

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Bumper Harvest

This versatile collection contains three excellent mini-musicals, specially written for use as a Harvest presentation, or as part of a Harvest Festival service. The wonderfully fresh interpretations of The Little Red Hen, The Enormous Turnip and The Gingerbread Man may be performed independently (approx 15 mins. each), but are written with a linking device (opening and closing conversation between two farmers and two children) to offer a longer 'Bumper Harvest' show, ideal if you want to involve more than one class. (Duration approx 35 mins to perform two, and 50 mins to perform all three.)

Included on the CDs are:

CD 1 (audio CD)

- Song demonstrations

CD 2 (audio/data enhanced CD)

- Instrumental backings
- Photocopiable pupil scripts, lyrics and programme templates
- 'Thought For The Day'
- Harvest dance choreography
- Read-aloud stories
- Three colouring sheets
- Three recipes
- Powerpoint presentation information
- Licence application forms

Summary, Cast Lists and Props

Two children offer to help the farmers with their harvest. They understand that help is needed at the harvest because they know a story about that...

1. THE LITTLE RED HEN

The hard-working red hen lives on a farm. When she finds a sack of wheat seeds, she asks her friends the cat, the dog and the duck to help her plant them - but they're too lazy, so she does the work herself. After the wheat has grown, she asks her friends to help her harvest the crop, but again they're too lazy and she does it all alone. Finally she asks if they might help her bake the bread, and again they refuse - although, they're all very keen to eat the loaf that she has made! In the end she does share her bread with them, but only after they have learned a very important lesson.

CAST

Farmer 1, 2	Small speaking parts at the beginning and end of the story
Child 1, 2	" " " "
Narrator 1, 2	Tell the story throughout (Option: Child 1/2 could act as narrators)
Little Red Hen	Speaking and solo singing
Dog	Speaking part
Cat	Speaking part
Duck	Speaking part
Miller	Very small non-speaking part
Chorus	Any number, dressed in autumn colours, or as farm workers, animals, etc.
Dancers (optional)	For 'Turn, Turn'

PROPS - *Offstage for the Little Red Hen to collect: 1) small sack labelled 'SEEDS', 2) two large sacks labelled 'WHEAT' and 'FLOUR', 3) loaf of bread to share. Ideally there should be a large windmill as a backdrop.*

It's been a bumper harvest. One of the farmers is amazed at the size of his turnips! The children know a story about that....

2. THE ENORMOUS TURNIP

In the spring, a man plants some turnip seeds in his garden. One of the turnips grows much faster than the others, growing and growing until it is enormous! When the time comes to harvest this turnip, the man realises he can't pull it up on his own. The man's wife comes to help, followed by a boy, a girl, a dog and a cat, but despite their efforts the turnip remains firmly rooted. At last a tiny bit of extra strength provided by a mouse helps them to yank the enormous turnip out of the ground. Everyone enjoys a delicious harvest supper!

CAST

Farmer 1, 2	Small speaking parts at the beginning and end of the story
Child 1, 2	" " " " " " " " " "
Narrator 1, 2	Tell the story throughout (Option: Child 1/2 could act as narrators)
Man	Speaking and solo singing
Woman	Speaking and group singing
Enormous Turnip (opt.)	Child in padded turnip coloured costume with leafy headgear
Turnip Holders	Non-speaking, children to pull up turnips from earth bed
Boy, Girl, Dog, Cat	Speaking and group singing
Mouse	Speaking and solo singing
Chorus	Any number, dressed in autumn colours, or as farm workers, animals, etc.
Dancers (optional)	For 'Harvest Home'

PROPS - a brown blanket to represent earth-bed, in which cardboard turnips are hidden, and under which a child dressed in padded turnip costume hides until he/she 'grows' (or one cardboard turnip could simply be much bigger).

The farmers are happy with the bumper crop of wheat and think of things to be made with it. The children ask if they can make a gingerbread man: they know a story about that!

3. THE GINGERBREAD MAN

A little old woman makes a gingerbread man out of flour from the harvest. As it bakes, she is amazed to hear a tiny voice coming from inside the oven, calling to be let out! As soon as the oven door is open, the gingerbread man jumps out and runs away! He is chased by the little old woman, her husband, a cow and a horse - but he keeps on running and manages to escape from them all. When he reaches a river that he can't cross, a cunning fox offers to carry him on his back. Half way across the river, the fox tosses the gingerbread man up into the air, so he falls down into the fox's open mouth and is gobbled up! The fox is still rubbing his tummy when all the others arrive - disappointed that they can't eat the gingerbread man. Fortunately, it was such a good harvest that there is plenty of flour left over, and everyone sets about making more gingerbread men!

CAST

Farmer 1, 2	Small speaking parts at the beginning and end of the story
Child 1, 2	" " " " "
Narrator 1, 2	Tell the story throughout (Option: Child 1/2 could act as narrators)
Old Woman	Speaking and solo singing
Old Man	Speaking and solo singing
Gingerbread Man	Speaking and solo singing
Cow	Speaking, opt. solo singing
Horse	Speaking, opt. solo singing
Fox	Speaking, opt. solo singing
Chorus	Any number, dressed in autumn colours, or as farm workers, animals, etc.
Dancers (optional)	For 'Harvest Home'

PROPS - table, recipe book, mixing bowl, wooden spoon, rolling pin, oven gloves. There should be an 'oven' upstage, big enough for the Gingerbread Man to hide behind, ideally with a door that opens.

DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

The Little Red Hen

Incidental Music - ALL GOOD GIFTS AROUND US

⦿ Track 1

Two children offer to help the farmers with their harvest. They understand that help is needed at the harvest because they know a story about that: 'The Little Red Hen!' While the farmers and children go off to bring in the harvest, everyone tells the story.

Song - ONCE UPON A TIME

⦿ Track 2

The Little Red Hen has an idea. She will plant some seeds and watch them grow. She asks Dog, Cat and Duck for help, but they can't be bothered. The Little Red Hen is sad.

Song - HELP ME PLANT THE SEEDS

⦿ Track 3

Song - NOBODY WANTS TO HELP ME (Seeds)

⦿ Track 4

The Little Red Hen plants her seeds by herself, and watches her seeds growing.

Song - FIRST THE LITTLE ROOTS GROW

⦿ Track 5

Soon it's time to harvest the crop of wheat and The Little Red Hen asks Dog, Cat and Duck to help her, but once again they refuse.

Song - HELP ME CUT THE WHEAT

⦿ Track 6

Song - NOBODY WANTS TO HELP ME (Wheat)

⦿ Track 7

The Little Red Hen harvests the wheat on her own, sad that nobody wants to help her. When the wheat is harvested Little Red Hen has to take it to the mill to be ground into flour. Still the other creatures won't help her. She watches the windmill sails turning.

Song - TURN, TURN,

⦿ Track 8

Next The Little Red Hen wants to make some bread with her newly ground flour but lazy Dog, Cat and Duck still refuse to help, and she makes the bread by herself.

Song - LITTLE RED HEN SHE MIXED THE FLOUR

⦿ Track 9

When the bread is cooked Dog, Cat and Duck are all very keen to help eat it!

Song - HELP ME EAT THE BREAD

⦿ Track 10

The animals didn't deserve to eat the bread, but they suddenly realise that they should have helped The Little Red Hen with the sowing, harvesting and baking. Because they say sorry the kind-hearted hen shares her loaf with them. Everyone celebrates Harvest with a song.

Song - SUMMER, AUTUMN, WINTER, SPRING

⦿ Track 11

The Enormous Turnip

Incidental Music - ALL GOOD GIFTS AROUND US

⦿ Track 1

It's been a bumper harvest. One of the farmers is amazed at the size of his turnips! The children know a story about that: 'The Enormous Turnip!' Everyone tells the story. A man and his wife are in their garden, trying to decide what vegetables to plant.

Song - IT'S SPRINGTIME AGAIN

⦿ Track 12

The man decides he will plant turnips.

Song - GETTING BUSY

⦿ Track 13

The turnips grow quickly but one grows faster than the others, and is much bigger.

Song - OH WHAT A WHOPPER!

⦿ Track 14

Soon it is time for the man to pull up the enormous turnip, but even though he pulls with all his might it won't come up. He calls for help. In turn a boy, a girl, a dog and a cat come to help, but they still can't pull it up. Only when a tiny mouse adds his little bit of strength does the turnip come out of the ground at last.

Song - GOTTA GET HELP

⦿ Track 15

The wife says she will cook the turnip dinner for all the animals that helped.

Song - TURNIP FOR BREAKFAST

Everyone celebrates Harvest.

⊙ Track 16

Dance - HARVEST HOME (optional)

Song - SUMMER, AUTUMN, WINTER, SPRING (if ending here)

⊙ Track 17

⊙ Track 11

The Gingerbread Man

Incidental Music - ALL GOOD GIFTS AROUND US

Two farmers are discussing what they will be able to make with all the flour they have from their bumper harvest. The children ask if they can make a gingerbread man, as they know a story about that: 'The Gingerbread Man'! Everyone tells the story.

⊙ Track 1

Once upon a time a little old woman and a little old man lived in a windmill. After the harvest they always had flour to spare, and one year the little old woman decided to use the flour to make a gingerbread man.

Song - I SHALL MAKE A GINGERBREAD MAN

After she'd made him, she put the gingerbread man in the oven to bake.

⊙ Track 18

Song - PUT HIM IN THE OVEN

When she went to the oven to see if the gingerbread man was cooked she heard a tiny voice from inside the oven. It was the gingerbread man, calling to be let out.

⊙ Track 19

Song - LET HIM OUT!

When the little old woman opened the oven door, the gingerbread man jumped out and ran away! The old man and the old woman chased the gingerbread man, but they couldn't catch him. He met a cow and a horse who tried to catch him too, but he just ran on and on until he came to a river and could go no further.

⊙ Track 20

Song - RUN! RUN! RUN!

At the river, he met a sly fox, who offered him a lift across the water. On the way across, the fox threw his passenger into the air, caught him in his mouth and gobbled him up!

⊙ Track 21

Song - JUMP UPON MY TAIL

That was the end of the gingerbread man. The little old woman, the little old man, the cow and the horse arrived to see Foxy rubbing his tummy. They were very disappointed, because they wanted to eat a gingerbread man! The little old woman realised there was plenty of flour to make lots more gingerbread men.

⊙ Track 22

Song - I SHALL MAKE A GINGERBREAD MAN (Reprise)

The two farmers discuss all the ingredients needed to make a gingerbread man. The children want to know where all these things come from.

⊙ Track 23

Song - DOES EVERYBODY KNOW?

Everyone celebrates Harvest.

⊙ Track 24

Dance - HARVEST HOME (optional)

Song - SUMMER, AUTUMN, WINTER, SPRING

⊙ Track 17

⊙ Track 11