

“But What is a Goldfish For?”

Version for Choral Reading Voices

Voices:

- **Narrator Voice**
- **Voice #1; The Little Old Woman**
- **Voice #2; The Priest**
- **Voice #3; The Mayor**
- **Voice #4; The Hunter**

Narrator Voice:

Once there was a little old woman. She lived in a bright yellow house on a very green hill. She had always lived on the hill and nobody knew a time when she was not old. Every morning, when the children in the Village-at-the-Foot-of-the-Hill awoke, they would see her sweeping her porch and airing her sheets and singing songs that sounded like they came from another land. (She did not have a very good voice but nobody cared.)

One morning, the little old woman woke up to find that she was not strong enough to clean her house. So she went slowly, slowly down to the Village-at-the-Foot-of-the-Hill to see the Priest.

Voice #1 The Little Old Woman:

“What shall I do?” she asked the Priest. “I am not very strong and I cannot clean my house every day.”

Voice # 2 The Priest

“Get a Tortoise, a Pigeon, a Monkey, and a Goldfish,” said the priest.

Voice #1 The Little Old Woman

“But how can I get a Tortoise, a Pigeon, a Monkey, and a Goldfish?” asked the little old woman.

Voice #2 The Priest:

“Go to the Mayor”, said the priest.

Narrator Voice:

And so she did.

Voice 1 The Little Old Woman:

“What shall I do?” she asked the Mayor, “I am not very strong and I cannot clean my house every day. The Priest told me to get a Tortoise, a Pigeon, a Monkey, and a Goldfish.”

Voice #3 The Mayor:

“Go to the Hunter,” said the Mayor.

Narrator Voice:

And so she did.

Voice #1 The Little Old Woman:

“What shall I do?” she asked the Hunter. “I am not very strong and I cannot clean my house every day. The Priest told me to get a Tortoise, a Pigeon, a Monkey, and a Goldfish.”

Voice #4 The Hunter:

“Go home,” said the Hunter, “I will bring you a Tortoise, a Pigeon, a Monkey, and a Goldfish before the day is done.”

Narrator:

And so she did. The Hunter brought the animals before the day was done. Then the little old woman went right to sleep. The next morning, she was very tired. She could not get out of bed. Then she saw the Tortoise.

Voice #1 The Little Old Woman:

“Come here, Tortoise,” she said kindly. And she sat on his broad back.

“Take me to the kitchen, please.” She requested politely. And the Tortoise happily obeyed.

Narrator Voice:

But the goldfish swam around and around in his crystal bowl.

Voice #1 The Little Old Woman:

“Oh, dear,” said the little old woman, “I have forgotten my glasses and I cannot read my recipe for supper. Come here, Pigeon,” she said kindly. “Go fetch my glasses by the bed, please.” And the Pigeon happily obeyed.

Narrator Voice:

But the goldfish swam around and around in his crystal bowl.

Voice #1 The Little Old Woman:

“Oh, dear,” said the little old woman, “I have no water and I cannot boil the potatoes for supper. Come here, Monkey,” she said pleasantly, “go to the well and draw a bucket of water, please.” And the Monkey happily obeyed.

Narrator Voice:

But the goldfish swam around and around in his crystal bowl.

The day went on like that. Everywhere the little old woman wanted to go, the Tortoise would take her. And everything she needed, the Pigeon and the Monkey would fetch for her. But the Goldfish swam around and around in his crystal bowl.

At the end of the day, her house was very clean, her supper was made, and she was not tired at all. So she got a book and curled up in her soft easy chair to read. The

Goldfish swam around and around in his crystal bowl. His yellowy, silky, and feathery fins swayed this way and that way through the clear water. Colors of red, pink and purples of the rainbow sparkled in his golden scales.

Voice #1 The Little Old Woman:

“Goldfish,” the little old woman said gently as he swam around and around in his crystal bowl, “you can just be beautiful to look at.”

Narrator Voice:

And the Goldfish happily obeyed. THE END