Christopher's Christmas
It was nearly Christmas and Christopher's Sunday School always did a Nativity play.

Mrs Lindley the Sunday School teacher said to Christopher "Christopher you sing so beautifully and can remember things so well. We want you to be the Angel Gabriel in the Nativity play"

And Christopher said: "No, I don't want to be in the Christmas play"
The Vicar came to Christopher and said, "Mrs Lindley wants you to be in the Nativity play, you sing beautifully, you will be a lovely Angel Gabriel."

Later at home Christopher and his mother were unpacking the Christmas box...

...Fairy lights and stockings, sparkling tinsel, Christmas tree decorations, ... Later at home Christopher and his mother were unpacking the Christmas box...

..."No, I don't want to be in the Christmas play," Christopher said, "Lovely Angel Gabriel. I don't want to be in the Christmas play..." Mrs Lindley said. "Christopher, the Vicar came to..."
His mother said, "The vicar and Mrs Lindley would like you to be Angel Gabriel in the Nativity play."

"But why?" asked Christopher.

"They did last year," said his mother.

"Of course no one will laugh at you," said his mother.

"But why?" answered Christopher.

"They did last year," said Christopher.

"No, I don't want to be Angel Gabriel in the Christmas play," said Christopher.

"Listen to you and everyone likes to you sing so beautifully," answered Christopher's mother.

"But why?" asked his mother.
Christopher had dressed up as a shepherd. On his head he wore an old tea towel and he held the toy lamb his daddy had given him at his last birthday.

He wore an old dressing gown. It was a grown-up dressing gown and his mother cut off the bottom so it fitted, but it still went all the way to the ground.

Last year Christopher had been much younger and was a shepherd in the Nativity play.

"You look lovely," said Mrs Lindley.

"You're a brave boy," said the vicar.

"You look lovely in the Nativity play," said the vicar.
On the day of the play everyone was there. His mother sat in the front row, next to the vicar. Jenny's mother and father were there and Ben's mother and father. Everyone from the village.

At the right time Christopher sang "While shepherds watched" and his mother smiled, and the vicar smiled ... and everyone smiled.
And then it was time for him to give the lamb to the baby Jesus.

But as he walked across the stage, he tripped on the dressing gown and fell over. Christopher got up, and his knee hurt where he had fallen. Everyone laughed, but Christopher felt sad. He didn't cry. And then it was time for him to give the lamb to the baby Jesus.
Here's a lamb for baby Jesus said Mrs Lindley, from the side of the stage. But Christopher couldn't say anything. He tried, but his mouth just opened and he couldn't say anything. Then it was time for Christopher to say his words. He looked to the front, but he couldn't see his mother, he couldn't see the vicar, he couldn't see Jenny's mother and father, he couldn't see Ben's mother and father, he couldn't see Jenny's mother. He couldn't see his words. He looked to the front, but he couldn't see Mrs Lindley. "Here's a lamb what to say."

The lights were so bright and Christopher couldn't remember his words and lots of eyes, lots and lots of eyes, all staring at him.
"It's OK" said Mrs Lindley, "just give the lamb to Jesus." But Christopher just stood there. "Go on give it to him" said Mrs Lindley. But Christopher held tightly to the lamb his daddy had given him. "No" he said, "it's mine." And everyone laughed, and Christopher was sad, but he didn't cry.

Afterwards Mrs Lindley said, "It's all right, you did very well." And the vicar said, "you sang lovely, and you're a brave boy." And everyone laughed, and Mrs Lindley said, "Go on give it to him" said there. But Christopher just stood there. "Just give the lamb to Jesus."
On Christmas Day the Grannies and Grandpa came for dinner. Christopher’s mother told them about the play. And they laughed.

"I remember when Tommy was a little boy, he was in the Christmas play and..." Grannie McKenzie said. "Let’s play a game, let’s play a game." But then Grandpa said, "We’re going to play a game." Then Grandpa and Grandma came for dinner. And they laughed.

Christopher was sad, and he didn’t understand why, but he didn’t cry.
"I'm sure they won't," said his mother, "but if anything happens, just think - everyone wants to hear you sing - don't let anything stop you."

"OK," said Christopher. "I'll be in the play."

"Excited," and suddenly he felt so.

"I'll be in the play," said Christopher. "But they may laugh again."

"Yes," said Christopher, "but they last year and you're so much bigger than last year.

"Yes," said Christopher, "I understand.

"Yes," smiled when everyone you sang. "But everyone wants to hear you sing - don't let anything happen, just think - but if anything."

"I'm sure they won't, said his mother."
On the day of the play
Christopher was dressed
in an old sheet his mother
had cut up for him.

Mrs Lindley, be in the play, said
"I'm so glad you'll
be in the play too." said the vicar, "so you can'

"Yes, I'm sure they can", said
Christopher.

"Can people in heaven
hear us sing?" asked
Christopher.

"Yes, I'm sure they can", said
the vicar.

And he looked out and
everyone smiled: his
mother, the vicar, Jenny's
mother, the vicar, Ben's
mother and father end
everyone in the village.

"I'm looking forward to
hearing you sing", said
the vicar.

"Don't be afraid", said
Mrs Lindley.

"Bring good news", said
the vicar.

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"I'm so glad you'll
be in the play", said
Mrs Lindley.
Later it was his turn to sing "Nowell, Nowell". He sang it all on his own and he didn't forget a single word.

Everyone smiled.

Then Christopher remembered what his mother had said "everyone wants you to sing". So he started to sing "Away in a Manger", then "Once in Royal David's City", and every Christmas carol he knew.

Mrs. Lindley wanted him to stop, but he remembered what his mother had said "don't let anything stop you". And he didn't forget a single word. He sang it all on his own: "Sing "Nowell, Nowell".

Mrs. Lindley wanted him to stop, but he remembered what his mother had said "everyone wants you to sing". So he continued to sing...

Then Mrs. Lindley got watched. "And "While Shepherds Watched".

Everyone smiled.
After the play Mrs Lindley said, "Thank you Christopher.

The vicar said, "You were lovely," and smiled.

"You sound like you could sing forever," said his mother, "your daddy would have been proud of you.

"Will you sing for us later?" Christopher's mother told them all about the Nativity play.

"How lovely," said Grannie Arnold, "will you sing for us later.

On Christmas Day Grannie McKenzie and Grandpa and Grannie Arnold came for dinner.

"Thank you Christopher," Mrs Lindley said. Now I have been proud of you.

"Your daddy would have been proud," said his mother, "you were lovely,"
Grannie McKenzie said, "I remember when your daddy was a little boy." Then she looked at Christopher's mother.

"Go on," said Christopher's mother.

"Well," said Grannie McKenzie, "He was Joseph in the Nativity play ... and she told the whole story. Joseph in the Nativity play."

"Christopher felt so happy, but in a funny way. And he cried a little too. But it was a good crying. It was a good Christmas."