

SCENE: *Mr and Mrs Jackson's Vegetable Garden*

The NARRATOR enters and stands facing the audience.

NARRATOR: The Jacksons had a vegetable patch, just behind their shed. They tended it so lovingly and always planned ahead. It fed them through the autumn, and when the springtime came, They dug it up, they fertilized it and planted seeds again.

It wasn't such a big patch but it was perfect for their needs. They paid it such attention, always pulling up the weeds. They planted sprouts, potatoes, cauliflowers and watched their veggies grow; And after all were eaten, they chose the new seeds they would sow.

One springtime, Mr Jackson was pottering in his shed, Choosing seeds for planting, just as the gardening books said. If he had only known then what trouble he would cause, He'd have brought his grub at Tescos, or the local Asda store!

The NARRATOR remains on stage. MR JACKSON enters, carrying two packets of seeds, one in each hand. He is deep in thought as he looks at them.

MR JACKSON: *(Thinking out loud)* Now then, shall I put peas or tomatoes in this little bit this year? Peas are useful for soups and with all sorts of meals, and they're yummy straight out of the pod; on the other hand, tomatoes are great in salads and for making casseroles, and there's nothing nicer to chomp on when they're fresh from the garden. Hmmm.

He holds the packets up and stands thinking again, trying to decide. Suddenly a loud voice is heard off-stage.

MRS JACKSON: *(Shrieking loudly off-stage)* Brian! Cup of tea made for you!

MR JACKSON jumps violently, the seed packets fly out of his hands and the seeds spill all over the ground.

MR JACKSON: Aaah! Oh, bother! I'll just try and... *(He tries to pick up the packets and scoop up the seeds, but only makes things worse)* Oh, well, peas AND tomatoes it is, then.

MR JACKSON exits.

NARRATOR: The seeds were scattered carelessly across the muddy ground.
Sometimes the rain fell on them, sometimes the sun shone down.
The seeds began to germinate and they very slowly grew
Until gradually, eventually, their little heads poked through.

The NARRATOR exits. The TOMATOES and PEAS begin to enter. Each vegetable jumps in from off-stage. (TOMATO 4 and TOMATO 6 must have another TOMATO positioned between them on stage.)

TOMATO 1: Yo! Sunlight! Blimey, have I got a headache!

TOMATO 2: *(To TOMATO 1)* Me too, it was a real struggle getting through that soil, wasn't it?

TOMATO 3: *(Looks around)* Wow! This is neat. Where are we?

TOMATO 1: Dunno, looks like a nice place, though.

TOMATO 4: *(Grandly)* Okay, okay, stop panicking! I am here.

TOMATO 2: Like we care!

TOMATO 3: *(Shouting towards off-stage)* Hey! You two down there, come on up, it's lovely!

TOMATO 5: *(From off-stage)* Just five more minutes.

TOMATO 6: *(Shouting towards off-stage as she/he enters)* Come on, lazy bones. Why should you stay in the bed when we're all up! Move your body!

TOMATO 5: All right, all right. I was having a lovely dream... I dreamed I was being rolled in salad cream... and...

TOMATOES 1 & 6: *(Shouting at TOMATO 5)* Stop right there!

TOMATO 2: *(Muttering aside)* Ugh! Salad cream.

- TOMATO 3:** *(To the other TOMATOES)* What are we supposed to do now, then?
- TOMATO 6:** *(To TOMATO 3)* Don't you know?
- TOMATO 4:** *(To TOMATO 6)* If she knew, she wouldn't be asking, would she? Why do you have to be so unpleasant?
- TOMATO 6:** *(To TOMATO 4)* Because I like it.
- TOMATO 4:** *(To TOMATO 6)* That's no excuse.
- TOMATO 6:** *(To TOMATO 4)* No, but it could be considered quite a good reason.
- TOMATO 4:** *(To TOMATO 6)* If there wasn't a tomato between us, I'd... I'd...
- TOMATO 6:** *(To TOMATO 4)* Yeah? What...?
- TOMATO 4:** *(To TOMATO 6)* I'd... I'd... *(Trying hard to think of something)*
- TOMATO 1:** *(To TOMATOES 4 & 6)* Oh stop it, you two. We've only just arrived and already you're arguing - give it a rest.
- TOMATO 3:** *(Hesitantly, to the others)* So, what do we do now, then?
- TOMATO 2:** *(To TOMATO 3)* Well, we wait a little while for the sun to shine and then we...

She/he stops talking suddenly as PEA 1 enters.

PEA 1: Howdy, folks! Lovely day, isn't it?

All of the TOMATOES stare at PEA 1 with their mouths hanging open.

PEA 2: This bed's lovely - hope it's worth coming out of it!
(Noticing the tomatoes) What the... ?!

PEA 3: *(To PEA 2)* What's wrong? *(Also noticing the TOMATOES)* Oh my word! *(Shouting towards off-stage)* Hey! You lot, come up here and have a look at this!

PEAS 4, 5 & 6 enter.