

Script & Song Lyrics

The oak tree and autumn leaves come on stage, setting the scene. The leaves stand around the tree as if growing from its branches and the tree is festooned with an autumnal-looking garland. All the animals (or a few of each type of animal) come on stage with the narrator.



Shake tambourines as the animals come on to the stage.

Song 1. WELCOME TO OUR FARM

CD track 1/11

CHORUS *Welcome, welcome to our farm,
It's a busy, busy, busy, busy place to be!
Welcome, welcome to our farm,
Come and take a tour with me.*

1. Meet the cows, (Moo!)
Meet the pigs, (Oink!)
And the horses in the paddock go
Neigh, neigh, neigh!
Meet the sheep, (Baa!)
Meet the ducks, (Quack!)
And the chickens go
Cluck, cluck, cluck!

CHORUS

2. *Repeat Verse 1*

CHORUS

(Faster)
*MOO, MOO, OINK, OINK, OINK,
NEIGH, NEIGH, BAA, BAA,
QUACK, QUACK, CLUCK!*
(Even faster)
*MOO, MOO, OINK, OINK, OINK,
NEIGH, NEIGH, BAA, BAA,
QUACK, QUACK, CLUCK!**

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** If you are working with very young children who find the fast ending too fast, let them just have fun making a loud cacophony of animal noises instead to give the impression of a loud, busy farm.*

NARRATOR

Welcome to Great Oak Farm. Mind your step, it's a busy, bustly sort of a place. There's lots of noise and lots of comings and goings, not to mention lots and lots of farmyard folk.

The animals make their respective animal noises. The narrator(s) covers ears. They quieten down. Apple the pony trots on to the stage and waves at her farmyard friends who wave back and then leave the stage.

NARRATOR On the farm lived a young pony called Apple. One day she was trotting happily around her paddock when she came across something rather unexpected.

On the ground there is a hat. It is very clearly a sunhat, although this isn't directly mentioned until the end of the play.

APPLE Oh!

NARRATOR There lying in the dewy grass was a hat. Not any old hat, mind. In fact, it was the most magnificent hat that Apple had ever laid eyes on.

Apple picks up the hat and looks at it. She strokes her jaw and frowns. She looks left and right.

NARRATOR But who did it belong to? There didn't appear to be any hatless people around. Clearly this was a lost hat.

APPLE How sad.

NARRATOR But then...

Apple's face lights up as the idea occurs to her. She lifts a finger to her head and makes the noise of having an idea.

APPLE Ting!

Apple puts on the hat and turns around proudly.

NARRATOR Apple couldn't wait to wear the hat and wore it the very next day. However, it turned out to be a little more blustery than usual.



Play some glissandi on a few glockenspiels and get the other children to do some 'whoosh' or 'shhh' sounds with their mouths.

Two or three autumn leaves 'fall' from the oak tree and flutter around Apple, taking off her hat. They could either throw the hat to one another or dance around with it before putting it on the floor. Apple prances after the leaves trying to 'catch' her hat, but every time she picks it up and puts in on her head, one of the leaves whisks it away again.

NARRATOR Whoosh went the wind, blasting her hat clean off. Up and up it flew, all the way to the top of the oak tree where it stayed.

The leaves give the hat to the oak tree who holds the hat up high. The autumn leaves who have danced with the hat scatter and tumble away. There are plenty more autumn leaves still on the tree though and the hat nestles in between them (this can be done with children or the hat can be caught up in the autumnal garland).

Cuddles the sheep comes on, arms crossed and frowning. Apple jumps up and down trying to reach her hat.

CUDDLES It's no use.

NARRATOR It was Cuddles the sheep. Now, most sheep are cosy, friendly creatures. Let's face it, they're huggers.

CUDDLES *(Grumpily)* Pah!

Cuddles looks particularly miffed at this and stamps his foot.

NARRATOR But not this sheep. Infact, Cuddles was as prickly as a hedgehog eating nettle sandwiches.

APPLE Good morning, Cuddles.

CUDDLES Is it really?

NARRATOR Apple thought it was a very good morning, if a little windy, and with the golden sunshine and copper-coloured leaves, it could have been the perfect day.

Apple sighs contentedly.

NARRATOR If only she hadn't lost her hat up the tree. However would she get it down?

APPLE What a to-do!

NARRATOR It was far too high up to reach and ponies, as you know, aren't known for their tree-climbing abilities. Then she had it! If she stood on Cuddles' shoulders then maybe, just maybe, she could reach her hat.

CUDDLES No chance!

NARRATOR Maybe not. Luckily for Apple, and for that matter Cuddles (who really did not want an entire pony standing on his shoulders), Einstein the cow appeared.

Einstein comes on stage looking thoughtful.

NARRATOR Now, cows are very deep thinkers. Chewing the cud all day gives them time to ponder life's big questions such as: how do you measure the universe? And is a Jaffa Cake a cake or a biscuit? Einstein was a brainy sort of cow with an IQ in the region of around three trillion and three. If anyone could figure out how to get her hat back, it would be Einstein, so Apple explained while the cow listened closely.

Apple pretends to talk to Einstein during the narration.

EINSTEIN *(Thoughtfully)* Hmmm.

Einstein strokes her jaw and looks at the hat in the tree. She gets out her notepad and pencil, measures the distance in strides to the tree, holds out a tape measure and taps on a calculator.

NARRATOR Einstein pondered and pondered. She stroked her jaw and scratched her head. A million calculations bubbled in her brain.

Einstein takes out some binoculars and peers through them at the hat.

EINSTEIN Hmmm.

CUDDLES In your own time.

NARRATOR Finally Einstein had the solution. It appeared that Apple's hat was most definitely...

EINSTEIN A hat.

NARRATOR Getting it back would be simple enough, said Einstein. All Apple needed was a little time and a little gravity. It was simple physics.

EINSTEIN *(Pointing around her)* Because autumn is here!

They all look around.

NARRATOR Einstein explained that if Apple just waited a few days, the leaves holding her hat in place would fall to the ground. Apple was overjoyed at the news!

Apple jumps up and down with glee.



Play percussion during the following song on all the words in capitals. Use a glockenspiel glissando for the whoosh, drums for the bangs and stamps, and a shaken tambourine or guiro for each crunch.

Song 2. THE LOVELY SOUNDS OF AUTUMN

CD track 2/12

1. Autumn, there's a crunch in all the leaves,
Autumn, there are conkers in the trees,
Autumn, when the fireworks WHOOSH,
BANG, BANG, BANG,
The lovely sounds of autumn.
Autumn, when the leaves are falling down,
Autumn, when they pile up on the ground
And we CRUNCH, CRUNCH,
STAMP, STAMP, STAMP,
The lovely sounds of autumn.
2. *Repeat Verse 1*

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NARRATOR Apple decided that perhaps autumn wasn't the right time of year to wear her new hat. It was far too blowy.

APPLE

I'll wait until next season.

The rest of the autumn leaves fall away and go offstage and the autumnal garland is removed, leaving the oak tree bare. Apple's hat 'falls' to the ground, she picks it up and hugs it to her chest before exiting the stage with Cuddles.

The Farm Family come on dressed in farmyard clothes, wearing aprons and carrying mixing bowls, empty jam jars, wooden spoons, whisks and teaspoons. They use their utensils as percussion during their Seasonal Food Raps about the food they're making at particular times of the year.

SEASONAL FOOD RAP (AUTUMN)**CD track 7/17****Verse 1**

1. It's autumn, it's autumn,
There's lots to cook and eat,
We're mixing, we're stirring,
To make a great big feast.
(Spoken)
Jams and chutneys,
Pumpkin soup,
Apple pie and
Nice warm stew.

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The Farm Family exit and a winter scene is set – maybe a snowman or two, with hats and scarves on, some holly or perhaps a Christmas tree in the corner. Snowflakes flutter on to dance to the Snowflake Music.

SNOWFLAKE MUSIC**CD track 18**

After the snowflakes have danced, the Chilly Chickens come bustling on, flapping their wings. They huddle together, shivering. A box is brought on with 'WARM STUFF' written on it, full of hats, scarves, gloves and 'hot' water bottles.

ALL CHICKENS

Cluck, cluck, cluck.

CHICKEN 1

Brrr.

CHICKEN 2

My feathers are frosty.

CHICKEN 3

My beak needs de-icing.

CHICKEN 4

My claws are numb.

CHICKEN 1

(Panicking) Oh no! Oh NO! I can't feel my fingers!

CHICKEN 2

You don't have fingers.

CHICKEN 1

(Relieved) Oh yeah!