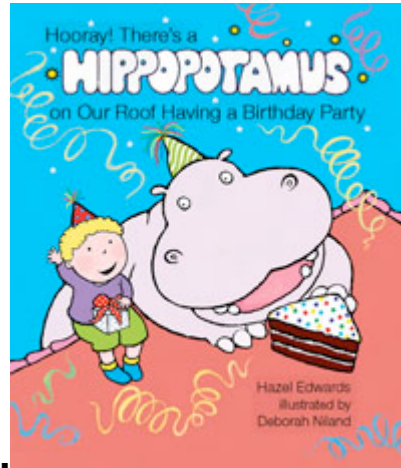


## Hooray! There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Having a Birthday Party

Classroom Performance Script Inspired by the picture book

Author: **Hazel Edwards.**



**Illustrator Deborah Niland.**

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There are two versions of performing this script:

- Classroom performance, with simple or elaborate 'dressing up' and props and chorus roles and techie crews, so all students involved.
- Reading Theatre Script where actors wear hats or masks & sit on stools to read their parts. Each has a copy of the script, with their lines colour-coded to find easily.

Curriculum Links:

Jungle-Theme; Art & Maths Sessions

All can design & make own

- Animal masks or hats.
- Jungle birthday invitations & replies
- Cook or cut jungle food shapes (maths linked to weighing, measuring and cooking times)
- Jungle vines/streamer decorations
- Balloon animals

## **Reading Theatre Script**

Each reads from their script in a hippo book cover

### **Cast:**

1. Hippo (non- speaking part, but nods) Explorer hat & belly-dancing outfit
2. Child-Narrator (a good reader or the teacher. BIGGEST part) (monkey mask)
3. Big Sister
4. Big Brother
5. Jack (lion)
6. Grace (Bird)
7. Liam (elephant)
8. Mum
9. Grandma
10. Grandpa
11. Chorus (any number)

### **Technical Crew: Costumes, Props, SFX**

Crews of students can be 'techies' looking after sound effects (SFX) including music,

This can be a minimalist, instant production or an all school performance for Book Week or for younger Buddies.

### **Costumes:**

All students can be party guests and wear animal masks, hats  
Masks can be made in an earlier art session

Explorer hat for Hippo & bellydancing kit

### **Props:**

Party Invitation  
Jungle costumes or masks or hats/ears/tails  
Drums

### **SFX (Sound effects)**

Pre-recorded or live  
Drums (optional)  
Middle-Eastern music for Hippo belly dance.  
Happy Birthday music

**NARRATOR:** Only three sleeps to go,  
and then it's my birthday.  
There's a hippopotamus on our roof eating cake.

It's his birthday, too.

(Hippo bows)

We are going to have our party together.  
A jungle party. And all our friends can come in animal costumes.

(Hippo nods.)

**MUM**

For a birthday, we need invitations.

**SISTER;**

Let's make animal-shaped ones  
Jungle animals!

(Hippo points to himself and nods)

**NARRATOR**

My hippopotamus can help.

**BIG SISTER**

Here's the sticky-tape, glitter and paint.

**MUM**

Here's some paper.

**NARRATOR**

My big sister writes in her special, running writing.

**SISTER (reads aloud)**

*Please come to our jungle party.*

*When: Saturday 2pm*

*Where: My garden*

*Dress up as your favourite jungle animal.*

RSVP TODAY!

**CHORUS**

What does R.S.V.P. mean?

## **MUM**

It's French for answering an invitation.  
It means, respond if you please.

(Hippo nods as if he knew)

## **CHORUS**

Yes please.

We're coming to the party  
I like parties.  
I like dressing up  
I like cake.

(Hippo nods)

I like party games  
I like.... (add extras)

**BIG BROTHER** Usually I forget invitations and leave them in my school bag.

## **SISTER**

Someone else can deliver the invitations.

(Hippo nods)

**MOTHER** (to Narrator) Will you deliver the invitations?

**BIG BROTHER** Might be safer.

**SISTER:** And quicker

## **NARRATOR:**

Only two sleeps to go.  
My hippopotamus helps me deliver the invitations.

## **CHORUS**

Thank you.  
We're coming to the party  
We like parties.  
We like dressing up  
We like cake.  
Yes.  
We're coming too.

**JACK**

I want to be a lion. GRRRRR

**GRACE** (to Narrator)

What animal will you be?

**CHORUS** A monkey?

A gorilla?

An ant?

**GRACE** A **jungle bird?**

**NARRATOR**

I'm still choosing.

**GRANDMA:**

I have a dress-up box.

Let me help with your jungle-animal costume.

**GRACE**

Look at my tail! I'm a monkey.

**NARRATOR**

My hippopotamus says he likes monkeys second-best.

(Hippo nods)

**NARRATOR** Only one sleep to go.

**MUM** Want to help make the party food?

**SISTER** What shall we make?

**MUM** You choose.

**LIAM** Tiger biscuits,

**GRACE** Lion cupcakes,

**SISTER** And vegetables in animal shapes. Ant bread.

**BROTHER** Chocolate...

**MUM** Lots of mud in the jungle.

Stir the cake.

Pour it into the cake tin

Make a wish.

**CHORUS** I wish..... (add own wishes)

**NARRATOR**

There's a muddy Hippopotamus on our roof licking mud cake from a bowl

**MUM** Time to decorate the party space

**DAD:** I'll clear up a bit first.

**GRANDPA**

Let's hang jungle vines on the walls and doors

**BROTHER:** What about balloons?

**DAD** Try blowing these up.

**CHORUS** (blow up balloons)

Puff

Puff

Puff

**NARRATOR**

I wish I could blow up a balloon.

My Hippopotamus can blow up balloons so they are really BIG.

(Hippo mimes)

**NARRATOR**

No more sleeps to go. It's our birthday!

**SFX**

Knock.

Knock.

Knock.

**NARRATOR**

My friends are here. Hello Jack.

**JACK** I'm a lion. Grrrrrr

**GRACE:** I can fly and dance

I'm a jungle bird.

**LIAM:** I've got a long, long trunk.

Guess what I am?

**SISTER:** An elephant?

(Other guests say who they are)

**CHORUS:** I'm a.

**NARRATOR:**

Look.

There's a hippopotamus on our roof dressed up as an explorer.

**BIG SISTER**

Let's make animal masks for those who want one.

I'll help you. Here are the paper plates.

**NARRATOR**

We draw on paper plates.

We stick on feathers and fur.

Now we all have masks to wear in the jungle.

There's a Hippopotamus on our roof, covered in feathers.

(Hippo adds dancing feathers)

**DADDY:**

Our garden is a bit of a jungle  
You can play hide-and-seek there.

**BROTHER:**

I'll hide behind the biggest tree.

**LIAM:**

Found you!

**NARRATOR**

My hippopotamus is SO good at hiding. Nobody ever finds him.

(Hippo hides in various places)

**NARRATOR**

My big brother is ready to play the drums.

**SISTER:** Want to dance?

**BIG BROTHER:**

I'll play the drums.

**NARRATOR**

My friends dance, really well.

**JACK:** I can do a lion leap.

**LIAM:** I can do an elephant stomp.

**GRACE** I can do a bird dance.

**NARRATOR**

I can do the monkey swing.

And there's a hippopotamus doing a belly dance on our roof.

**SFX** Middle-Eastern music

**MUM**

Are you hungry now?

Let's go on safari and find the party food.

**SISTER**

'Look for the arrows and the footprints.'

(Hippo points out hints)

**BROTHER:** A jungle feast

**NARRATOR**



Hooray! The jungle party food looks cool.

My hippopotamus thinks so, too!

(Hippo nods and rubs tummy)

We both love the chocolate ant-bread best.

**MUM:**

Here's the birthday cake.

**SFX**

Everybody sings Happy Birthday to us.

**MUM**

Blow the candles out.

**SFX**

Puff.

Puff.

Puff.

**NARRATOR** (pointing)

There's a hippo on our roof unwrapping lots of presents.

It's the end of our party.

Hand out party bags and birthday cake to all our friends.

**DADDY** I have a special surprise.

Balloon animals for everyone to take home.

**SISTER** Some look really funny!

**CHORUS** Thankyou

It's been fun.

**NARRATOR**

We had the BEST birthday party.

Tonight, there's a Hippopotamus snoring on our roof

Only 365 sleeps till our next birthday.

*All Bow*

*Hippo was played by.....*

*Mum was played by.....*

*Dad was played by.....*

I want a hippopotamus for Christmas Only a hippopotamus will do No crocodiles or rhinoceroses I only like hippopotamuses And hippopotamuses like me, too. Mom says the hippo would eat me up But then, my teacher says a hippo is a vegetarian There's lots of room for him in our two car garage I'd feed him there and wash him there And give him his massage. I can see me now on Christmas morning Creeping down the stairs Oh, what a joy and what surprise When I open up my eyes To see my hippo hero standing there. I want a hippopotamus for Christmas Only a hippopotamus will do No crocodiles or

Hazel Eileen Edwards (OAM) (born 1945) is an Australian author who has written 200 books, including the classic children's book *There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake*, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2020 and is a short film by Pocket Bonfire Productions which toured nationally with Little Big Shots International Film Festival. Also toured nationally in 2017 as a musical 'Hippo Hippo the Musical' with Garry Ginivan Productions. Since its publication in 1980, *Hippopotamus on Our Hooray!: There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Having a Birthday Party* by Hazel Edw. C \$14.08. Buy It Now. +C \$9.32 shipping. From Australia. *A Hippopotamus Ate the Teacher* [Avon Camelot Books]. C \$4.90. Buy It Now.Â *There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake* by Hazel Edwards 2013. C \$6.10. Buy It Now.