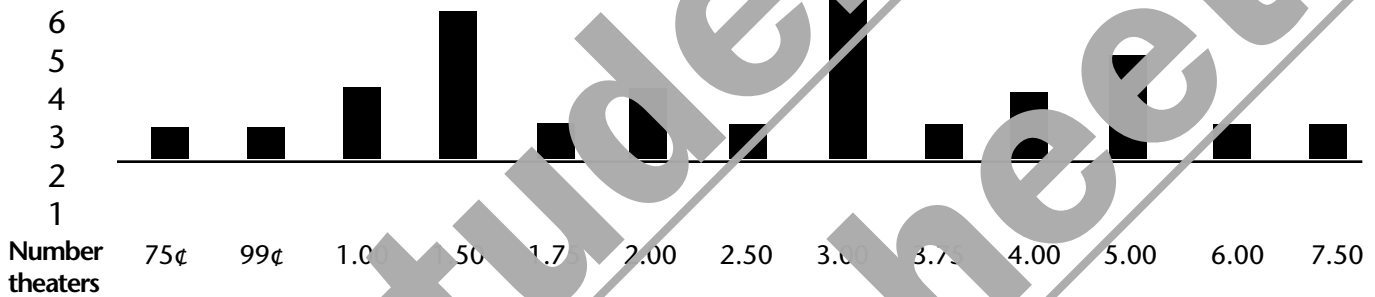
Activity: To use mathematics skills

Moviegoers

"All of the Herdmans are big moviegoers, though they never pay their own way." (page 23)

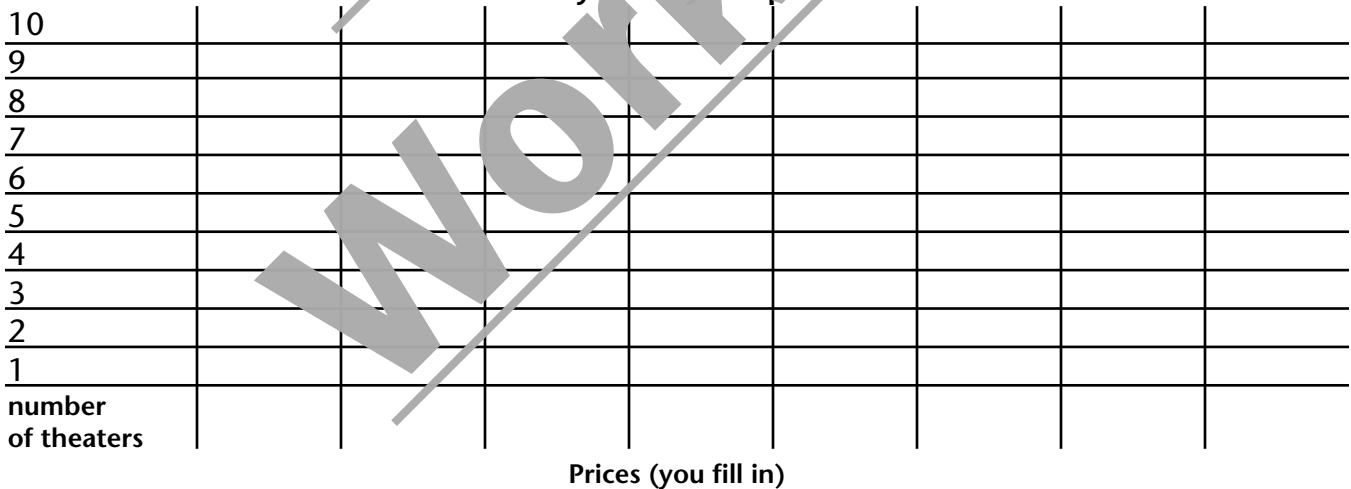
Get the movie section from the newspaper, and make a survey of the prices charged by the theaters near you. Make a graph of the information. Compute the price of admission for the six Herdman children at each price. Please put information on the back of this page. Thank you.

The following information is from the *Daily Herald* Newspaper, Arlington Heights, Illinois, March 10, 1995.



Write a summary statement about the graph above, and about your own graph, that follows. (What is the highest price in the survey? ...the lowest price? What is the price most often charged?) Please use back of page for your summary statements.

My Survey Graph



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