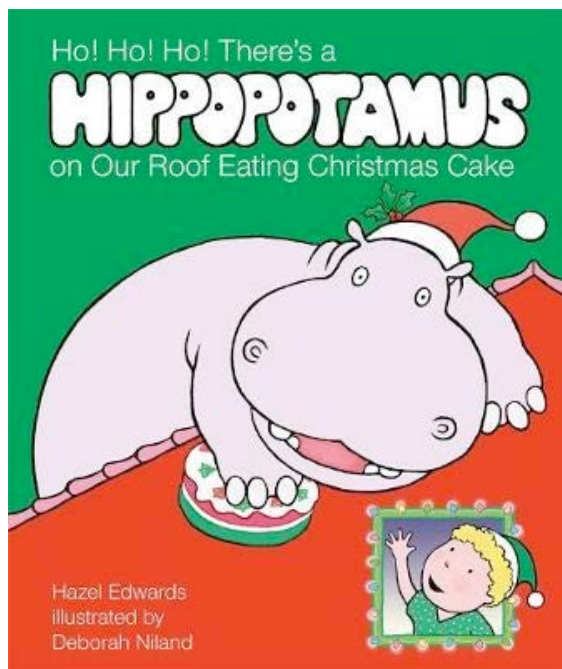


## **Ho! Ho! Ho! There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Christmas cake**

Classroom Performance Script written by Hazel Edwards and linked to her picture book text.

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<https://hazeledwards.com/picture-books.html> Resources will be added here.

- Adaptable: Instant, easy reading or an all- school- performance for Book Week , end-of-year or for younger Buddies.
- Grade 2 upwards
- CAST Min. 8 Max. unlimited with choruses.
- Choruses enable less skilled readers to take part.
- Scripts encourage literacy because there's a REASON to get the words right.

### Options:

- Reading Theatre where actors wear hats or labelled t-shirts & sit on stools. Each has their script in a hippo book cover, with their lines colour-coded to find easily.
- Classroom performance, with simple or elaborate ‘dressing up’ and props ,chorus roles and techie crews, so all students involved.

**Curriculum Links:** Like me. Belonging. Events and festivals.  
Family

Christmas -Theme; Art & Maths Sessions



\*Emphasis upon home-made gifts or decorations. Creativity as a gift.  
Design & make (or just mime)

- Elf Hats.
- Reindeer antlers
- Christmas cards
- Cooked or cut food shapes (maths linked to weighing, measuring and

cooking times).

- Decorations; streamers, chains, stars.
- Home-made gifts e.g. gingerbread, placemats, crackers

Check Deborah Niland’s illustrations for ideas.

**CAST:** (8 plus elastic choruses)

1. Hippo (non- speaking part, but nods /sings) Christmas Elf hat
2. Child-Narrator (a good reader or the teacher. BIGGEST part)
3. Sister
4. Brother
5. Mum
6. Dad
7. Grandma
8. Grandpa
9. Choruses (any number & can double as neighbours or boxes.  
Neighbours sing Carols and dance the Cake Walk  
Gift Boxes jump open)

**TECHNICAL CREW:** Costumes, Props, SFX

Crews of students can be 'techies' playing sound effects (SFX) including music and songs, where it says SFX in script

**COSTUMES:**

All students can wear Christmassy hats  
Elf hat & reindeer antlers for Hippo  
Santa suits (3) for family  
Painted green & red Christmas toenails for Hippo

**PROPS:**

Drums  
Table for 'making things'  
Cake making bowl etc Stirring spoon.  
Home-made decorations: stars, balls & paper chains  
Long 'cake' list for hippo on (toilet) paper roll.  
Elf hat cup cakes.  
Christmas tree  
Star  
Roof top tree for Hippo to sit on.  
Reindeer card made by Hippo  
Candles on cupcakes for Carols by Cake-light  
Gingerbread , with flat , house- shaped biscuit  
Home-made Christmas cards with glitter  
Fairy lights (fake)

Torch to use as spotlight to see hippo on roof  
Stockings to hang up on Christmas Eve  
Carrots and milk for Santa and reindeer

**SFX:** (Sound effects) Pre-recorded or live  
Drums (optional)  
Dance music (Waltz, hip hop, cake-walk)  
Christmas music

(Optional) Song to include for which students can create their own music;

**Cake Walk Hippo**  
They seek him here,  
They seek him there.  
They seek that hippo everywhere.  
Footprints here,  
Cake crumbs there.  
That Cake-Walk hippo is everywhere.  
Let's do the Christmas Cake-Walk dance!



**SCRIPT:**

*Narrator with book-script at side of stage,*

**NARRATOR:**

I'm the Narrator.  
I'd like to share a story with you.

*(Looks up)*

Our roof is noisy  
Thump!  
Thump!  
Thump!

*(Hippo beats drum and bows)*

My daddy says ...

**DAD:**

...There's a man fixing the tiles on our roof.

**NARRATOR:**

But I know why there's a noise.  
There's a hippopotamus on our roof getting ready for Christmas.

*(Hippo nods and puts on elf hat.)*

There's a hippo on our roof counting the days to Christmas.  
And he's excited just like me.

*(Hippo counts days on fingers and toes , no Christmas nail polish yet)*

He can do what he likes.

**CHORUS:** *(countdown)*

10, 9, 8, 7, 6,5,4,3,2,1, CHRISTMAS!

**NARRATOR:**

My hippo really likes cake.  
He's cake-testing for Christmas.  
I know because I heard him.  
There's a hippo on our roof stirring his Christmas treats.

**SISTER:**

And acting like a chef.

*(Hippo makes a mess but is NOT rude)*

**MUM:**

Let's make our decorations first.

*(BROTHER and SISTER bring on table of 'making things'.)*

**NARRATOR:**

Christmas is my BEST time.

**SISTER:**

We make stars.

**BROTHER:**

...and paper- chains.

*(Puts chains up high and hippo wears paper chains.)*

**NARRATOR:**

We help decorate.  
My hippo on our roof wears his paper- chains,  
And he dances.  
Mum asked about Hippo's dancing.

**MUM:**

Is it hip hop?

**ALL:**

No.

**MUM:**

Is it a waltz?

**ALL:**

No.

**MUM:**

Is it special?

**ALL:**

Yes.

**ALL:**

There's a hippopotamus on our roof doing a Christmas cake-walk.

*(Chorus copy Hippo's dance moves.)*

**MUM:**

Have you written your list yet?

BROTHER rolls toilet paper roll across floor.

HIPPO writes on it.

**NARRATOR:**

My hippo is still working on his list...

**CHORUS:** Smiley cake

Funny cake

Fruity cake

Spotty cake

Dotty cake

Robot cake

Jigsaw cake....

Hippo wants only cake!

**MUM:**

For Christmas, we need to make our cake and...

**SISTER:**

Let's make elf-hat cupcakes too.

*(Hippo points to himself and nods)*

**GRANDPA:**

And gingerbread. That's my favourite.

**GRANDMA:**

Let's make a gingerbread gift for Santa.

**MUM:**

Stir the cake.

Pour it into the cake tin

Make a wish.

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

**GRANDPA:**

Time to decorate our Christmas tree

**SISTER:**

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

**MUM:**

Here's some paper.

**NARRATOR:**

Christmas is my BEST time.

We make stars, balls and paper chains.

My big brother hangs them up.

**BROTHER:**

I am really good at hanging things.

**MUM:**

Christmas is when you make and give things to other people.

Let's make the cards next.



**NARRATOR:**

There's a hippo on our roof making cards.  
He is very good at drawing reindeer.

*(HIPPO shows a FUNNY REINDEER card to audience.)*

**SISTER:**

Let's make sparkly Christmas cards.

*(Sparkles go everywhere)*

We'll give the cards to our neighbours.

**CHORUS OF NEIGHBOURS:**

We are your neighbours.  
Thank you for the Christmas cards.  
Are you coming to the carols by candle- light in our street?  
We all sing.

*(All nod.)*

**NARRATOR:**

Hippo tells me they like my cards best.

*(Hippo nods)*

**BROTHER:**

Let's give Santa a G.P.S.  
So he can find Grandma in her new house with no chimney.

**NARRATOR:**

Grandma can share our chimney.  
But our Christmas tree is a bit wonky.

**DAD:** (fixing tree)

Let's put the star you made on the top.

**BROTHER:**

It's a bit wobbly.

**SISTER:**

It's falling off.

**BROTHER:**

Three times!

**CHORUS:**

One!

Two !

Three!

*(All race to catch the star)*

**SISTER:**

I can hear something on the roof.

**SFX:**

CRASH!

**NARRATOR:**

Hippo sat on his Christmas tree

With his big ,wobbly bottom!

*(Hippo mimes sitting on tree)*

**CHORUS OF LIGHTS:**

We're the Christmas lights.

We go ON and we go OFF!

On.

Off  
On  
Off

ON!

**NARRATOR:**

Tonight I was happy.  
The Christmas lights in our street went ON.

**BROTHER:**

And then they went OFF!

**SFX:**

Bang!  
Bang!  
Bang!

**BROTHER:**

Oh, no!  
Will Santa still find us in the dark?

**NARRATOR:** (*shines torch like spotlight on hippo who is fixing things*)

My hippo knows ALL about fairy lights and Christmas.  
Nothing upsets him.  
He's so big.  
He can fix anything.  
There's a hippo on our roof making our lights work.

**SFX:** Spotlight on Hippo

**NARRATOR:**

My family play Christmas 'dress ups' in Santa hats.  
But hippo doesn't quite fit in a red costume.  
So he wears an elf hat with a bell.

*(Family give a fashion parade in their Santa outfits, Hippo fools around)*

**NARRATOR:**

He wasn't there last night.  
I know why.  
He told me.  
He went to the Christmas concert.

**CHORUS:**

We sing 'Carols by Candlelight' in the street.

**NARRATOR:**

My hippopotamus 'sort of' sings too.  
His candle drips.

**CHORUS:**

Drip!  
Drip!  
Drip!

**GRANDPA:** (sings) La La La

**GRANDMA:** Carols by cake-light!

**NARRATOR:**

At home, we decorate the Christmas table.

**CHORUS:**

We are the Christmas Decorations.

WE glitter.

**GRANDMA :**

Make a wish.

**NARRATOR:**

I wish you had a chimney in your new home so Santa can visit.

*(Grandma hugs Narrator)*

**NARRATOR:**

Share ours.

Hippo has a gift for Santa. So do I.

*( ALL hang up their stockings.)*

**MUM:**

Tonight is Christmas Eve. Time for bed.

**CHORUS OF GIFTS:**

We're the Christmas Gifts under the tree.

We're the boxes.

We can jump open too.

And sing very early in the morning.

**NARRATOR:**

I leave carrots out for the reindeer.

And milk for Santa.

I try to stay awake but my eyes run out of batteries.

**SFX**

*ZZZZZZ*

*ZZZZZZ*

*ZZZZZZ.*

**NARRATOR:**

It's Christmas morning!

All the stockings are full.

Santa climbed down the chimney while I was asleep.

There's a hippopotamus on our roof  
doing the Christmas Cake Walk dance.'

He has a gift from Santa too.

And Santa took the gingerbread gift I left him too.

Merry Christmas to all.

*(Hippo does the Cake-Walk Dance on the roof)*

Look.

There's a hippopotamus on our roof with Christmassy toes.

We had the BEST Christmas

**CHORUS: Cake Walk Hippo**  
They seek him here,  
They seek him there.  
They seek that hippo everywhere.  
Footprints here,  
Cake crumbs there.  
That Cake-Walk hippo is everywhere.  
Let's do the Christmas Cake-Walk dance!

All Bow & Leave stage

NARRATOR

Hippo was played by.....

Mum was played by.....

Dad was played by.....

Add other roles.

## **How to Host a Cake Walk**

(Cakes can be fake, or real food)

Each player donates a cake.

Tape numbers in a large circle on the playground. The size of the group will determine how many numbers, but around 20

Write same numbers on twisted paper, and put them in a bag.

Display the cakes, so that everyone can pick their favourite.

Cake walkers stand in a circle. Play festive music. Walkers move or dance in a circle. After a couple of minutes, shut off the music, and each participant must claim the number closest to their spot.

The cake-walk leader then chooses a number from the bowl, and the person standing on that number wins! They can then choose their favorite cake of all the donated cakes.

Play until all cakes are claimed.

\* A Cake Walk is a joyful strutting dance.