

# Character List

<b>NARRATOR(S)</b>	A large speaking part that is suitable for an adult/older child or could be split between a group of children.
<b>FARMYARD ANIMALS</b>	Non-speaking, although they need to make their respective animal noises. Have as many as you like to create a busy farm. At least two cows, pigs, horses, sheep, ducks and chickens would be great and can include Cuddles, Einstein, the Chilly Chickens and the Party Pigs.
<b>APPLE THE PONY</b>	The main character. She has a large speaking part with 20 very short lines to deliver and lots of acting to do when she is not speaking. A confident child with some acting skills would be perfect for this role.
<b>CUDDLES</b>	A very grumpy sheep with a large speaking part. He needs a good frown!
<b>EINSTEIN</b>	The brainy cow has six short lines to deliver. She should be confident.
<b>BUSTER</b>	The very excitable, energetic puppy has a few short lines and needs to run around crazily with a good howl – aa-woo!
<b>CHILLY CHICKENS</b>	Have as many as you like. There are a few short lines for four, but the lines could be split between up to 16 children with one line each.
<b>PARTY PIGS</b>	Have as many crazy Party Pigs as you like! There are a few short lines for four of the pigs, but the lines could be split between up to 16 children with one line each.
<b>GOAT</b>	A laidback kind of guy. He needs to speak slowly and lazily.
<b>FARM FAMILY</b>	Have as many as you like to come on at the end of each season to present the Seasonal Food Raps. There are two lines each for Mr Farmer, Mrs Farmer and two farm children.
<b>SCHOOLCHILDREN</b>	Have as many as you like to splash around in the April showers in their coats and wellies. Two have two tiny lines to deliver.
<b>OAK TREE</b>	A non-speaking part, the oak tree is on stage throughout the play, dressed in various things to depict the different seasons. Can be played by a child or could be a large cardboard tree.
<b>AUTUMN LEAVES</b>	Non-speaking. The autumn leaves crowd around the oak tree and fly around in the wind as they fall off the tree, playing with the hat. They can double up as the buds and green leaves.
<b>SNOWFLAKES</b>	Non-speaking, but they have their own Snowflake Music to dance to at the beginning of winter. They could double up as the schoolchildren by adding coats and wellies to their costumes.
<b>BUDS/GREEN LEAVES</b>	Non-speaking, but they can grow and reveal their flowers during Song 4. They can then become the green leaves on the oak tree.
<b>BLOSSOM TREES</b>	Optional, non-speaking roles for two or three children.

# Costumes & Props

**Apple:** she could just be dressed all in pale brown with a tail and ears. She needs a sunhat that she finds lying in her paddock at the beginning of the story.

**Cuddles:** he needs an extra woolly winter fleece to put on over his costume for the winter and a raincoat for the spring. He needs a hat box for Apple at the end and a present of flip-flops.

**Einstein:** she needs a notepad, pencil, tape measure, calculator and binoculars.

**Buster:** he needs a newspaper hat to keep the rain off.

**Chilly Chickens:** one or two chickens could set the winter scene and bring on a Christmas tree or a snowman. They need to bring on a large box with 'WARM STUFF' written on the front of it that's full of hats, scarves, gloves, a tea cosy or two and 'hot' water bottles.

**Party Pigs:** dressed in pink with curly tails, Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses, beachballs and rubber rings etc. One pig needs to give Apple and Cuddles plastic cups with umbrellas and straws in.

**Schoolchildren:** they need colourful raincoats and wellies and an extra raincoat to give to Apple.

**Blossom trees:** they could be dressed all in brown with pink or white pom-poms on their tops and sleeves and perhaps a hat covered in pom-poms too.

**Farm Family:** farmyard clothes with aprons around them, with the addition of Christmas aprons or jumpers for the winter. They need wooden spoons, mixing bowls, empty jam jars, whisks and teaspoons to use as percussion during their *Seasonal Food Raps*.

**Oak tree:** if you are using a child for this role, they should be dressed all in brown to represent the trunk of the tree. He/she needs to have an autumnal garland for the autumn and a green-leaf garland for the spring and summer. These are also needed if you are using a cardboard tree.

**Buds/green leaves/autumn leaves:** the buds and green leaves should be dressed all in green and the autumn leaves can wear a mixture of browns, oranges and reds. The buds need to hold a flower in each hand to reveal during Song 4.

# Staging & Percussion

We suggest that a simple backdrop of rolling hills would be very effective for this musical. There are 20 speaking parts, which can easily be increased if the narrator's lines are split between several children and the chickens' and pigs' lines are split between more than 8 children (up to 32). The speaking parts can be reduced to 15 by having just 2 chickens, 2 pigs and a teacher taking the narrator's part. There are also some essential non-speaking parts (at least two autumn leaves, two buds/green leaves and two snowflakes, although some of these could double up).



We have suggested some simple percussion sound effects to depict various things that happen during the play and to give musical variety and involvement. These are indicated by this drum SFX icon throughout the script.