

## Three Wishes Readers Theater Script

### Roles:

**Narrator 1    Narrator 2    Beautiful Lady    Old Man    Old Woman**

**Narrator 1:**            Once there was an old woman and an old man who lived in a village in Estonia. They were poor, but they loved each other and were very happy. One evening, the old woman was alone in their cottage, busily mending the old man's socks. While she was working, a beautiful lady came to her door.

**Beautiful Lady:**    I would be so grateful if you would lend me your frying pan.

**Narrator 2:**            Said the beautiful lady.

**Beautiful Lady:**    My daughter will be married soon, and I am expecting guests from all over the country.

**Old Woman:**            Oh my dear, yes!

**Narrator 2:**            Exclaimed the old woman.

**Old Woman:**            Of course you may borrow it.

**Narrator 2:**            So the beautiful lady took the frying pan and thanked the old woman, promising to pay her for the use of the pan.

**Narrator 1:**            A few days later the beautiful lady returned with the pan. Again she found the old woman alone.

**Beautiful Lady:**    My deepest thanks for letting me use your frying pan,

**Narrator 2:**            Said the beautiful lady.

**Beautiful Lady:**    In return for your kindness to me, I shall grant you three wishes.

**Narrator 2:**            With this the beautiful lady left. She disappeared so quickly that the old woman did not even have the time to ask her name or where she lived. But now the old woman had three wishes! She began to think about what she would wish for.

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**Note:** Adapted from "The Three Wishes," *The Legal Circle* (August 2002). c 2002 Constitutional Rights Foundation

**Narrator 1:** The old woman expected the old man home soon. She decided to wait until he arrived so he could help her choose the three wishes. In the meantime, the old woman wanted to cook a nice meal to celebrate their good fortune. Earlier that day, she had been to her neighbor's cottage, and there she had seen her neighbor chopping some big, juicy tomatoes that she had picked fresh from her garden.

**Old Woman:** What heavenly large, ripe tomatoes.

**Narrator 2:** Said the old woman.

**Old Woman:** I wish I had one of those for our meal tonight!

**Narrator 2:** In an instant, a big fat tomato appeared on the table right before her. The old woman was delighted. She was about to put the tomato into her cooking pot when the old man came in.

**Old Woman:** Old man, old man!

**Narrator 2:** Cried the old woman.

**Old Woman:** Our years of troubles and hard work are over! I lent my frying pan to a beautiful stranger, and when she returned it, she promised us three wishes! It's true. Just look at this giant tomato I got the moment I wished for it!

**Old Man:** You foolish old woman!

**Narrator 1:** Scolded the old man.

**Old Man:** Why did you wish for a silly tomato when you could have anything in the world? ! I wish that big, juicy tomato would stick to your nose!

**Narrator 1:** At that the old woman began to cry, for sure enough, there was a giant tomato hanging from her nose. She began pulling and tugging at it, but the more she pulled and tugged, the more it seemed to stick. Oh, what a sight it was—an old woman with a tomato stuck to her nose!

**Old Woman:** Oh my goodness, how awful!

**Narrator 2:** Cried the old woman.

**Old Woman:** How could you wish for such a terrible thing? Now I will be forever ashamed of my tomato face.

**Narrator 2:** The old woman continued to cry.

**Old Man:** We both made very foolish wishes,

**Narrator 1:** The old man was sad. He put his arm around the old woman to comfort her, but she continued to cry and cry. After a few moments, the old man decided to try pulling the tomato from the old woman's nose. But the more he tugged, the harder it stuck. He pulled so hard the old woman's head seemed as though it would come right off her body.

**Narrator 2:** Now the old man began to cry, too, for the big, fat tomato was still hanging from the old woman's nose. Then, he remembered the last wish.

**Old Man:** We have one wish left!

**Narrator 1:** The old man exclaimed.

**Old Man:** *You* wish for something.

**Old Woman:** No, *you* wish for something.

**Narrator 2:** Then they both stopped crying, for they realized that they must make the wish *together*. So together, they made the last wish.

**Old Man and Old Woman:**

I wish that we were rid of this terrible tomato!

**Narrator 1:** And in the next moment, the tomato was gone. The old man and the old woman were so happy, they laughed and danced around the room in great glee.

**Narrator 2:** They both agreed; a tomato may be ever so nice when you have it in your mouth, but it would be quite a different thing to have one sticking to your nose all your life.