

# THE SONFLOWER

<b>CAST</b>	<b>PERFORMER</b>	<b>CAST</b>	<b>PERFORMER</b>
The Sonflower.....		Narrator 9	.....
Teacher	.....	Narrator 10	.....
Mr Loveall	.....	Narrator 11	.....
Boy 1	.....	Narrator 12	.....
Boy 2	.....	Narrator 13	.....
Girl 1	.....	Narrator 14	.....
Girl 2	.....	Narrator 15	.....
Child 1	.....	Narrator 16	.....
Child 2	.....	Narrator 17	.....
Child 3	.....	Narrator 18	.....
Child 4	.....	Narrator 19	.....
Hurt child	.....	Narrator 20	.....
Blind child	.....	Narrator 21	.....
Spike	.....	Narrator 22	.....
Narrator 1	.....	Dancer 1	.....
Narrator 2	.....	Dancer 2	.....
Narrator 3	.....	Dancer 3	.....
Narrator 4	.....	Dancer 4	.....
Narrator 5	.....	Dancer 5	.....
Narrator 6	.....	Dancer 6	.....
Narrator 7	.....	Dancer 7	.....
Narrator 8	.....	Dancer 8	.....

A pupil or member of staff could read all the narration parts to provide greater continuity.

## THE SONFLOWER

- Teacher: OK, OK settle down you guys. Now today we are going to be thinking about Easter. Can anyone tell me why we celebrate Easter and what it's all about?
- Boy 1: *(Boy puts hand up)* Easter eggs Miss, I had five last year - all that lovely chocolate!!
- Teacher: Yes. I think we all like chocolate, some of us a little too much!  
*(Teacher rubs her tummy)*
- Girl 1: *(Girl puts hand up. Teacher points for a response.)* I had a box of chocolates last year Miss. They were all shaped like Easter Bunnies.
- Girl 2: Well, mine had a fluffy little chick sitting on the top of my egg.
- Boy 2: A fluffy little chick? How 'egg citing' not!!!! My egg came in a big box with Dr Who and the Daleks on the front.
- Teacher: Thank you children *(said assertively)*. All this talk about chocolate is making my tummy rumble. But Easter isn't about chocolate. To help us discover the true meaning of Easter we are going to watch a DVD of a parable. Can anybody tell me what a parable is? *(Teacher looks around but there is no response from the children.)* Well I'll tell you then. A parable is when we tell a story to illustrate a truth. The parable we are going to watch today is called 'The Sonflower'.  
  
*(Teacher reaches for the remote control and points it towards the stage. Lights dim and action begins.)*
- Narrator 1: One day an old man appeared from his potting shed, his name was Mr Loveall. He had been a park keeper for many years and was very experienced at gardening and looking after all sorts of plants and flowers.
- Narrator 2: His potting shed was full of flowerpots and bags of compost and a selection of different seeds of all shapes and sizes. But this day was to be different from all the others. He sniffed the air then looked to the earth beneath his feet and said ...
- Mr Loveall: Today's the day that I shall plant the most precious seed that I possess.
- Narrator 3: He put his hand in his top pocket and pulled out a very special seed - one that he had always kept close to his heart. Then he walked to the top of his garden and with his stick made a hole in the rich soil that he had previously prepared.
- Mr Loveall: *(Holds the seed in the palm of his hand)*. Today little seed you must be planted deep into the soil for this is your purpose, that life, beauty and colour would spring out of the darkness.
- Narrator 4: Mr Loveall dropped the seed into the earth and pushed the soil down around it. The seed was now buried into the darkness of the earth and there it lay silent for many days.
- Narrator 5: Each day, faithfully, the gardener would walk to the top of his garden and water the soil where his seed had been planted. Some days the sun would beam down upon the garden and warm the earth with its radiance.

Narrator 6: Other days the rain would shower down upon the garden and moisten the soil. Mr Loveall waited. The days turned into weeks, one week, two weeks. Then Mr Loveall's face lit up with joy.

Mr Loveall: Yes! At last! A healthy young shoot has appeared!

Narrator 7: He just had to tell someone his wonderful news. He rushed into the street where some local children were playing.

Mr Loveall: Hey kids, come and see, my very special seed has started to grow.

**SONG 1: WHAT IS THIS SEED?** *(CD tracks 1/7)*

Narrator 8: As spring slowly turned to summer Mr Loveall would be outside at the top of his garden every morning, measuring his prize possession. The children would also watch as the stem grew taller and taller day by day.

Narrator 9: More and more leaves covered the hairy stem. It became obvious that this was no ordinary plant.

*(Mr Loveall measures the stem, children count.)*

Children: 1 metre, 2 metres, 3metres!

Narrator 10: The sunflower was now over 3 metres tall. Its bright yellow petals slowly opened to reveal the head of the most perfect and beautiful sunflower ever seen.

Child 1: Wow! I've never seen a flower so tall and beautiful.

Child 2: And look at its large heart-shaped leaves that stretch out so wide.

Child 3: And just look at the face. It looks as if it's made out of hundreds and hundreds of seeds.

Child 1: Look at the centre of the flower. I can see a face. I think it's looking at us.

Child 2: I can see a large round shape at the centre; it looks like a picture of the whole world.

Narrator 11: Mr Loveall looked on from a distance and smiled as he saw the reaction of the children. As the warm summer days passed by, news of the sunflower started to spread throughout the village. Children would come and stare open-mouthed at its size, beauty and colour.

**SONG 2: COME AND GAZE ON THE SUNFLOWER** *(CD tracks 2/8)*

Child 4: Quick! Come and help. My friend has fallen over and has grazed her knees and elbows. She seems in a lot of pain.

Mr Loveall: Go, help her up quickly and bring her to the sunflower.

*(Children rush over to where she has fallen and pick her up and help her to limp towards the*

*sunflower.)*

Mr Loveall: Now stretch out your hand my dear and touch the stem.

*(She slowly stretches out her hand.)*

Hurt child: I don't believe it! All the pain has gone and I can walk and run!

*(Everybody cheers)*

Narrator 12: News about the sunflower travelled fast. It wasn't long before a boy who had been blind from birth heard about the little girl's pain disappearing.

*(Children lead in blind child.)*

Blind child: Lead me towards the sunflower, the one everyone is talking about, that I may touch the stem.

*(The children lead him in then he reaches out and touches the stem.  
He starts to rub his eyes.)*

Blind Child: I can see! I can see! For the first time ever I can see the flower with its bright yellow petals. I can see blue sky and green grass. Thank you, sunflower, thank you!

Narrator 13: What an amazing day! But the joy of the occasion was not to last. Spike, the town bully, had heard about the sunflower and was planning to pay it a personal visit.

Child 4: Look out everyone, here comes Spike! Quick, run and hide.

*(Children run and hide around the garden. Spike walks on stage with a stick in his hand.)*

Spike: Right, what is all this flower power nonsense that everyone is talking about? Let's see if this weed has the power to survive my stick! *(Spike walks up to sunflower and raises his stick.)* All this fuss about a stupid plant. I'll give these kids something to talk about!!

Narrator 14: But as Spike looked into the face of the sunflower he saw a reflection of his own face looking back at him, and for the first time began to feel the bullying, pain and torment that he had inflicted on so many others. He cried out tormented by the images he could see in the sunflower.

*(Spike falls to his knees.)*

Spike: Ahhhhh! Stop it! Leave me alone! Please no more! Oh sunflower, I have hurt so many people and now I can feel their pain. All my friends have left me and now I feel so alone. Could anyone ever love me? I'm sorry for wanting to destroy something so beautiful and I am so sorry for the fear and pain that I have caused to so many. Please forgive me. Please?

*(Mr Loveall comes out from hiding and puts his hand on Spike's his shoulder. Village children come out of hiding and put their arms around Spike and walk off stage. The sunflower is left alone.)*

Narrator 15: The sunflower changed the children's lives in so many ways that summer.

Mr Loveall gazed upon his precious sunflower one more time and slowly walked away.

Narrator 16: But now something was different; there was a look of sadness in his eyes that had not been there before. The warm summer breeze had changed to an autumn chill and dark menacing clouds were gathering in the distance.

**SONG 3: SEE THE STORM CLOUDS** *(CD tracks 3/9)*

Narrator 17: The sunflower had stood against the buffeting of the storm all night long and now it stood scarred, beaten and lifeless. The sunflower looked around hoping to catch a glimpse of the loving gardener who had planted him into the earth.

Narrator 18: But Mr Loveall couldn't bear to watch. The sunflower bowed his head for one last time and fell to the earth.

*(Children come out to bury the sunflower as they sing the song. The sunflower could hide behind prop.)*

**SONG 4: HERE IN THIS PLACE** *(CD tracks 4/10)*

*(Children walk off stage, stage goes dark.)*

Narrator 19: The sunflower that had brought so much joy and happiness to so many now lay dead and buried in the earth. Summer changed to autumn and leaves from the trees fell to the earth below. The garden became barren and lifeless.

Narrator 20: Autumn changed to winter, which shrouded the garden with a blanket of white snow. Winter changed to spring but whatever the weather would bring Mr Loveall would faithfully walk to the top of his garden every morning and say:-

Mr Loveall: *(1st time speak to the ground)*  
The life is in the seed. The life is in the seed.  
But first the seed must fall and die for new life to proceed.  
*(Then repeat the phrase to the audience.)*

Narrator 21: Three seasons had come and gone, but this time there was boldness in Mr Loveall's voice. He was shouting so loud that children from the village could hear him. They ran to the garden to see what was going on.

*(Children join hands with Mr Loveall and join in the rhyme.)*

Mr Loveall & Children: The life is in the seed. The life is in the seed.  
But first the seed must fall and die for new life to proceed.

*(Little sunflowers walk to back centre stage and crouch down while children chant the rhyme. Mr Loveall and the children look around and walk to each side of the stage, amazed at what they see.)*

Narrator 22: Something miraculous was happening. New life was rising from the earth in the very same soil where the sunflower had once been buried.

**SONG 5: RESURRECTION SONG** *(CD tracks 5/11)*