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Date _____



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

by Barbara Robinson



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

The six Herdman children are 'absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world'. They lie and steal and smoke cigars. They even burned down Fred Shoemaker's old tool house. Now they're taking over the Christmas pageant. The Herdmans have never heard the Christmas story before, and they don't know anything about shepherds or Wise Men. When Imogene hears about the swaddling clothes, she demands to know why anyone would tie up a baby and put him in a feedbox. Leroy, Claude, and Ollie are planning on a gift that means much more than gold, frankincense, and myrrh - the ham from their Christmas basket. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, now also a television movie, has been a favorite of children and their parents since 1972. As C.J. Critt's spirited narration captures the lively and outrageous spin that the Herdmans put on the Nativity scene, listeners will delight in this unusual and refreshing interpretation of Christmas.

Who Wrote It?

Barbara Robinson was born and raised in Portsmouth, Ohio, and had no brothers or sisters. Her father died when she was three. Robinson's mother, a schoolteacher in Portsmouth for forty-nine years, got her interested in books, and she began writing very early. Robinson attended Allegheny College, where she received a bachelor's degree in theater. In addition to her children's books, Robinson wrote many short stories in magazines and has some books of poetry. Robinson lived in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia.



She died July 9, 2013, at her home in Berwyn. She was 85 and had cancer.

AR Reading Level: 5.1

Lexile Level: 930L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.