



# **THE TOWERING TURNIP**

## **SCRIPT PREVIEW**

*Based on the Folk Tale "The Enormous Turnip"*

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From

Magic Parrot Productions

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### **A short colourful musical play for Reception/KS1/ SEN**

Themes: "Sharing a task", "Working together", "Many hands Make Light Work," "Everyone is important", "Size Doesn't Matter".

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**SYNOPSIS:** The turnip farmer and his family plant their seeds. The birds swoop down to eat them. Luckily, the happy scarecrow is at hand to help! The rain, wind and sun help the seeds to grow. When the turnips are ripe, one of them is gigantic. It will not leave the ground! The farmer needs help from all his friends, including a tiny little mouse. This endearing story is so popular with children, and this version is perfect for lively musical assembly with a class of children.

**YOU GET: PHOTOCOPIABLE A4 SCRIPT AND CD.**

**THE CD IS DUAL FORMAT. PLAY THE MUSIC ON ANY CD PLAYER. USE YOUR COMPUTER TO PRINT OUT THE SCRIPT, SONGSHEETS (FOR OHP), FREE SHEET MUSIC AND FREE WORKSHEETS.**

**Teacher's Notes:** This play makes a very good focus for movement and drama work, culminating in a lovely 15 minute presentation for children aged 4-8 to act. For any time of year— especially suitable as a harvest festival item. Suitable for even older children with special needs or with English as an additional language. A large cast is recommended— hopefully 20 or more children, but it can be reduced to around 14 players. The script is very simple and reliant on narration, mime, movement and repetition. In fact, the play can be acted without using any of the spoken parts at all.

This script comes with a CD of music, sound effects, recorded narration and two attractive original songs. No musical ability is needed- simply play the backing tracks and sing along. (Basic melody-line sheet music is provided for the songs, if you prefer to use a pianist.) No stage is needed, and scenery is optional. No special props are needed. Costumes are easy and can be as flamboyant or as simple as you wish. Face paints or masks are recommended for the animals. The "Wind" and "Rain" could wave streamers as they dance. The "seeds" grow into "turnips" therefore they need a rolled up picture of a turnip which they display when they have "grown."

CD LISTING - DUAL FORMAT- PLAY THE MUSIC ON A CD PLAYER. PRINT OUT THE SCRIPT, OHP SONGSHEETS, SHEET MUSIC AND WORKSHEETS ON YOUR COMPUTER (PC ONLY, NOT MAC)

- TRACK 1: Birds Music (with bird effects)
- TRACK 2: Song: The Happy Scarecrow (with vocals)
- TRACK 3: Rain and Wind music (with narration)
- TRACK 4: Sun Music (with narration)
- TRACK 5: Song: "Let's All Work Together" (with vocals)
- TRACK 6: Birds Music (Same as Track 1)
- TRACK 7: Song: "The Happy Scarecrow" (backing track- no vocals)
- TRACK 8: Rain and Wind Music (as Track 3 but no narration)
- TRACK 9: Sun Music (without vocals) (as Track 4 but no narration)
- TRACK 10: Song: "Let's All Work Together" (backing track- no vocals)

**Cast:**

- Farmer ..... Farmer's Wife.....
- Farmer's Son, .....Farmer's Daughter .....
- Crow .....Other Birds.....
- Scarecrow .....Seeds.....
- Wind..... Rain .....
- Sun.....Dog(s).....
- Rabbit.....Cat(s).....Mouse/Mice.....

**THE TOWERING TURNIP**

*(Children playing the parts of "Seeds" are scattered onstage with their backs to the audience, curled up as tightly as possible. Each of the seeds has a rolled-up turnip picture which is displayed later. One of the pictures is especially big to represent the giant turnip. )*

**Narrator:** Once upon a time, there was an old farmer and his family. **(Enter farmer, wife, and daughter. Greet audience.)** They grew turnips for a living. The winter was over and they were busy planting turnip seeds. **(Actions)** When they had finished sowing the seeds, they went indoors for lunch.

**Farmer:** What shall we have for lunch my dear?

**Wife:** Bread and cheese! But now we have planted the turnip seeds, we will soon have your favourite- turnip soup!

**Daughter:** It was hard work planting those seeds! Come on! Let's go and have our lunch. **(Exit all)**

**Narrator** Some birds watched the farmer go indoors! They flew into the turnip patch and started to gobble up the seeds. They squabbled and squawked! Round and round they flew, picking up the seeds in their greedy little beaks!

**\*\*\*\* CD TRACK 1 Bird Song (Crow and other Birds enter, flying around and squawking) \*\*\*\***

**Narrator:** The farmer saw the birds from his window. The farmer and his family were angry to see the birds eating the precious seeds they had planted.

**Farmer's Son: (at side of stage)** Father! All our hard work was wasted! The birds are eating all the turnip seeds!

**Farmer's Wife: (at side of stage)** Those birds are so cheeky! They 're pulling faces at us! **(Actions)**

**Daughter: (at side of stage)** Shoo! Shoo! Stop eating all our seeds!

**Narrator (to audience)** Oh dear! Look, everybody! The birds are eating all the seeds! What can the farmer do about it? Any ideas? **(take suggestions)**

**Narrator:** Thank you for your good ideas. Watch and see what the farmer actually did! First of all, he sent his cat(s) to chase the birds away!

**(ENTER CAT. CAT STALKS THE BIRDS SEVERAL TIMES, BUT THEY DODGE THE CAT )**

**Farmer's Wife:** Poor old puss! The birds are too quick for him! **(EXIT CAT)**

**Farmer:** Don't worry! I know what to do!

**Narrator:** He sent his son to fetch a scarecrow. **(Enter farmer's son with scarecrow)** The tatty old scarecrow was dressed in rags. He was all floppy! He was falling to bits!

**Farmer's Son:** This old scarecrow will scare the birds away! If we let them eat the seeds, there will be no turnips to sell at the market. Do your job, scarecrow! **(Exit Farmer's Son)**

**Crow: (to scarecrow)** Who are you? You *are* a funny looking little man! **(Crow pulls a face.)**

**Scarecrow: (Waves arms and says "boo" loudly. Crow retires.)** Hah! That scared him off!

**\*\*\*\*\* CD TRACK 2: The Happy Scarecrow \*\*\*\*\***  
*(Birds circle the scarecrow warily during the song and exit during the final chorus)*

*Standing tall in the field there was a happy scarecrow!  
Scaring birds without a word in his tatty clothes!  
Standing tall in the field there was a happy scarecrow  
Make of sticks, stuffed with straw, a carrot for a nose!  
He was in the field all day and he really liked to play!  
He flapped his arms in the wind to scare the birds away!  
He was in the field all day and he really liked to play! He scared the birds away!*

*La La La, La La La, what a happy scarecrow! La La La, La La la, in his tatty clothes!  
La La La, La La La, What a happy scarecrow. La La La, La La La, a carrot for a nose!  
He was in the field all day and he really liked to play!  
He flapped his arms in the wind to scare the birds away!  
He was in the field all day and he really liked to play! He scared the birds away!*

**END OF FREE SCRIPT PREVIEW**