



Hope for the Future

A play for Harvest time

This mini-play can be performed in a church service or perhaps a school assembly. You can run it as part of your Harvest celebration, and even charge parents to come and watch.

The play is easy to run as it is all done by miming, so there are no lines to learn. The narrator tells the whole story so everyone can easily remember what happens next because they just follow the narration.

You can start by making our vegetable headbands to use in the play. You may wish to use Beatrice's story materials, which are also available for download.

It needs a small team of actors who will have to rehearse it a little beforehand:

- Narrator
- Beatrice
- At least 2 children
- Man (or woman)
- Villagers
- Plants (children wearing vegetable headbands; starting off crouching down)
- 'Hope' the Cow (two children – wearing black and white)
- Members of the audience should also be dressed up in vegetable headbands

Props

Vegetable headbands (download from website)

1 carrot / other vegetables

2 buckets

Cloth cowpats

Brown paper for compost

The Narrator should read slowly to allow time for all the actions.

Some of the stage directions are marked in brown, but it has been left flexible so that you can run it as you wish. Enjoy the show!

Hope for the Future

Narrator: Beatrice is a mother who looks after 7 children in the African country of Uganda. A few years ago they were very poor, and the children did not have enough food to eat.

Beatrice and children enter, looking sad, and mime the actions to the story below

They had a small field where they grew crops. But it's really hot as it so close to the equator, so they could not grow much food, even though they worked hard.

The plants stand and wither

So they were all hungry, all of the time. The family lived in a little house where the roof leaked and they got cold and wet. They had no money, so that meant no good clothes, no shoes and no beds!

One day, Beatrice went into the field and pulled up just one carrot from the ground.

A plant with a carrot headband on passes over a single carrot

It was all they had. So she cooked it carefully, and all of the children had a little bite, but of course, they were still hungry.

The next day there was so little food to eat that she had to decide which of her children could have a proper meal.

One child eats, the others turn away looking rejected

The children were very thin, and they couldn't go to school because the family didn't have any money to pay for the school books. They had to stay at home and help dig their field.

Beatrice and her family were really sad, and they didn't know what to do - life was very tough for them.



Send a Cow, The Old Estate Yard, Newton St Loe, Bath BA2 9BR
Tel: (01225) 874 222 Email: info@sendacow.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 299717



Then one day a man came and knocked on the door. He said, "I've come from a charity called Send a Cow. The people in your village are very poor and we'd like to help you."

Man/woman enters with a handshake and a smile

Over the next few days, the man from Send a Cow showed Beatrice and the other people in their village how to make compost, use manure on crops and build special gardens called Bag and Keyhole gardens.

He also gave the family some seeds to grow in their field, and they planted them.

Some more Plants come on the stage, crouching, with their headbands on

The family got to work making compost, building their gardens and watering the plants.

Children water the plants, they start to grow by standing up

And then an amazing thing happened. The plants all started to grow really well. The children fed them with compost, which helped the plants grow even stronger.

Children add brown paper 'compost' to the plants

The children went and picked vegetables from the plants and the family all had food to eat!

Children go up to plants and are handed actual vegetables, or the headband shapes

Beatrice's family were all very happy, but they were still poor as the food was just enough to eat, but there wasn't enough to sell.



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The man from Send a Cow came back. He saw how well they were doing but also how many children there were to feed. So he told them that if they built a cow shelter and grew some food for a cow then he would show them how to look after it!

The family were really, really happy and got straight to work building their shelter and planting food for the cow.

Soon the cow arrived and they all had a celebration!

Cow enters, dancing

They named their cow 'Hope' as the family now had hope for the future that things would be better.

Beatrice milked the cow and gave it to the children – who were all very pleased. They soon became much healthier. There was also some milk left over that they could sell, so some of the children went to the market to sell it.



Two children go off stage carrying buckets

Hope the cow didn't only give them milk, she also gave them lots of lovely manure which they put on the plants – helping them grow even more!

Children place cloth cowpats onto the head of anyone in the audience who is wearing a vegetable headband. When the manure is added, they stand up so that a huge harvest of crops appears!

So their field suddenly gave them lots and lots more fruit and vegetables! They had a fantastic harvest, with loads of healthy food to eat. There were potatoes and carrots and tomatoes and onions and cabbages and leeks and all sorts of other crops. The children could go out and pick food for every mealtime, and no-one got hungry anymore.

Children go and 'pick' vegetables from the audience



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They sold some of the food at the market too, meaning that they had some money to spend on things that they desperately needed like clothes, medicine, a roof for their house, school books and beds.

Beatrice takes containers of milk to the Narrator, and exchanges it for some school books. She takes the books back to the children

Beatrice gave the school books to the children and they were very happy. She kissed them goodbye, and they went off to school for the first time ever! They were so happy because they had hope that things would be better from now on.



The field and their cow gave them so much food that Beatrice decided to share some with their neighbours and show them how to make compost and special gardens to help them to grow more as well.

Beatrice's family now have hope! They know that although things may be tough, the future looks good and they should never have to go hungry again!

Then they all freeze while the Narrator says...

There are lots of families all over Africa who have no hope for the future. But we can help give them that hope, just like Beatrice's family. We can raise money to give them advice, cows and seeds, so that they can have hope and

All fruit and vegetables in the audience cheer when they hear their 'name':

potatoes and leeks and tomatoes and onions and cabbages and lettuce and chillies and bananas!

All return to seats



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