



Cast



Narrator 1



Mr. Hoppy



Mrs. Silver



Narrator 2

Work with the children to allocate characters and prepare a short performance. Discuss the stage directions in advance and make sure the children understand how to follow the script.

Narrator 1:

Mr. Hoppy lived alone. Only two things were important to him.

Narrator 2:

The first thing was the flowers which grew on his balcony. The second thing was Mrs. Silver.

Narrator 1:

Mrs. Silver was a very nice woman who lived below Mr. Hoppy's flat. They spoke every morning.

Narrator 2:

Like Mr. Hoppy, she lived alone. Every day, Mr. Hoppy thought:

Mr. Hoppy:

I will invite her up for a cup of tea today.

Narrator 1:

But he was never brave enough.

Narrator 2:

There was another problem, too. Mrs. Silver had a small tortoise called Alfie, and she gave all her love to him.

Narrator 1:

One morning, Mr. Hoppy called:

Mr. Hoppy:

Good morning, Mrs. Silver. How is Alfie today?

Mrs. Silver:

I'm worried about him, Mr. Hoppy. I weighed him when he first came to me 11 years ago. He was 10 ounces then, and he's only 13 ounces now. I want him to grow.

- Narrator 2:** Suddenly, Mr. Hoppy had an idea.
- Mr. Hoppy:** Mrs. Silver, I think that I can help. Wait there.
I need to write something for you.

(Mr. Hoppy goes into his flat.)
- Narrator 1:** Mr. Hoppy came back on to his balcony with a piece of paper. He lowered it down to Mrs. Silver.
- Mrs. Silver:** *(Reading the note)* ESIO TROT, ESIO TROT, WORG!
WORG! What DOES it mean?
- Mr. Hoppy:** It's tortoise language. Tortoises can only understand backwards words. It means:
TORTOISE, TORTOISE, GROW! GROW!
Say these words to Alfie three times a day, and he will get bigger.
- Mrs. Silver:** Mr. Hoppy, if this helps, you will be my best friend in the world!
- Narrator 2:** Back in his flat, Mr. Hoppy thought of her words, and he did a little dance.
- Narrator 1:** For the next two days, Mr. Hoppy went to every pet shop in the city.
- Narrator 2:** He bought more than a hundred tortoises. They were all bigger than Alfie.
- Narrator 1:** Then, he made a clever tool. He called it a tortoise-catcher.
- Narrator 2:** Mrs. Silver went out at about two o'clock.
Mr. Hoppy went out on to his balcony with the tortoise-catcher.
- Narrator 1:** He lowered his tool down on to Mrs. Silver's balcony, and he carefully pulled Alfie up.

- Narrator 2:** Mr. Hoppy looked for a tortoise that weighed 15 ounces. He found one that looked the same as Alfie but was 2 ounces bigger. He lowered it carefully on to Mrs. Silver's balcony.
- Narrator 1:** Mrs. Silver came home, and she said to the tortoise, "ESIO TROT, ESIO TROT, WORG! WORG!"
- Mr. Hoppy:** How is Alfie tonight, Mrs. Silver?
- Mrs. Silver:** Oh, he is wonderful!
- Narrator 2:** After that, Mr. Hoppy changed Mrs. Silver's tortoise every week.
- Narrator 1:** The next week, he changed it for a tortoise that weighed 17 ounces.
Then, one that weighed 19 ounces . . .
21 ounces . . .
23 ounces . . .
25 ounces . . .
and finally, a 27-ounce tortoise!
- Mrs. Silver:** Look, Mr. Hoppy! Alfie can't go into his house. He's too big!
- Mr. Hoppy:** Weigh him, Mrs. Silver.
- Mrs. Silver:** 27 ounces! Clever Mr. Hoppy!