**VERONICA:** Once there was a cow and her name was Daisy.

*Daisy comes on stage and stands in the centre, waving.*

**VERONICA:** She lived with all her cow friends and they all got along splendidly.

*The other cows come on to the stage and they nod and smile to one another.*

**Song 1. IT’S A LOVELY DAY!**

**PETER** The hill that the cows lived on was wide, green and grassy, which, if you are a cow, is the very best sort of hill to live on. It was called Grassy Hill.

**FAITH:** Grassy Hill is the best.

**MAX:** Home sweet home.

**PETER:** Now, Daisy was a very happy cow, but lately she had begun to wonder whether there was more to life than just grass.

*Daisy strokes her jaw and looks thoughtful.*

**PETER** For example, what did they have for breakfast?

**DAISY** Grass.

**VERONICA:** What did they have for lunch?

**DAISY** Grass.

**EABHA:** What did they have for supper?

**DAISY** Chocolate pudding.

*The cows stop and gasp in amazement.*

**JOSHUA:** Chocolate…

**ISOBEL:** … pudding?

*Daisy shakes her head and slaps her forehead.*

**DAISY** No, not really. It was grass.

*The cows shake their heads.*

**JENNY** Every Monday morning Daisy went to market to trade the cows’ milk for seeds to grow more… can you guess?

**FAITH:** Grass.

*The cows rub their tummies and lick their lips.*

**ISOBEL:** Yummy scrummy grass.

**DAISY:** I have a secret though. I have a dream. One day I want to grow something more than grass. I want to grow flowers and plants and trees and fruit and vegetables and everything.

*The plants come on stage and circle around Daisy. They all smile at each other.*

**PETER:** She wanted to grow a garden all of her own.

*The plants go off stage and leave Daisy alone. It is only make-believe.*

**JENNY:** But she knew it could only ever be make-believe. Her fellow cows would never approve and nor would Mr Bull who was in charge.

*Mr Bull stomps on stage. He stamps his foot and clenches his fists and looks very grumpy.*

**EABHA** And you didn’t want to make Mr Bull angry.

**Song 2. DON’T MESS WITH MR BULL!**

**MR BULL** Grrr!

**ISOBEL:** Calm down, Mr Bull.

**PRECIOUS:** Supper time!

*Cow 4 hands Mr Bull a lunchbox with ‘Grass’ written on it. He opens it and grins.*

**MR BULL** My favourite.

*Mr Bull munches away. He is happy… for now. The cows shake their heads. Daisy approaches the other cows who give her a milk pail.*

**MAX** *(Giving Daisy the milk pail)*Be good at market Daisy.

**FAITH:** Do **not** buy magic beans.

**JOSHUA:** Magic beans are banned.

**ISOBEL:** We don’t want another ‘incident’.

**VERONICA:** No, they didn’t want another pesky magic beanstalk growing out of the top of their hill like the last time. That giant at the top of it had made Mr Bull very grumpy.

**MR BULL** Giant? Where?

*They all shake their heads.*

**ISOBEL:** Calm down, Mr Bull. No giants today.

**MR BULL** Humph.

*Mr Bull stomps off .*

**ALL** Phew!

**EABHA:** So Daisy went off to the local market carrying her pail of milk.

*Daisy waves to all her cow friends and skips off. The cows wave and then leave. The market sellers come on stage carrying their wares, including the seed seller and the plants, who should be*

*gathered around him.*

**ETHAN** Fresh fruit and veg.

**JAKE** Pastries.

**MILLIE** Perfume.

**DAVID** Silk.

**ALEJANDRO** Rare trinkets.

**ETHAN** Gold and silver.

**JAKE:** Flea market this way. Half-price fleas!

**Song 3. COME TO MY STALL**

**EABHA** Daisy squeezed her way through the bustling market. There was much to turn a young cow’s head.

*Daisy stops at the seed seller’s stall. He has lots of packets of seeds in boxes and a few plants. He*

*beckons to Daisy.*

**AIDAN:** Magic beans, my dear?

**DAISY** Oh no!

**EABHA:** Daisy remembered what the cows back home had told her. She must buy grass seed. Only grass seed. But she was very tempted by everything around her.

*The seed seller gestures to all the seeds he has. The following song could be sung by just the seed seller and other market sellers if you have enough of them. Daisy shouldn’t sing, but should look at the seed seller during the song in wonder with a big smile on her face, thinking dreamily of the garden that she longs to grow.*

**Song 4. LITTLE SEEDS, BIG SEEDS**

**VERONICA:** The seed seller sold vegetable seeds, fruit seeds, flower seeds, large

ones, small ones, teeny tiny ones, slow-growing ones, fast-growing ones, seeds for formal gardens, informal gardens, cottage gardens, grassy hill gardens…

**AIDAN:** And cress. Very popular is cress.

*Daisy squeezes her eyes and clenches her fists.*

**DAISY** Only grass seed, thank you.

*The seed seller shrugs and hands Daisy a bag with ‘Finest Grass Seed’ written on it in return for Daisy’s milk pail. Daisy breathes a huge sigh of relief as she goes.*

**DAISY** Phew! I am very pleased with myself for having been so good. That cress really had sounded tempting. It would have been a lovely addition to my garden. Or rather, my make-believe garden. *Daisy nods sadly.*

**PETER** It was then that it happened.

*Daisy looks at the ground, rubs her eyes and looks again. She gasps, takes a step back and points.*

**DAISY** Oh, what’s this?

*Daisy picks up the seed.*

**EABHA:** Daisy stopped for a minute and had a little think. Would it be wrong to take the little seed back to Grassy Hill and plant it? The other cows had said not to *buy* any unusual seeds, but they hadn’t said anything about *finding* unusual seeds, had they? It was meant to be.

*Daisy examines the seed in the palm of her hand. Then she puts it in her pocket and skips away.*

**PETER** As soon as she got back home to Grassy Hill, Daisy found a quiet spot and planted her mystery seed.

*Daisy gets a spade and digs and plants the seed. She pats the ground and stands and says ‘shhh’ to where she’s planted the seed.*

**DAISY** It’ll be my little secret!

*Daisy takes an empty pail and covers the area with it and nods, satisfied. She does not water it.*

**VERONICA:** So that the seed would remain hidden, she covered it up with an empty milk pail. Now all she had to do was wait. Time passed and the grass on Grassy Hill grew and grew. Every morning Daisy woke at dawn and rushed to see whether her seed had grown, but every morning she was disappointed.

*Daisy lifts the pail, examines the ground, shakes her head and sighs.*

**PETER:** Then one evening the Wise Old Owl of the forest came by.

*Wise Old Owl comes on stage with spectacles and a book tucked under his wing.*

**WISE OLD OWL** Why are you sad, Daisy Cow?

**DAISY** Well I found a seed and I planted it right here under this milk pail but… nothing is happening.

**WISE OLD OWL:** Hmm, I’m something of an expert in gardening you know…I have green talons.

*Daisy lifts the pail and both peer at the empty spot. She shakes her head sadly. Wise Old Owl throws his arms up.*

**WISE OLD OWL** No wonder! Time for a gardening lesson.

**Song 5. IT CAN’T DO IT ON ITS OWN**

**WISE OLD OWL:** You see Daisy, to germinate, the seed needs not only to be covered in warm soil, but it needs…Water.

*Wise Old Owl hands Daisy a watering can. Daisy waters the spot.*

*She then goes to cover the seed with the pail, but Owl wags his finger and shakes his head and takes the pail away. He gestures to the sky.*

**WISE OLD OWL** Sunlight too.

*Wise Old Owl leaves.*

**JENNY** Daisy took Wise Old Owl’s advice. She no longer hid the little seed in darkness, but watered it every day.

*Daisy sits next to the seed. Then she gets a pillow, lies down next to it and goes to sleep.*

**JENNY** Once again she waited patiently, then one morning…

*Daisy wakes up, yawns and stretches. Sunflower comes on, dressed all in green with no yellow petals as yet. Sunflower crouches on the ground next to Daisy. Daisy sees the green shoot and gasps in amazement.*

**DAISY** Wow!

*Sunflower shoots up one arm. Daisy runs and waters it. Another arm shoots up. As the narrator talks, Sunflower slowly stands up, ‘growing’.*

**JENNY** Every night, Daisy slept by her secret plant and every morning it had grown some more. Before long it was getting quite big.

*The cows wander on. Daisy is asleep next to Sunflower. The cows start mooing in alarm and pointing, waking Daisy up.*

**FAITH** Panic stations!

**PRECIOUS** That’s not grass!

**MAX** It’s a… a… beanstalk.

**ISOBEL** Beanstalk alert!

*Mr Bull comes charging on.*

**MR BULL** Did somebody say beanstalk?

**JOSHUA** *(Pointing)* It’s growing in our lovely grass.

**FAITH** It’s growing in our supper!

**JENNY** It was mayhem.

*Mr Bull rolls up his sleeves and raises his fists in the air. The cows flap their ‘hands’, moo and run around on the spot.*

**JENNY** The cows mooed at the top of their udders and ran around Grassy Hill in a tizzy. Mr Bull got ready to fight the giant. Daisy tried to explain, but everyone was too busy panicking to listen. Luckily, just at that moment Wise Old Owl appeared. The hullabaloo had interrupted his power nap.

*Wise Old Owl appears, yawning. The cows are still running around.*

**WISE OLD OWL** What’s all this?

*Everyone stops what they’re doing.*

**ISOBEL** Beanstalk alert!

**PRECIOUS** Code red!

**MR BULL** *(Looking up to the sky above Sunflower with fists raised)* Come on Giant, I’m ready for you!

*Wise Old Owl sighs.*

**WISE OLD OWL** Calm down all of you.

**PETER** Wise Old Owl reassured them all that the plant growing on Grassy Hill was most definitely not a beanstalk.

**ALL** Phew!

**JOSHUA** Is it grass?

*Wise Old Owl rolls his eyes.*

**WISE OLD OWL** No.

**MAX** Is it a flower?

**FAITH** Is it a tomato plant?

**PRECIOUS** Is it a dinosaur?

*They all groan and shake their heads. Cow 2 shrugs.*

**WISE OLD OWL** Let’s wait and see.

*Wise Old Owl and the cows leave. Daisy stays and waters her plant. It begins to grow even more. Mr*

*Bull stays looking grumpy. He sits a little away from Sunflower, waiting for the giant. He holds up a placard that says ‘No Giants Allowed’.*

**PETER** The days went by and spring turned into summer. The plant grew and grew into…

*Sunflower stands completely upright and puts on her yellow headdress/crown of the sunflower costume and stretches.*

**DAISY** …a beautiful sunflower!

**SUNFLOWER** It’s nice to meet you.

*Sunflower and Daisy shake hands. The cows come on hesitantly, not wanting to go too close.*

**EABHA** The cows were still a bit nervous about it growing in their supper, but had to admit that it was slightly prettier than grass.

**ISOBEL** Only slightly.

**EABHA** Suddenly they had lots of new and exciting visitors to Grassy Hill who came to say hello to Sunflower.

*Bugs, bees, birds, butterflies and ladybirds fly on during the introduction music and see Sunflower and wave. Sunflower waves back. The cows and Sunflower should be one side of the stage and when the creatures have stopped flying about, they should be on the other side of the stage. One side could sing the first line of the song, then the other side could sing the second line to help with the breathing. During the chorus, the creatures should sing the first ‘Hello!’ and then the cows and Sunflower should respond. The creatures then sing the rest of the chorus. Mr Bull continues to sit to the side holding his placard, not joining in.*

**Song 6. WONDERFUL WILDLIFE**

**EABHA** Mr Bull eventually stopped waiting for the giant to appear.

**MR BULL** Humph. *Mr Bull puts his placard away.*

**JENNY** Gradually the cows got used to the sunflower and admitted that it was good to have it growing on Grassy Hill.

**ISOBEL** It really cheers the place up.

**JOSHUA** And it’s good for the environment.

**VERONICA** Even Mr Bull was won over in the end.

**MR BULL** It brings a tear to my eye.

**DAISY** *(Looking on the ground next to Sunflower)* Oh, what’s this?

*DAISY picks up a golden leaf from the ground and examines it.*

**MAX** The first autumn leaf.

*They all cross their arms, look up at the sky, shiver and leave (except for Sunflower). Sunflower shivers and wilts, bending over. Daisy hurries on with her watering can.*

**DAISY** Oh no, what now?

**PRECIOUS** Call for Doctor Cow.

**DAISY** Call for Doctor Cow.

*The rest of the cows come on and gather round. Doctor Cow runs on carrying a medical bag. He takes out his stethoscope and listens to Sunflower, then shakes his head sadly.*

**SUNFLOWER** My time in the sun is over.

**DAISY** Don’t go Sunflower.

**MR BULL** *(Dabbing his eyes)* I need a box of tissues.

**SUNFLOWER** Don’t worry Daisy cow. I’m not going, not really. I will leave you all something to remember me by.

*The birds and squirrels come on and run around Sunflower in excitement, pointing and looking. The squirrels sniff the air. Sunflower gives them her seeds. They leave and the cows come over. They all huddle around Sunflower who curls back down into the ground. All the cows stand in front of Sunflower, blocking her from the audience. Daisy stands centre stage, frowning and shaking her head. Wise Old Owl comes over.*

**WISE OLD OWL** Don’t worry, soon you’ll see, Daisy.

*He pats Daisy on the shoulder and leaves the stage.*

**PETER** Before long it was spring again.

*The other sunflowers join Sunflower and curl up on the ground behind the cows. As the cows move to one side the sunflowers all spring up.*

**DAISY** It’s amazing!Sunflower has left seeds – lots and lots of sunflower seeds.

**CARA** Thank you Sunflower.

**GRACE** Your sunflower seeds were yummy.

**JAMIE** And thank you for all the nectar and pollen you gave us.

**CONOR** Look at all the honey we made!

*The bees hold up their pots of honey.*

**PETER** As for the rest of the seeds, they had all grown into beautiful, tall sunflowers that dazzled all the inhabitants of Grassy Hill.

**DAISY** Sunflowers. Lots of lovely sunflowers.

*They all wave at the sunflowers who wave back. All of the ladybirds, bees, bugs, birds and butterflies come back on stage along with Wise Old Owl. The plants for Daisy’s garden come on*

*stage and stand with the sunflowers. The seed seller comes on and sells Daisy more packets of seeds whilst the narration below is going on.*

**VERONICA** So that year and all the years that followed, Daisy grew more sunflowers and not only sunflowers, but lots of other green things too until she and all her cow friends had a very special garden of their own full of flowers, trees, fruit, vegetables and shrubs, but most importantly, grass.

**ALL** Lots and lots of grass!

**Song 7. WE SOWED A SEED**