

Script extract The Great Big Enormous Turnip

Story Man: *(He is flustered and worried. Large sized 'words' – i.e. like flash cards – are slipping out of the book and some are pinned to his clothing. He is trying hard to retrieve them)* oops. Oh come back here. Oh no. That's another one gone *(ad lib.)* Hallo everyone - how do you do.

Audience and Turnips: How do you do?

Story Man: I expect you've come to hear the story?

Audience : Yes!

Turnip 1: *(Taking it out of his hands with a flourish)* He's got the book!

All Turnips: *(Going away with book, put on floor, crowd around it)* Aaaaaar!

Story Man: Oh dear. Oh no. I say, come back with the book please. There's a little problem here. All the words are slipping out of it – *(grabbing for word pinned to his back)* What a calamity! I'm going to lose them all. *(To Turnips, who are looking at book)* That book's no good you know - we have to put the words back into it.

Turnip 4: Us can't read words

Turnip 5: The picture's what we like!

(All Turnips continue to look at book)

Story Man: Well that's no good. That's no good at all. We have to have the words so I can read the story. Now let me see. What is this one here? *(Finds card saying Granddaughter)* *(To audience, indicating Turnips)* You see they don't understand. Can you tell them what this word is?

Audience: Granddaughter!

Turnip 1: *(Miming Granddaughter)* Do that be the little one like this?

Audience: Yes!

Story Man: And what's this one on the floor here? Oh I see. It's a small word this time

Audience: Cat! Cat!

Turnip 2: *(Doing cat actions)* You mean that ole pussier cat like that?

Audience: Yes!

Story Man: Now there's two here that seem to go together. What could they be?

Audience: Grandfather! Grandmother!

Turnip 3: *(Doing Grandfather actions)* I know that old geezer

Turnip 4: *(Doing Grandmother actions)* And I know that old gal

Story Man: Now what's this? Oops, I had it upside down. Who can this be?

Audience: Grandson

Turnip 5: That be a terrible boy. Football mad, he be!

Story Man: These seem to be the last two. This is another very short word

Audience: Dog! Dog!

Turnip 6: Wuff! Wuff wuff wuff!

Story Man: – and this is a bit longer.....

Audience: Mouse!

Turnip 7: Eeeek!!

Story Man: (*Taking back the book*) Oh that's better. Now the words are all in the right places again. Thank you for your help, everyone. At last, I can read the story.

(*To Turnips*) Are you ready now?

All Turnips: (*Run to places on blocks, then:*) We's ready right away, Mr Story Man.

MUSIC CUE COME ALONG

All Characters and Turnips: (*Sing*)

Come along

Sing a song

Tell a story -not too long

Come along - sing a song

Tell a story too.

A tale of -

Turnips - turnips -

Turnips for the stew

Turnips - turnips -

And the one that grew.

Come along

Sing a song

Tell a story - not too long

Come along - sing a song

Tell a story too.

Storyteller: Now let me see. Are all the people in the story here?

(*Characters wave, nod.*)

Storyteller: Good. (*He turns to audience*) Are all the children who are going

to listen here?

(Audience respond - we hope!)

Storyteller: Right. Then I'll begin. Long ago in a little cottage on the top of a tall hill there lived:

Storyteller: A grandfather

Grandfather: How de do?

Storyteller: A Grandmother

Grandmother: How de do my dearies?

Storyteller: A Granddaughter - now where has she gone?

Granddaughter: I'm up here, everybody!

Storyteller: A Grandson -

Grandson: Hi guys!

Storyteller: A great big dog -

Dog: Wuff wuff!

Storyteller: A big, lazy Pussycat -

Cat: Miaow!

Storyteller: And somewhere, but nobody knows exactly where, a little, shy mouse. There he goes!

MUSIC CUE MOUSE RUNNING

(Mouse runs across stage and hides under Storyteller's chair.)

Storyteller: Now. Are you ready, Grandfather?

Grandfather: Right away there, boy!

MUSIC CUE GRANDFATHER'S SONG

Grandfather: *(Sings)*

My name is Grandfather John

I go to sleep with my boots on

I put my pipe beside my bed

And keep my hat on my head

And when the sun awakes

I go to work with my spade and rake

And sow the seeds of every kind

And watch them grow

Grandfather John.