

A Little King in the Family

16.50
12.50
29.00

Characters

Papa
Mama
Raul 16
Carmen 13
Pablo 11
Carlos 7
Rosa 4

Mrs. Phillips
Mrs. Sanchez
Mailman
Principal
Anna
Justin
Manuel

Derek
Larry
Austin

14.50
15.00
31.50

List of Spanish words:

Gracias: Thank you
Nino chiquito: little boy
Si: yes
Tia: aunt
Tio: uncle

Nino Jesus: Baby Jesus
Adios: Goodbye
Senior: Mr.
Feliz Navidad: Happy Christmas
Buenos dias: Hello

SCENE 1

Curtains open

Classroom, children talking excitedly.

Mrs. Philips: O.K. children. I will now give out the parts for the Christmas play. (talking stops and children all look eagerly at their teacher) Anna, will you play the part of Mary, Justin, will you be Joseph. Manuel, Derek and Carlos would you please be the three kings and Larry and Austin you will be the shepherds. Any questions?

Carlos: When will we do the play?

Mrs. Philips: We will do it on Dec. 23 at 7:00. That is two days before Christmas.

Anna: Can I have a real baby? My little brother, Martin is only half a year old.

Mrs. Phillips: We can ask your mother, but I think it would be a good idea to bring your doll just incase Martin starts to cry.

Anna: Sometimes he cries when he needs a change.

Derek: What will we wear?

Mrs. Phillips: You must ask your mothers to make your costumes.

Manuel: I have a beautiful shiny blue shirt.

Derek: I can use my big brother's crown. He was a king last year.

Larry: Angelina has a stuffed lamb I can bring.

Mrs. Phillips: Good, Larry. That was a good idea.

Austin: What do shepherds wear?

Derek: You use a bathrobe, don't you know that?

Mrs. Phillips: Derek, Austin has never been to a Christmas play before. He is the oldest one in his family, and he's the first one to have a part in the Christmas program.

Derek: I have been to four Christmas plays already.

Justin: Will there be snack at the end?

Mrs. Phillips: Yes, all the mothers bring something good to eat.

Manuel: My mom makes really good cookies.

Larry: My mom makes the best pies in the world.

Justin: How do you know?

Larry: My Dad says so.

Mrs. Philips: OK. Here are your play parts. I want you to memorize your parts by the end of the week. We will also learn the Three Kings song, and each king will have to sing his verse alone. Do you kings think you can do that?

3 kings: YES!

Curtains close.

Mrs. Sanchez is directing children across the street. Carlos comes running by, rushes right past her,

Carlos: Buenos dias, Mrs. Sanchez, I can't stop. I'm going to be a king. It's safe, no one is coming. (he dashes past before she can even step out in the road)

SCENE 2

ACT 1

Curtains

Apartment—a simple front room. Rosa is playing with her doll, Mama tidying up.

Carlos dancing from foot to foot waiting for Mama to unlock the apartment door. He enters in great excitement

Carlos: Mama, Mama!

Mama: (laughing) Carlos—what is it? What lion chased you home?

Carlos: Mama! I'm a King in our Christmas play. I get to sing a song all by myself—just me and Manuel and Derek—and we talk to the Nino Jesus. We're doing it two days before Christmas at night.

Mama: Carlos, my little King, that is wonderful! Rosa, Carlos is going to be a King.

Rosa: (leaves her doll playing and skips over) Will you have a crown, Carlos and a bag of gold , and a sword?

Carlos: Si, Si, I'll have a crown—golden with many jewels, and I will have a bag of gold but I won't have a sword Rosa. Mama, Rosa doesn't know the story right. She's thinking of the mean kings who fight. I'm a good King, Rosa. I follow the star across the desert and then we get to Bethlehem. And then we have to go to King Herod because we can't find the Nino Jesus...

Rosa: Is he a mean king, Carlos ?

Carlos: This King Herod, he's a mean one, Rosa. He has swords all over the place. Whoa! And lots of soldiers. He tries to trick us but we just find the Nino Jesus and we don't ever tell King Herod. He doesn't love Nino Jesus but we do. We bow down to him, Mama. Mrs. Phillips said all the way to the floor.

Mama: Do you remember that story, Rosa? (Mama pulls worn Bible from shelf and both children snuggle up beside her to listen) And it came to pass in those days----- (lights dim, short pause and a loud knocking is heard as lights come on again)

Rosa: (wide-eyed) Mama, is it Mary and Joseph?

Carmen is standing impatiently outside door. Carlos lets her in then joins Rosa on the couch to continue looking at the Bible.

Carmen: Oh, Mama, Gloria is having a Christmas party and she invited me and she said her cousins from New York will be there – the ones I met this summer. Oh, Mama, I've got to have a new dress. Something bright and glittery.

Mama smiles and then sighs but Carmen continues excitedly.

Carmen: Gloria thinks her father is going to buy the family a new stereo. She hopes he gets it early for the party. It will be super if he does. (she flings her books down on the table and starts her homework)

Another knock this time from Pablo. Mama lets him in.

Pablo: Hi.

Mama: Hello, Pablo, How was school?

Pablo: O.K. (He nods and walks past her into his room)

Mama sighs then smiles and goes to prepare supper. Pablo returns and comes up behind his mother.

Pablo: Hey, Mama. Got anything to eat? I'm starved. Manuel said I can come to the big hockey game, You know the Christmas one.

Mama: But how---

Pablo: Don't worry, Mama, he's got two tickets. A Christmas present from his uncle. At least he didn't want to take some girl. So it's all set, Si, Mama?

Mama: (after a moments thinking) Pablo, Let's ask Papa.

Pablo: Why can't I ever do anything or go anywhere? It doesn't take a big conference to let Raul out of the house at night. I'm not scared of the dark like some people in this family. (he cocks his head at the two smaller ones on the couch still engrossed in the Bible)

Mama: (sternly) Pablo.

Pablo: O.K. O.K. But can you ask him tonight? I need to know. (he returns to his room, lights dim)

ACT 2

Lights come on again showing the whole family getting seated at the supper table.

Carlos: Papa! (getting no response he tries again) Papa!

Papa: Si?

Carlos: Papa, I'm going to be a king in our Christmas play.

Papa: Oh, that is good news. A real king in our family. That should do us all good, Carlos. (Papa says grace)

Raul: Papa, our school is having a big Christmas banquet on Dec. 23. There will be fine food – all we can eat. Jose and I really want to go. We figured we can scrape together enough for two tickets.

Papa: What kind of entertainment?

Raul: (shifting in his chair) Oh, I don't know, Mr. Griffiths said it would be A-1.

Papa: And what would Mr. Rodriguez, your father say?

Raul: I don't know, Papa.

Papa: I think you know, Raul. Would I buy a ticket to such an evening.

All eyes on Raul

Raul: No, Papa, you wouldn't.

Papa: That's what I thought. Then neither will you, my son.

Family resumes eating but Pablo smirks at his brother's misfortune.

Mama: It's just as well, Tomas. Carlos thinks the school play is Dec. 23 isn't it , Carlos?

Carlos: Si, Si, I think it's two days before Christmas, after supper.

Pablo: We don't all have to go to that play, do we?

Mama: Well, it would be nice if we would all go. Carlos is a king.

Carmen: (groaning) Gloria's party is that night. Oh, Mama, I don't need to go do I? I've seen hundreds of school Christmas programs. They're all the same!

Carlos: This one's not. I'm a king! (Carmen makes a face)

Pablo: Mama, did you ask Papa about the hockey game? (Mama shakes her head) Papa, Manuel has two free tickets from his uncle to go to the Christmas hockey game at the arena. He asked me to go along. Can I Papa, it's free?

Papa: (sighs) Why do you want to go to a hockey game for Christmas? We used to go to each other's houses and play music and sing Christmas carols. We had good times together. Why don't you ever do that, boys, with your friends?

Raul shrugs

Pablo: (condescendingly) That was many years ago. Who would want to do that now? To sit around and sing some dumb song---

Papa: (bangs his fist down on the table) Don't talk like that, Pablo Juan Rodriguez, about something that is precious to someone.

Pablo: (surprised at the outburst) I'm sorry, Papa. I didn't mean to say that.

Papa: I'm sorry too, Pablo. (he takes a breath to calm himself) It just seems to me that you always have to be going here or there or seeing some big game or some big rock star. There is more to life than that. I worry sometimes that you do not know the real joys of life, my son.

Carlos: (trembling) Is a play a—a—a real joy--?

Papa: A real joy of life. It can be. I'm sure yours will be. (he pats Carlos on the shoulder) When's the hockey game, Pablo?

Pablo: Uh - two days before Christmas.

Papa: (grimaces and looks at Mama) O.K. Pablo, I want to see what you're made of.

I won't make the decision for you. Carlos is doing a fine play that night. He is a king. You may come with us to watch your brother or—go with your friend Manuel to a hockey game.

Pablo; (dumbfounded, then grins) Thanks, Papa for not making me go to some boring school play.

Papa: Pablo.

Carmen: (jumps up) Papa, does that mean I can choose between Gloria's party and the stup—I mean special school play that Carlos is doing? (she smiles sweetly at her father)

Papa: (shakes his head) You don't miss a chance, do you, my daughter? You're a bit older so you might be a bit wiser, Carmen. Si, Si, you to may choose.

Mama looks confused and sad.

Raul: I'll come and see my little king brother. What could be better than a play with you in it. (lights dim)

ACT 3

Mama and Rosa baking.

Carmen: (fussing with her hair) Mama, what will I wear to the party. Tia Maria said she would sew it for me.

Pablo: I'm going out to look for a job so I can buy a hockey program. It's in color, all stars, signatures, statistics. (he rushes out)

Carlos: Mama, Where will you find a robe and a crown and do you and Papa have a bag of gold in the bank?

Mama: (laughs then looks serious) Don't worry, Carlos, Papa will think of something. (lights dim)

ACT 4

Mama, Carmen, Carlos, Rosa in front room, Papa coming in with a bag.

Papa: I have something here for you two. (gesturing to Carmen and Carlos he opens the bag, pulling out a piece of material—glittery and shiny)

Carlos: Oh, Papa, a king's robe! Did you buy it from a real king? (he reaches out to touch it)

Papa: (Looks with astonishment into the glowing face, his smile fades) My son, this is not for a king. I didn't know it was a King's robe. Mrs. Garcia at work gave it to me. We thought it was a dress for a young princess. (Carlos starts to snuffle but Carmen's eyes light up)

Carmen: (She eagerly reaches out for the cloth but can't help give a sidelong glance at Carlos) Gracias, Papa.

Papa: Now, Carlos, I did find something for you. It is not a robe. It is for your head, It's a crown! (with a flourish he draws a burger king crown from the bag) Sancho suggested it. We've been wondering about your crown and I thought it was a good idea. What do you think?

Carlos: (just stands there, wiping his eyes on his sleeve) Papa, I can't wear that to the play. (he runs to his father and sobs)

Papa: Having a king in the family is not as easy as I thought. lights dim)

ACT 5

Next day, Carmen comes rushing in.

Carmen: (shrieking) Mama, Look what Carlos is doing! He's cut up my necklace! He's in his room gluing parts of it all over his slippers and onto his shirt.

Mama: (rushes over to door) Carlos, is that true?

Carlos: (coming to door, head hanging) Si, Mama.

Mama: Carlos, you can't do that.

Carmen: That's my only necklace. It's the one I got for my birthday. I wanted to get it out to see how it would look with my new dress but it was gone. Mama, he can't just come sneaking into my room and steal things like that.

Carlos: I didn't steal it.

Mama: Carlos, you cannot take what belongs to someone else. That is bad enough. And then to ruin it like this. Carmen has no necklace now.

Carmen: I was going to wear it to the party, Mama. He's just jealous because Papa gave me the dress and not him.

Carlos: I'm not jealous. I'm not! Mama, I kept asking you what I would wear and you never helped me and...I'm just doing what a king what a king does.

Carmen: Steal?

Carlos starts to cry and runs to his mother.

Carmen: Mama, he's Just going to stand there and fuss so you'll feel sorry for him.

Mama: Be quiet Carmen. Tell me Carlos, what do kings do?

Carlos: They just take what they need.....but it isn't stealing. (he looks triumphantly at Carmen)

Mama: Carlos, Carlos, Our little King has to remember he is really a nino chiquito who lives in a family with four other brothers and sisters. Carlos, I'm sorry I haven't helped your with your costume. Papa and I just did not know what to do, but that did not make it right for you to take Carmen's necklace and ruin it like this. That was really bad. (lights dim)

ACT 6

Carmen alone doing homework. Carlos enters looking pleased carrying a small paper bag.

Pablo: Carmen. (he comes up behind her)

Carmen: What did you steal now?

Carlos: (ignoring her comment) Carmen, here. (reaches into bag--- pauses) I'm sorry I ----

Carmen: (not looking around) Yeah, I'm sorry too. Necklaces like that don't grow on trees you know. I really liked that necklace.

Carlos: Carmen, here. (thrusts paper bag in front of her)

Carmen: (reaches into bag and stares with amazement at Carlos) You didn't steel this, did you?

Carlos; (smiling shakes his head) It's for you!

Carmen: (pulls a necklace out of the bag) Who gave this to you?

Carlos: (with pride) I bought it.

Carmen: With what?

Carlos: I sold my bronze model horse with the bridle and saddle to Riki. He always wanted it. I knew which necklace you always admired in the discount store and I had just enough money to get it. Do you like it? It will look beautiful with that new dress Tia Maria is going to make for you.

Carmen: (hugs her little brother) Your favorite toy! The one Grandfather gave you before he died. Why, you've played with it since you were as small as Rosa (talking more to herself) and this is lovelier by far than my other one. (she hurries out of the room so he won't see her tears) I

Lights dim

ACT 7

Parents, Carmen, Carlos...Mother is fitting on a bright colored pair of pants.

Mama: Carmen, Would you sew the jewels from your old necklace onto this shirt for Carlos?

Carlos: But where will we find a robe? That old curtain is ugly and what will I use for the bag of gold?

Curtains Close

SCENE 3

Curtains open on the bedroom where the three boys sleep. It is night and only Carlos is awake tossing and turning in his bed. Presently he sits up and looks around the room slowly. His eyes fall upon a strip of aluminum on a shelf. He lets out a long breath. Creeping out of bed he tiptoes across the room. Bending it around his head he sees it fits perfectly. He lays it on the floor and quietly reaches for a spray paint glancing furtively at his sleeping brothers. Shaking it as quietly as possible he bends to spray the strip, then returns the paint to it's place, slides the strip under his bed and with a sigh of relief goes back to his bed.

Lights come on slowly

Pablo is the first to wake up. He sits up slowly then gives a shout.

Pablo: Who?

Carlos wakes with a start

Raul: (groaning) What are you doing? What's the matter? You dreaming? Is it morning?

Pablo: Look at the floor, Raul. Have you been messing with my paint. It's all over the place!

Raul: (rubbing his sleepy eyes) Who did that?

Carlos pretends to be asleep.

Pablo: Look, Raul, there's footprints right through it. Did someone break in? Who knows I got gold paint?

Raul looks at the floor for a while then makes his way over to Carlos' bed. He jerks the covers off to reveal two rather gold feet and a frightened little boy who looks with absolute amazement at the mess on the floor. Pablo springs forward and grabs Carlos by the leg. Carlos bites him on the arm and Pablo throws him off. He falls against the shelf knocking it over and Papa comes into the room.

Papa: What's going on in here?

Silence

Papa: I asked a question!

Raul: (ashamed) A fight.

Pablo: He bit me. (points at Carlos)

Carlos: He.....

Papa: He what, Carlos?

Carlos: (takes a deep breath) I bit Pablo, Papa. I started the fight.

Pablo stares open mouthed at him. Raul starts to say something, then stops.

Papa: Carlos, you are not an animal, but a boy. No son of mine will bite his brother or anyone else. It is shameful. (he eyes the fallen shelf)

Pablo: (with downcast eyes) I shoved him away.

Papa: Hmm. I would shove him away too. And you, Raul, You did not stop this fight between brothers?

Raul: No, Papa. I am ashamed.

Papa: You should be. Never let this happen again my sons. It is like Cain and Abel. The blood of such fights cries out to heaven. (he turns to go then stops) Carlos, when I am dressed I will call you. (leaves)

Pablo: Why did you say you started the fight?

Carlos shrugs

Pablo: Why did you Carlos?

Raul: You shouldn't have lied to Papa.

Carlos: I didn't lie. (he looks down at his gold feet)

Pablo: What'd you waste the gold paint on? Why did you take it like that--all sneaking like a thief?

Carlos: I took your aluminum strip too

Pablo: (glances at the shelf) You little----

Raul: (puts his hand firmly on Pablo's arm) Carlos, you can't just help yourself to somebody's stuff, Why did you do it?

Carlos: I need a crown. Papa brought me home a paper one but a king can't wear that.

Raul: So that's it. You could have asked me for a piece of metal. You shouldn't have taken Pablo's.

Carlos: I know.

Pablo: So you're taking my rap to pay for the paint and the aluminum.

Carlos; (nods) I really did start it because I took the stuff. I'm not lying to Papa. (he looks at Raul)

Pablo: You know, Papa didn't notice the floor. You're lucky. Forget the arm. It doesn't sting anymore.

Papa: Carlos!

He drags his feet across the room and exits.

Curtains

SCENE 4

Front room again. Carlos sitting sadly. Papa comes and sits beside him.

Papa: Life isn't so easy for a king, is it Carlos.

Carlos: I don't want to be a king, Papa. I'm not going to be in that play at school.

Papa: Carlos, Those are the words of a coward. I'm learning to live with a king in my family, but I will never live with a coward. You told Mrs. Philips you would be a king, so you will be a king. Do you understand?

Carlos nods

Papa: Answer me.

Carlos: Si, Papa.

Papa: (Sighs) A king needs more things than regular people and it takes time to think about them and to work on them. Even though you are a king, you are still one of five children in my family. Even a king must be patient sometimes.

Curtains close

Family walking in front of curtain returning from church. Bells ringing. Carlos and Mother in rear. All pass by except these two.

Carlos: Mama. (tugging at Mama's coat sleeve) I asked the Nino Jesus for something today at church.

Mama: Oh, what?

Carlos: I told him I'm a king, not just a Puerto Rican boy and could he please find me a crown especially, and a robe and I should have a bag of gold to give Him. I told him the play is two days before Christmas, so he can't wait till Christmas. It is two days before Christmas, isn't it? (Mama nods) I won't worry or pester you and Papa or mess up things.

Mama: (puts her arm around him) Then we will wait and see how the Nino Jesus will do all this for you. (they walk off stage)

Scene 5

ACT 1

Curtains open to an evening in the living room. Only the parents are up.

Mama: Oh Tomas.

Papa: What's the matter my dear?

Mama: Tomas, tonight Carlos told me he prayed to the Nino Jesus when we were in church.

Papa: And you are worried about that?

Mama: No---Si---Tomas, I'm not worried about his praying; it's his prayer. He asked the Nino Jesus for a robe and a crown and a bag of gold.

Papa: And you are worried about that?

Mama: Of course I am, because he believes the Nino Jesus will bring them all to him.

Papa: (throws back his head and laughs) Oh my dear wife. First you worry about what we will dress the king in and, if that is not enough, you now want to worry about what the Nino Jesus will dress the king in. Do not worry. Our king will be a real king.

Mama: But. Tomas, this is not funny. He is serious.

Papa: (serious now) After all these years, Juanita, and you have not learned? You are worn out with wondering about this, my dear. Our son has prayed and he believes. It is simple; we too must believe. The prayers of children are from the heart. They go straight up to God's throne. Now we must wait and see what the Nino Jesus will do.

Mama: I will try, Tomas, I will try. I still have that old curtain and we could put some beads on the paper crown.

Papa: Juanita, you must stop and let God work.

Mama: (quiet a moment) Si, Tomas, you are right. Carlos has more faith than I do.

Papa: Just believe, my dear. The Nino Jesus will do the rest.

Lights dim

ACT 2

Front room. Carlos and Rosa looking at books on couch. Pablo comes out of his room.

Pablo: Carlos, Do you still want that strip of aluminum you painted gold?

Carlos: (shakes his head vehemently) No I don't need it. (looks up at Pablo searchingly) I asked the Nino Jesus for a crown. He will give it to me. And a robe and a bag of gold. (smiles)

Pablo: You serious?

Carlos nods and skips out of room. Carmen enters and Pablo tells her in undertones. One can hear the odd word-----Carmen starts to laugh.

Pablo: Don't laugh, Carmen. Our brother was dead serious.

Carmen: You mean he really thinks the Nino Jesus will do all that for him?

Pablo: Si, si.

Carmen: (thoughtful then smiles) Maybe he will, Pablo. (she exits)

Raul enters and Pablo tells him.

Raul: Our little brother, a king.

Lights dim.

ACT 3

Front room. Carmen busy flitting about, Rosa playing baby Jesus with her doll, Carlos hurrying to the window all the time. Papa is reading and Mama is cleaning. Mailman comes to the door and Carlos hurries to open the door but he has only one card.

Carlos: Isn't there anything more, senior?

Mailman: That's it chiquito, you'll have to wait for Christmas Eve.

Carlos: But it will be too late.

Mailman smiles and closes the door: Adios.

Carlos: Papa, do you think the Nino Jesus will forget that today is my play?

Papa: Of course not. He knows everything. Why do you ask, Carlos?

Carlos: The mail came but there was no package for me.

Papa: (laughing) Carlos, Carlos. The Nino Jesus does not need mailmen. He has angels.

Carlos: (smiles assured) I'm going out to play. (lights dim)

ACT 4

Family meal

Raul: Are you scared, Carlos?

Carlos: (loudly) NO!

Carmen and Pablo look all excited about their evening activities.

Papa says grace and they eat, talking among themselves.

Carmen: Papa, may I go get ready now. I'll have to run over to Tia Maria's right after supper. One thing still needed adjusting. (After Papa nods in agreement for her to leave she gives Carlos a playful nudge and goes to her room)

Pablo: May I be excused too, Papa. I can't be late. (he leaves for his room)

Family members leave table, Carlos prances off to his room, Papa relaxes on couch while Mama clears the table. She looks unhappy.

Papa: My dear, why is your heart so heavy when we go to see our king in a play tonight?

Mama: Tomas, Don't you know why? It is for Carmen and Pablo that I weep in my heart. They do not even look guilty or embarrassed that they are not coming with us.

Papa: Dearest, you were once their age. Sometimes the whole world was only as big as 'Me' when I was 11 or 13. I noticed they didn't talk as much about the party or the hockey game this last week. You must also see that as a little sign of a growing heart. It is small, si, but it is a bud. And now it is our job to help it flower. The lily does not grow overnight. It takes time, Juanita. Now dry your eyes and do not let Carlos see your sadness. He is too happy to be down hearted about Carmen and Pablo.

Mama dries her eyes on her apron just as Carlos bounds into the room dressed in his king pants and shirt, eyes aglow. Mama claps her hands and hugs him. Carmen slips in.

Carmen: Goodbye, be a good king, little brother. Sing one verse of your song for me.

Carlos: Are you coming with Tia Maria?

Carmen: (flustered) Tia Maria might be coming. (leaves hurriedly)

Raul enters from bedroom putting his jacket on.

Raul: Mama, I have to run an errand quick before the play.

Mama: Raul, do you have to go now.

Raul: Si, Mama.

Mama: Don't be late. We'll save you a seat.

Carlos: Can we go Mama? Is it time?

Mama: Soon, Carlos. Maybe you could read a story to Rosa while you wait.

Carlos: I'll tell her about our play.

Pablo: (rushing through) Bye, Papa. Bye Mama.

They look puzzled but he's out the door before they can speak.

Mama: That's nice he dresses tidily for a hockey game. (she leaves to get ready)

A few minutes later Papa sticks his head into their bedroom.

Papa: Are you ready? (he smiles a compliment) Let's go! (opens the door and bows grandly. They all giggle) Curtains

Family walks across front of stage. Derek, dressed as a king, dashes past:

Derek: Where's your crown, Carlos?

Carlos: It's coming, Derek.

SCENE 6

Curtain open on classroom. Mrs. Philips is doing last minute adjustments on costumes. Children talking quietly.

Mrs. Philips: Feliz Navidad, Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez.

Papa and Mama: Feliz Navidad, Mrs. Philips.

Mrs. Philips takes Carlos by the shoulders, steering him over to his chair.

Mrs. Philips: Come, Carlos. The rest of your costume is on your chair.

Carlos walks over wide-eyed. On his chair lies a real crown, a golden net bag filled with gold pieces, and draped over his chair a king's robe, glittery and shiny. In awe he picks up the bag and clinks the coins then runs his hand over the gown.

Carlos: The Nino Jesus.

Mrs. Philips: What Carlos?

Carlos: The Nino Jesus gave this to me----and Carmen.

Mrs. Philips: And your two big brothers.

Carlos looks up at her questioningly. His parents and Rosa walk up to him. Papa falls on his knees beside his son.

Papa: Your prayer, my son, the Nino Jesus heard and answered.

Carlos: Si, Papa. It is a gift from the Nino Jesus. And Carmen, Papa. This robe is the dress you brought her for the party.

Papa reverently feels the robe.

Mrs. Philips: Your biggest brother brought the crown. He came first, Carlos and asked me where your place was. Here try it on. It looks as if a real king gave it to him.

By now all the children in the room are watching with big eyes. Carlos touches the crown tentatively.

Mrs. Philips: Go ahead.

Carlos carefully places the crown on his head and grins. Papa drapes the gown over his shoulders and ceremoniously presents him with the gold.

Rosa: (awed) Is Carlos a real king now, Mama?

Mama: Si, si. He is a real king Rosa. He is the king who follows the star to the Nino Jesus.

Mrs. Philips: Perhaps you should find some good seats, Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez. It is nearly time to begin.

Papa: Thank you, Mrs. Philips. Sing so loudly my little king that Tio Fernando in ----- will hear you.

They leave classroom and the curtains close. They make their way toward audience looking for a place to sit. Raul waves from the front row and there beside him are Carmen, Pablo and Tia Maria. (The next lines should be spoken into the microphone as the actors have their backs to the audience)

Raul: Man, you're late. It was tough saving two seats down here in front. I had to say 'no' to a couple old grandfathers. I felt like an ogre.

Carmen: Did he like it? Was he surprised? It was really hard to keep acting like I was going to that party. Tonight I nearly blew the whole thing when Carlos asked if I was bringing Tia Maria.

Papa: So, my son, something is greater than hockey?

Pablo: Si, Papa.

Papa: Did you make that gold?

Pablo: Si, Papa. An old onion bag sprayed with gold and Carlos' golden strip of aluminum. Raul taught me to die cut circles at his shop.

Papa: You should have seen his face. Well you will. There's never been a happier king.

Raul: Did he like the crown, Papa.

Papa: Raul, did you lift that from the museum?

Raul: (laughing) No, Papa.

Papa: His eyes danced when he saw that crown. His face when he put it on was brighter than the sun.

Scene 7

Lights on curtain dim and principal steps out in front to welcome everyone. Curtain opens and a simple nativity is played out to songs. Carlos sings his verse as if he was a real king in that long ago Bethlehem.

THE END