



'Cosimo'

From a story by Italo Calvino.

Retold by Helen Stanley

Written for Junior Youth Theatre 2020

Cosimo

From a story by Italo Calvino. Retold by Helen Stanley for JYT1 2020

Characters:

<u>Cosimo</u>	the middle child of the Baron, aged 11.
Cosimo 1	scenes 1,2,3,4,5 and 13
Cosimo 2	scenes 1, 6,7,8,13 and 14
Cosimo 3	scenes 1,9,10,11,12,13 and 14
Still to decide which Cosimo is in	scene 15.
Biaggio aged 9	Cosimo's younger sibling. Scene 1,2,3,4,5,7,9,10,15
Batista aged 12	Cosimo's older sister. Scene 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,13,15
Baron Arminio di Rondò,	Cosimo's Dad. Scene 3 ,4, 5, 6, 7,13,15
Baroness Antonella di Rondo	Cosimo's Mum Scene 3,4,5,6,8,13,15
Violetta Oderosa aged 10^{1/2}	She lives next door. Scene 9 and 15
Lucia La Bonta	Violetta's Aunt. Scene 9 and 15
Carolina	Cosimo's teacher. Scene 1,2,3,4,8,13,15
Angelina	Household of the Baron and Fruit thief 1
Christiana	Household of the Baron and Fruit thief 2
Pablo	Household of the Baron and Fruit thief 3
Renato	Household of the Baron and Fruit thief 4
<i>Scene 1,2,3,4 as household.</i>	<i>Scene 11,12,15 as Fruit Thieves</i>
Roberto/a	The head of the household & Farmer 5.
Grego	Household of the Baron and Farmer 1
Fabianna	Household of the Baron and Farmer 2
Florentina	Household of the Baron and Farmer 3
Claude/Claudia	Household of the Baron and Farmer 4
<i>Scene 2,3,5,6 as household</i>	<i>Scene 10,11,14,15 as Farmers.</i>
19 characters.	

So, Cosimo is a headstrong child who lives with very traditional strict parents. Cosimo's sister Batista has rebelled by making strange food – which is delicious but odd. Biaggio is the mediator. The Dad and mum love their children but are also a bit odd themselves.

Scene 1.

SONG: *'Cosimo-o dances high up in the branches
High up in the branches taking many chances
Come with me climb a tree
And you'll see for miles.'*

Angelina This story comes from Italy.

Renato Where weather is always warm.

Pablo And Ice Cream is their favourite food. They call it gelato.

Renato Ice cream sounds better.

Pablo Yes but it's not, Gelato is better.

Christina If you went to Italy today, you would see big cities like ... Milan and Rome, full of cars and buses and people, just like London.

Angelina But this story is not from Italy today, it's from Italy in the year 1767.

Renato Italy was very different then.

Christina Everywhere was different then. Then, Italy was covered in trees.

Pablo They say a monkey once left Rome and skipped from tree to tree 'till she reached Spain. And never once did she touch the ground. That's how many trees there were.

Angelina Imagine that. Wish it was still like that. No cars, no pollution.

Christina Really? And no mobile phones, no TV, no KFC Not sure I'd like it to still be like that.

Angelina But there was still ice cream. What was it called again?

Pablo Gelato.

The household start to set for supper, they bring on a table and a table cloth, candle sticks, chairs and stools all things they need to have the meal outside. The Butler, Roberta, is instructing them where to put things. Setting the table ready for the meal later. They sing as they lay the table

Roberta/o Are we telling this story or not? This story is about a child. A very important child.

Cosimo 1 And I play the part of the child.

Cosimo 2 So do I

Cosimo 3 And me .

Roberta/o It's a long story so they share it. The child is called Cosimo....

Everyone says the '**Cosimo!**' as the Cosimo's play a trick on Angelina, Pablo, Christina, Renato who chase Cosimo 2 and 3, all leave the stage. Cosimo 1 hides up the tree.

Scene 2 : Cosimo 1

Cosimo1 I'll be the first Cosimo. *(He calls from up the tree)*

(Carolina the teacher enters carrying a red hat, a sword and a cloak. The other household servants enter, Grego, Fabianna, Florentina, Claudia/Claude)

Carolina Cosimo! Claude/ia - take this, Grego - take this and this.

*(Carolina hands them the cloak, sword and hat as she begins to search for Cosimo and she gestures the servants to help too. They help to search for Cosimo but are not all that helpful. **All the servants speak to the audience**)*

Claude/ia This is Carolina, Cosimo's teacher. She's looking for him.

Grego Cosimo is 11 years old.

Claude/ia Cosimo doesn't go to school nor does Biaggio.

Cosimo 1 Biaggio, come here *(Cosimo 1 takes Biaggio and they hide.)*

Carolina Cosimo! Where are you? Oh that child.... Biaggio! Where have they gone?

(Cosimo & Biaggio move from place to place as Carolina and the servants search, they are always one step ahead)

Fabianna Biaggio, is Cosimo's brother, Carolina teaches them at home.

Claude/ia They are a very rich family, they've got everything.

Carolina Come on you two, it's nearly dinner time.

Biaggio/Cosimo Oh no!

Florentina Biaggio is 9 and adores Cosimo. They are both hiding because it's nearly dinnertime and that's the worst time in their house.

(Cosimo is up the tree and trying to get Biaggio up there too but Biaggio can't manage it. Batista enters and watches them)

Batista I know where they are.

Grego Oh no! That's ...

ALL Batista

Cosimo 1 Batista! What's wrong with you!!?

Grego Batista is their big sister.

Batista Carolina, look they are over here!

Biaggio Batista don't tell!

Fabianna Batista is the oldest. She cooks all the family's food.

Florentina That's weird, you think they'd have someone to cook for them, as they are so rich.

Claude/ia You would, but they aren't an ordinary family.

(Roberta enters with a large barrel marked snails)

Roberta Delivery for Batista Di Rondo. Where do you want it my signorina Batista? *(Roberta leaves after putting the snails down)*

Batista Oh goody the snails. Just leave it.... Um .. there. *(She calls to Cosimo)*
Oh Cosimo... the snails are here... Are you looking forward to the snail soup and porridge and pies I'm going to make you eat?

Cosimo Go away Batista. I don't like snails and I don't like you!
(Finally Carolina sees them because of Batista)

Carolina There you are! Cosimo, Biaggio, Batista, now stop your games. It is time for dinner. Your father the Baron will be here soon you must be ready, Cosimo.... the hat quickly
(Florentina hands her the hat, Carolina puts the hat on Cosimo)

Cosimo Oh what!
(The others laugh at Cosimo and are ready with cloak & sword)

Carolina The sword. *(puts the sword on Cosimo)* Biaggio you over there *(she makes Biaggio stand at the end and goes to move Batista but Batista will not let Carolina touch her)*. Batista are you ready?

Batista Yes Carolina.

Carolina Have you cooked.... the dinner?

Batista Ye-ss Carolina!

Carolina What have you cooked today? *(They all look a bit worried)*

Batista Wouldn't you like to know.

Carolina Not really.

Scene 3 Cosimo 1 *the baroness, enters followed by Angelina, Pablo, Christina*

Carolina Quick! Your mother is here.

Baroness Carolina! Are they ready?

Carolina Yes Baroness all ready.

Baroness Carolina he's here. The Baron. Put them in their places.

(Carolina puts everyone in a line like soldiers)

Carolina Si Signora.

(All are put in line. And stand to attention as if the Queen as arrived. The butler enters and announces the Baron)

Roberto The Baron Arminio di Rondò is now home.

(Everyone cheers & claps and the Baron reacts like he is the king. He inspects them. He is dressed like Cosimo with a 3 cornered Red hat a big cloak and a sword. The Baron is eating a bag of sweets.)

Baron Good good good. Now where is my Cosimo?

Batista Oh Daddy, I know where Cosimo is....

Baron Not you Batista.

Batista But daddy!

Baron Where is he?

Biaggio I'm here Dad

Baron Not you Biaggio, I want my Cosimo. I want Cosimo. Now!

Roberta The Baron wants Cosimo. Now.

(Everyone searches. Eventually they catch Cosimo who is climbing the tree and taken off hat, cloak and sword. They put it back on. They laugh)

Baron Cosimo.

Cosimo Hello Dad. I mean Signore

Carolina Bow Cosimo *(Cosimo does reluctantly)*

Baron One day this will be yours.

Cosimo I don't want it.

Batista Can't I have it?

Baron No Batista. You'll change your mind Cosimo.... Now it is dinner time.

Roberta Dinner is served.

Scene 4: Cosimo 1

They go to sit at the large table. They sing. They sit. Carolina makes Biaggio sit but Cosimo doesn't want to, but does in the end.

SONG *Laying out the dishes, as the Baron Wishes*
 Fear upon the faces as they take their places
 What will it be for our tea?
 Take a seat.
 And eat!

(Batista brings out a large silver platter with something fancy on it. Everyone gasps it looks lovely)

Cosimo 1 I don't like it!

Carolina You haven't even tried it.

Baroness Eat up. Nothing must go to waste. Think of the poor fruit thieves up in the trees, stealing fruit because their mothers won't feed them.

Baron Very bad children! Not like children! Mmmmm. Smells.... ... delicious.

(They are suspicious at first. No one knows what it is, they sniff it, they prod it they nibble warily. Then they eat it, they enjoy it, in fact they love it.)

Baron You are a fine cook Batista, dare I ask... what was it?

(everyone holds their breath)

Batista Rats livers! That's what you've eaten.

(They are revolted by that thought. Now we run through a number of other meals to set up that they always have crazy food)

Angelina It was like this at every single meal. Once for lunch it was...

Batista Grasshoppers toes

Angelina Once for supper...

Batista *(One of the household brings in a plate)* Pigs tails roasted in little cakes.

Baron Eat it up!

Baroness Eat it all up. Be grateful. Not wasteful.

Christina They had to eat it all. There was nothing else to eat. Once for Sunday lunch it was...

(Another plate is brought in)

Batista A Hedgehog, whole, with prickles still on.... What? what? (*as if she can't understand their disgust*)

Pablo Even Batista wouldn't eat that one.

(The Baron stands and yawns)

Roberto The Baron is going to bed. To bed. Everyone to bed.

Batista Sleep well. It's snails for breakfast.

(everyone starts to leave and go off to bed except the Cosimo & Biaggio)

Scene 5 Cosimo 1

Cosimo 1 I can't take this much longer Biaggio.

Biaggio I know. But what can we do? Batista is allowed to do what she likes. She's scary. I think even Dad is scared of her.

Cosimo Yes. But I've got an idea

(Cosimo whispers to Biaggio while everyone goes to bed. They high five.)

Renato Batista's hardly ever sleeps. She is up at nights searching for rats and bats and things like that to cook in her weird and terrible meals. Tonight is no exception. Look out Cosimo.

(Cosimo and Biaggio, make a hole in the snail barrel and lay a trail of grass and honey from the hole along the floor all the way to freedom for the snails. The household use torches to represent the snails moving along the floor and up the wall)

Grego 1 by 1 the snails come out and follow the sticky trail to freedom. Look out Cosimo!

(Cosimo and Biaggio hide from Batista. Batista steps on a snail)

Batista What is this? Oh no! They are escaping help me, help me HELP!!!

(The Baron appears in his night cap & dressing gown)

Baron Who has escaped! They must be captured. My sword my sword.

(Roberta brings the sword and the baron searches)

Roberta *(standing on a snail)* Oh no I've accidentally killed one.

Baroness Killed one? My children my children are they safe?

Batista Catch them, they are escaping!

Roberta Who's escaped? Is Batista hurt?

(Everyone dashes about to find the snails. Cosimo is caught by Grego & Renata and brought to his father)

Roberta Look, the CHILD has sticky fingers!

Baron COSIMO It was you. To your room for the whole day with nothing to eat but lettuce sandwiches and water!

Cosimo But dad! I don't like snails in porridge or pies! Why won't you listen!

Batista You heard him, to your room bad child!

Scene 6: SWAP to Cosimo 2 Baron, Baroness, Carolina, Biaggio come on

Fabianna Then it was the next day. It's your turn now. *(Cosimo's swap)*
Cosimo has been a whole night and day in the bedroom.

Batista You can come down now.

Florentina And they all behaved like nothing had happened.

Baron As you missed breakfast you shall eat it now.

Batista Eat it up or we'll shut you in your room again

Baron Batista shhh

Batista Sorry dad.

Baron Eat up

Carolina You better do as your father says.

Cosimo 2 What is it?

Carolina Snail head porridge.

Biaggio Cold snail head porridge.

Baroness Well Cosimo?

Batista Well Cosimo?

Baroness Batista!!!

Batista Sorry Mum.

Cosimo 2 No, not again (*Cosimo pushes the plate away*)

Baron Leave the table. (*Cosimo jumps on the table and turns to leave*)

Biaggio Where are you going?

Cosimo 2 To the trees Biaggio. Will you come too?

Baroness What?

Biaggio What? I.....don't think so no

Cosimo 2 Well I'm going to live in the trees. I won't eat this anymore.

Baroness The trees! You silly child. Get back here now.

Cosimo 2 I won't.

(Cosimo climbs up the big oak tree. The family follow)

Baron Cosimo!!!

Baroness My baby, my baby will be hurt for sure get!!! Cosimo down Carolina!

Carolina Cosimo what are you doing?

Baron When you've had enough you'll change your mind

Cosimo 2 I'll never change my mind.

Baron We'll see about that when you come down

Cosimo 2 I'm not coming down!

Scene 7. Cosimo 2

Lights fade. The family and Carolina huddle and talk, they send the servants to get a plate of cake, blanket & rope and push Biaggio forward with a plate of cake to talk to Cosimo. The family hide and watch.

Carolina Go on Biaggio, you can do it. Just be nice.

Biaggio Okay..... Cosimo.

Cosimo I'm not talking to you. Why didn't you come with me?

Biaggio Cosimo, I'm sorry but I can't live in the trees, I'm not like you, you are a brilliant climber, you're the best. I'd just fall out.

Cosimo They sent you didn't they. I'm not coming down.

- Biaggio They have forgiven you. Dad says if you come down now we'll say no more about it.
- Cosimo I'm not coming down.
- Biaggio Mum says she'll read you a story
- Cosimo Did she? (*Cosimo is tempted to come down*)....no.. . I'm not coming down.
- Biaggio Batista made you this cake. And it actually is a real cake.
- Cosimo Don't want it.
- Biaggio What will you eat?
- Cosimo Nuts, berries, fruit. I'll be like the fruit thieves.
- Biaggio Really? But they are bad. They steal and take what they want.
- Cosimo I know.
- Biaggio I got you these.

(Biaggio is given rope and blanket by the servants and they pass everything up to Cosimo)

- Cosimo A rope? why?
- Biaggio Take the rope, tie yourself to the tree. I want you to fall asleep not fall out!
- Cosimo You are a good brother/sister thanks. Well, you may as well give me that cake too.

Biaggio hands the cake to Cosimo and Cosimo eats and ties themselves to the tree

Scene 8 Cosimo 2 *Night falls, music plays. The Baroness Carolina & Batista sing.*

- SONG *Cosimo is staying, no matter what they're saying.*
 What will there be to eat with leaves beneath your feet?
 Care-full-ey in the tree
 Hold on tight all night.

Scene 9 : Next day Cosimo 3 Violetta's garden

- Cosimo 3 My turn (*the Cosimo's swap*)
- Biaggio This new life Cosimo has chosen is hard. Cosimo is awake more than asleep. And aches all over..... Then it is morning, and Cosimo has found the garden next door.
- COSIMO 3 Woow. It's beautiful. Trees from all over the world. It smells delicious.
Aunt Lucia enters holding Violetta hand, Aunt gives Violetta an apple.
- Aunt Lucia Come Violetta, my lovely little Niece, if you eat your apple, you shall have special ice cream tomorrow. What a good girl. Now, as you are such a good girl you may stay in the garden until lunch time and then I shall read you a story of Princesses. A perfect story for my little princess. (*She pats Violetta on the head*) What a good girl you are. Say thank you Aunt Lucia.

(Violetta curtseys so we think she is a lovely sweet little girl. But actually she is very bossy.
- Violetta Thank you Aunt Lucia

Aunt leaves. Violetta is singing – well, la-la-la-ing, and eating an apple and swings on a swing. Cosimo watches all of this.
- Violetta Oh -la -la -la la la.
- COSIMO 3 Woow! What a beautiful sound. What a lovely little girl
- Violetta Oh la la la la la la
- COSIMO 3 Who are you?
- Violetta Arrh!! Who are you?
- COSIMO 3 Don't be scared little girl.
- Violetta I'm not scared. And I'm not little. I'm Violetta Ondarosa. What are you doing up there in my garden? Are you a thief?
- COSIMO 3 Umm, well, Yes.... yes I am.
- Violetta No you're not. (*she laughs and throws the apple Cosimo catches it*)
- COSIMO 3 I am I've got your apple, I'm a fruit thief.
- VIOLETTA No you're not. I know the fruit thieves. They don't wear funny hats and red coats. They are my friends.
- COSIMO 3 I'm a special thief, I'm the chief of the thieves
- VIOLETTA No you are not. No one knows who that is but it's not you! Come down!
- COSIMO 3 No. I live here.

VIOLETTA Do you though? You're just the kid from next door. Aren't you Cos-i-moo? Weird name.

COSIMO 3 Cos-i-mo actually. And yes I'm from next door.

VIOLETTA My dad says your dad's a bit weird.

COSIMO 3 Well my dad says your dad's a bit rude.

VIOLETTA Does he though! Come down, come down right now. This is my garden and you're not allowed in it.

COSIMO 3 But I'm not in your garden am I? Up here is not yours it's mine.

VIOLETTA Yours?

COSIMO 3 Yes. You're welcome to visit.

VIOLETTA So up there is your kingdom and down here is mine, agreed?

COSIMO 3 What?

VIOLETTA And if you put one foot down you lose and I win

COSIMO 3 Yes but I'm not coming down, not never

VIOLETTA But if you do, you lose everything and I win. Even if a branch breaks, if you fall by accident. I win. Agreed?

(she puts her hand out to shake his, he puts his hand out and she tries to pull him out of the tree)

COSIMO 3 Hay, that's not fair. Cheat.

Lucia Vi – o – let – a.

(they freeze)

VIOLETTA Oh no. That's my aunt. She's back *(she lets go and turns back into a cute little girl)* Here aunty Lucia.

Lucia My dear Violetta what are you up to? Climbing a tree? Young lady's do not climb trees!

VIOLETTA I'm not climbing the tree aunty, it's this rough kid from next door.

Lucia Oh the young Cosimo! I hear you have moved to the trees, your father and mother are very worried about you.

(Violetta whispers into the aunt's ear: 'Ask him if he wants breakfast')

Lucia Oh course, I good idea my dear. Would you like to join us for cake and hot chocolate, a breakfast fit for a king and queen, you must be hungry.

COSIMO 3 Good try Violetta. No thank you Signora.

Lucia No? Oh well maybe later. Now Violetta come, a young lady needs her breakfast.

(Aunt leaves and Violetta sticks her tongue out at Cosimo. Aunt doesn't see.)

VIOLETTA It's not over yet Cosimoo. I'll get you down.

Lucia Violetta!

(Violetta rushes off to her Aunt)

Scene 10 : Cosimo 3. In the Cherry orchard

Biaggio comes on unseen by the farmer, hiding. Farmers come on. With poles checking the fruit to make sure there are no Fruit Thieves in the trees.

Yawning because they have been up all night protecting the trees, they sing:

SONG *Looking for the thieves, hiding in the trees,
Hiding in the trees those naughty little thieves,
Just watch out..
Give a shout..
If you see..
A thief!*

Biaggio The next day the sun is shining. The farmers have been up all night protecting their cherries from the fruit thieves.

FARMER 1 I'm so tired

FARMER 2 I'm exhausted. Wait! What was that noise? Did you hear something?

FARMER 3 *(yawning)* I didn't hear anything.

FARMER 2 Over there *(pointing at Biaggio who waves)* are you a fruit thief?

FARMER 3 That's just one of the Baron's kids, not a fruit thief.

FARMER 4 We have the best fruit crop ever this year.

FARMER 1 Our families will not go hungry.

FARMER 5 It's going to be hard work picking it all.

FARMER 2 The cherries are just right and the peaches are perfect. Now the only thing to worry about is picking it all before it rots on the trees.

FARMER 4 And the fruit thieves.

FARMER 5 Yes and the fruit thieves.

FARMER 2 Did you hear something? I'm sure I heard something.
 FARMER 1 No. I think you are hearing things because you are so tired. Let have a rest.

(they sit down, lean, take out drink. They pick some cherries from the tree and eat them too)

FARMER 3 These cherries are so good and sweet. They are ready to pick.
 FARMER 4 We will pick them tomorrow. We can wait one more day.
 FARMER 1 We can, but those thieves are everywhere and if they know the fruit is ready, we are done for. They take what they want, they don't care.
 FARMER 2 We have to guard the trees, day and night.
 FARMER 3 But there are too many trees and not enough of us.
 FARMER 5 We'll have to manage.
 FARMER 4 Well there are no thieves here anyway. Let's check out the peach orchard. And you (to farmer 1) try and stay awake.

The Farmers & Biaggio leave and....

Scene 11 Cosimo 3

.... The fruit thieves start to creep on and up the trees. The fruit thieves pass bags in a chain and start to fill them with cherries. Cosimo 3 appears in the tree.

COSIMO 3 Who are you?
 FRUIT THIEF 1 Who are you more like
 COSIMO 3 What are you doing?
 FRUIT THIEF 2 What are you doing more like!
 COSIMO 3 Are you stealing the cherries?
 FRUIT THIEF 3 Clear off we're busy.
 COSIMO 3 You are! You're stealing. You are the fruit thieves!
 FRUIT THIEF 4 What's it to you cake eater!?
 COSIMO 3 Cake eater?
 FRUIT THIEF 1 Shh. The farmers will hear.
 FRUIT THIEF 2 What's that on the Cake Eater's head?
 FRUIT THIEF 3 You look funny. *(they laugh at Cosimo's Red hat)*

FRUIT THIEF 1 Quiet!

FRUIT THIEF 2 That cloak! Looks like a big red cherry.

FRUIT THIEF 4 Oi cake eater keep your big nose out! Understand?

(they start to throw cherries at Cosimo)

FRUIT THIEF 4 Get the Cake eater.

FRUIT THIEF 1 *(Shouting)* Keep the noise down will you!!

They try and pull Cosimo out of the tree. They throw more cherries. Oh no! The farmers have heard.

FARMER 1 Fruit Thieves! We've got you know.

FRUIT THIEF1 Oh well done. The Farmers are coming, move!

The thieves are caught by farmers 2 & 3.

FARMER 2 Got you! Think you can just take our cherries do you?
(A thief puts a sack covers the farmers eyes)
Oww! What's going on!!!!

FARMER 3 *(Cosimo throws a cherry it hits farmer)* Argh I'm hit!!! What's up there? Stop throwing cherries!!!

Cosimo throws cherries at the farmer and the thief manages to escape. The thieves run rings around the farmers using the sacks and escape. 1 farmer has a sack put over his head and wanders around with his hands in front and ends up catching a farmer rather than a thief and the other farmer tries to rescue the farmer who is being caught by the sack farmer.

COSIMO 3 Run! *(The thieves laugh and run away.)*

FARMER 2 They got away. They're too fast.

FARMER 5 Who was that in the tree?

FARMER 3 They say there is a king of thieves maybe that was him.

FARMER 5 Maybe.

FARMER 4 Looked more like that kid from the baron's house to me in that silly hat.

FARMER 1 Well they've gone now and the cherries are safe. But what about the peaches?

FARMER 2 Come on to the peaches *(farmers run off to protect the peaches)*

Scene 12: Fruit thieves enter from the other direction

FRUIT THIEF 1 That was close.

FRUIT THIEF 2 Did the cake eater actually help us escape?

FRUIT THIEF 3 I think so. What a brilliant climber and fast.

FRUIT THIEF 4 Look there in the tree. (*Pointing at Cosimo*)

FRUIT THIEF 1 Oi Cake eater, you can come down now the farmers are gone.

COSIMO 3 No. I live in the trees. (*The thieves are puzzled.*)

FRUIT THIEF 2 Really? Why would you do that. I'm hungry. Come on let's see if the peaches are ripe. See you later Cake Eater. (*They leave*)

Scene 13 Back in the Baron's garden, Biaggio Enters

Biaggio Cosimo comes home every night and has found a tree right at the bottom of the garden and there we can see him and he can see us. It is morning and I have come to see Cosimo.

(In this section, each member of the family & Carolina come to the tree and try to get Cosimo down, who refuses. The actors can improvise this bit and come up with ideas of how each character could tempt him down and then I'll write it up. He doesn't come down but they all leave him something that will be helpful to him. We see he has everything he wants but he's being stubborn (bit like that game park bench)

Each short scene is performed by a different Cosimo. They hand over the hat.

1. Cosimo 1 Biaggio - what would his brother worry about? What would his brother want to bring him
EG: Help him build a tree house.
2. Cosimo 3 Dad & Mum – what would his dad be worried about? What would he bring to help?
Idea: bring him an umbrella Idea: A horn so he can call if he's in danger.
3. Cosimo 2 Batista
Idea: He asks her why she makes horrible food? She tells him why and makes him a promise to change.

Carolina Cosimo

Cosimo 2 Carolina!

Carolina Don't think you can get out of your lessons just because you are in the tree! Here is your Maths book and your geography book. Here is your pencils and your school bag. Now I shall be here every morning at 9am to start. Now – your home work

Cosimo 2 I'm not doing it!

Scene 14: Farmers & Cosimo

Biaggio Another day has passed and Cosimo stays in the tree. Cosimo can go anywhere, seeing the world from above and then, one day Cosimo is back in the cherry orchard again and the farmers are hard at work.

The Farmers come on with sacks full of cherries, some are using their poles to pick more cherries, others carry off the full sacks, coming back with empty sacks.

FARMER 1 Oh my arms are aching.

FARMER 5 These sacks are so heavy.

FARMER 1 Why did it happen this year? Last year there was hardly any cherries and now; peaches cherries and even plums all at the same time!

FARMER 2 Why are you moaning? You should be glad not sad

FARMER 1 I know but what are we to do?

FARMER 3 *(looking up and seeing Cosimo)* Oi. Look that kid again. Clear off. Are you the baron's kid? I'll tell your dad just what you've been up to. Stealing our cherries.

FARMER 4 You threw one at me.

FARMER 5 Maybe that's the king of the fruit thieves?

FARMER 2 Oi come here.

Cosimo disappears. Cosimo's swap.

Cosimo 3 My turn now.

Scene 15 Violetta's garden Cosimo 3

Fruit thieves enter. Calling for Violetta, quietly. Cosimo is watching

Fruit Thief 1 & 2 Violetta

Fruit Thief 3 Pst, violetta.

(Eventually Violetta comes running on, worried her aunt will see them)

Violetta Go away! What are you doing here in my garden? Do you want my aunt to see you?

Fruit Thief 4 Oi oi there she is.

(the fruit thieves move toward Violetta, they crowd around her, it looks like they might attack her.... but then.... she stops them with her hand, they freeze. Violetta is clearly in control, bit like when you play grandmas footsteps)

Violetta Well? did you get what you wanted?

FRUIT THIEF 4 What?

Violetta The cherries?

FRUIT THIEF 3 Naa, the cake eater got in the way and the farmers came

FRUIT THIEF 2 We got caught, then the cake eater threw cherries at them and we escaped.

Violetta The cake eater?

(Cosimo appears and is worried for Violetta's safety)

Cosimo Violetta, these are the fruit thieves be careful.

Violetta Oh you! Might have known.

Cosimo Leave her alone or you'll have me to deal with.

(They laugh.)

FRUIT THIEF 1 What are you on about, she's our leader.

Cosimo Your leader? You're king of the thieves

Violetta Yes! Well I guess I'm queen of the thieves.

(The Fruit thieves cheer)

Violetta Now get to the peaches, fill your bellies.

(The thieves leave)

Cosimo Why do you want the fruit?

Violetta I don't want the fruit!

Cosimo But I don't understand why are you doing this?

Violetta I'll do what I like. That's what you do.

Cosimo I don't.

Violetta You do. You do what you like. You've got everything, everything you could want, not like those boys, yet still you run away and do what you want. They have never eaten cake.

Cosimo But that's not fair

Violetta Oh poor Cosi **Moo!**

Cosimo It's Cosimo and anyway, what about you? It's wrong to steal.

Violetta I don't steal.

Cosimo No, but... (*Aunt Lucia enters & calls for Violetta*)

Lucia Violetta. Little lady. Where are you?

Violetta (*totally changes*) Yes dear aunty, the rough kid is back dear aunty. (*She pretends to cry*)

Lucia You are upset. Come down now and explain what is happening! Poor little lady.

Cosimo I didn't do anything

Violetta Yes do come down. Remember our little agreement

Cosimo Look I've got an idea. The fruit thieves need food right?

Violetta The fruit thieves get food, from the farmers.

Lucia The fruit thieves? Violetta why is he talking about those bad children.

Violetta Oh aunty they're not bad they are my friends.

Lucia Your friends? But a little lady should have lady-like friends!

Violetta Oh Aunty! You are so old fashioned!

Cosimo Listen Violetta – the fruit thieves need to buy food not steal it.

Violetta They don't have money.

Lucia They have no money that is true.

Cosimo And the farmers need workers, to pick the fruit to take to market.

Violetta So?

Lucia Oh what the young Cosimo is saying is that the bad children can be good children and work with the farmers. They pick the fruit and with the money they earn they will buy the food they need for themselves and maybe their families.

Cosimo Signiora that is exactly what I was thinking

Lucia Oh your father and mother will be very proud of you.

Violetta What's in it for me?

Cosimo A chance to help your friends.

Violetta Hmmmm

Cosimo 3 You can still be the leader. Here you can have *this*

(Cosimo passes something that the Baron or Baroness has given in the early scene – maybe a hunting horn) Call them.

Violetta I'm still the leader.
 Lucia Violetta the leader? My little lady is the leader! You clever clever girl. Not so old fashioned after all am I?

Violetta blows the horn and the Fruit thieves appear. They are being chased by the farmers.

Fruit Thief 1 What is it Violetta? We are a bit busy, the farmers found us in the peach trees.

Fruit Thief 2 They've got big sticks and they are chasing us.

Farmer 1 Got ya! I'll tell your mum just what you did, trying to take my peaches.

FRUIT THIEF 3 I didn't take your peaches.

Fruit Thief 3 Please Signor I beg you

Cosimo Signors, please

Farmer 4 You again, the king of the thieves

Violetta No that's me actually! I'm the leader, the queen of the thieves.

Lucia And I'm her aunty.

The family enter 1 by 1 as they have heard the noise

Baron Cosimo what's all this noise?

Biaggio Cosimo what's going on?

Carolina Have you done your homework?

Batista I've made a chicken pie see I am trying.

Cosimo Look *(to the fruit thieves)* why don't you work for the farmers?

Fruit Thief 4 I'm not working for them!

(the other thieves agree – 'me neither', 'don't be silly'. 'Them?!?!')

Farmer 2 They are thieves why should we trust them?

Baroness Cosimo get away from the thieves!!!!

Biaggio I think it's alright mum

Lucia Baroness, listen to the young Biaggio.

Baron Well Cosimo?

Cosimo The Farmers need help with the harvest and the thieves need food why don't you work together instead of just doing what you want? You are so lucky to have such a big crop and you aren't bad, you're just hungry.

Baron My Cosimo! (*he's very proud of Cosimo*)

Biaggio Hooray for Cosimo.

(everyone understands what Cosimo is saying and they start to speak to each other and they start to work together)

Violetta The farmers and the fruit thieves weren't sure how it happened but I, Violetta, became the leader. Of course.

Lucia Of course.

(Violetta starts to tell everyone what to do. Batista brings out food.)

Biaggio When the fruit was picked and the summer was over things settled down.

Batista I cooked great cherry pies and peach melba – with gelato.

Baron I even picked a few cherries with my sword.

Baroness I was happy to have my family back together, even if Cosimo was still up the tree.

Carolina I taught all the children to count (*song is sung under this*)

Biaggio Now, each night Cosimo sits in his tree and Violetta tries to get Cosimo down.

Violetta You can't stay up there for ever Cosimo.

Cosimo Oh I think I can.

Blaggio Violetta blows her horn to say good night and Batista makes the sweetest hot chocolate and cake.

Carolina What sort of cake is it Batista?

Batista Badger cake! Only joking.

Biaggio Every night we all gather round and Carolina tells us a story.

As Carolina starts to read the story everyone comes to sit to listen to the story. The lights fade, everyone has a candle/torch, Carolina has a stronger light on her (the ones near to her have torches to light her) and everyone hums the song tune.

Carolina ‘This story comes from Italy, where the weather is always warm and our favourite food is gelato. It is 1767 and the cherries are ripe in the trees. *(Lights fade & music/song rises)* In the garden of the Baron, a child sits in the old oak tree this child’s name is Cosimo.

All the Cosimo’s appear 1 by 1 in the trees.

SONG: ‘*Cosimo -o dances high up in the branches
High up in the branches taking many chances
Come with me
Climb a tree
And you’ll see
For miles.*

Lights fade. Torches are switched on.

We are left with Red cherry lights in the trees. Fade to blackout,

THE END