

SESAME STREET: ELMO'S WORLD

"VEGETABLES"

Written by

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INT. ELMO'S WORLD

ELMO stands in the center of his room.

ELMO

Oh, hello. This is Elmo's World!
And Elmo's so happy to see you. So
is Dorothy. Say hello, Dorothy.

DOROTHY swims past.

ELMO (CONT'D)

Guess what Elmo's thinking about
today? Ya-ta-ta-da!

A RAT-A-TAT on the door interrupts him.

He walks over and opens it. In comes a group of vegetables,
with COLONEL CORN, a military ear of corn, in the lead.

COLONEL CORN

(British)

Mind yourself there, chap.

Elmo steps aside.

ELMO

Wow! Corn. Oh look!

Colonel Corn is followed by COLLIN FLOWER, ARTY CHOKE, and
TOM ATO, who each greet Elmo as they pass by.

COLLIN FLOWER

Hello.

ARTY CHOKE

How's it goin'?

TOM ATO

'Tsup, little buddy?

Last of all comes SOUTHERN BELLE PEPPER, a green pepper
blonde with a string of pearls around her...neck.

SOUTHERN BELLE PEPPER

(Southern)

Hello, young man.

ELMO
Elmo's a monster.

SOUTHERN BELLE PEPPER
I declare!

She moves past.

ELMO
Have you guessed yet? Corn,
cauliflower, artichoke, tomato...
Vegetables! Elmo's thinking about
vegetables. Vegetables are food
from plants that grow on the
ground. Vegetables!

CRAYON WIPE TO:

MONTAGE

Children eating vegetables;
Washing and cooking vegetables;
Tending or picking vegetables in a garden;
Shopping for vegetables; etc.

CRAYON WIPE TO:

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

Dorothy swims around a ceramic pumpkin. Elmo holds a stalk of
celery.

ELMO
Dorothy's been thinking about
vegetables too, haven't you,
Dorothy?

He puts his ear to the tank.

ELMO (CONT'D)
What's that? Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

He stands up.

ELMO (CONT'D)
Dorothy says that vegetables grow
all over the world in all different
shapes and sizes. Wow, Dorothy,
that's right! What a gal.

Back to the tank, he listens again briefly.

ELMO (CONT'D)
Dorothy has a question. Dorothy
wants to know how do you grow a
vegetable. Let's ask Mr. Noodle!
Oh, Mr. Noodle!

Elmo walks to the window, where the SHADE is down.

ELMO (CONT'D)
Hi, Shade! Can you go up, please?

It shoots open. MR. NOODLE is rubbing his nose.

ELMO (CONT'D)
Thank you! It's Mr. Noodle. Hi, Mr.
Noodle.

Mr. Noodle waves.

INT. MR. NOODLE'S ROOM

Next to Mr. Noodle lies a large planter box full of dirt.

ELMO (O.S.)
Mr. Noodle, Dorothy asks: How do
you grow a vegetable?

Mr. Noodle seems to know. He searches in his pocket and
eventually removes...a banana.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
No, that's a banana. A banana's a
fruit.

Mr. Noodle tosses it aside and reaches in again, this time
revealing...a cucumber!

CHILDREN (V.O.)
A cucumber! That's a vegetable!
Good job, Mr. Noodle. But a
cucumber can't grow in your pocket.

Mr. Noodle looks perplexed.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
No, a cucumber grows in a garden. A
garden, Mr. Noodle.

Mr. Noodle looks around then hunkers down to peer between his
legs.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
There's one! There's a garden, Mr.
Noodle. Right behind you!

Mr. Noodle turns and examines the garden.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
Yeah, that's it. Now plant
something.

He takes the cucumber and tries to shove it into the ground,
eventually sitting on top of it to push it in.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
No, not that way! No, Mr. Noodle.
You don't plant the whole thing.
You plant a seed.

He looks up.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
A seed, Mr. Noodle.

Mr. Noodle stands, reaches deep into his pocket, and
produces...a cucumber seed.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
That's it, Mr. Noodle! Good job.
Now plant it in the ground. Plant
it!

Mr. Noodle reaches down, makes a hole with his finger, and
plants the seed in the ground.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
Yay! Good work, Mr. Noodle. Way to
go! Now you have to take care of
it. Take care of the seed, Mr.
Noodle.

He points at the seed in the ground then seems to understand.
Self-satisfied, he turns and sits on the seed to keep it
warm.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
No! It's not an egg, Mr. Noodle.
It's a seed! You don't sit on seeds-
-you give them sunlight and water.

Mr. Noodle stands and opens his arms wide to let the sunlight
come through.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 Yay, sunlight, yeah. Now you're
 doing it, Mr. Noodle.

He puts his hands in his pockets, pleased.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 Now give it water. Seeds need water
 to grow. Give it water, Mr. Noodle.

He looks around again and sees a hose curled on the ground.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 Use the hose! The hose!

He steps inside the hose's curl and tries to pick it up. It gets caught around his leg and, trying to extricate himself, he gets more and more entangled.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 Not that way! Oh no! Look out, Mr.
 Noodle! Go the other way--the other
 way!

Mr. Noodle understands and soon gets out of the hose, carefully removing his leg. He walks over to the garden box and points the hose at the ground. Nothing happens.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 Turn it on! Turn the water on, Mr.
 Noodle, the water!

Perplexed, Mr. Noodle scratches his head. He looks under the hose and all around trying to find the switch. Then he looks directly in the nozzle.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 No, Mr. Noodle! Look out!

It's too late. A blast of water sprays Mr. Noodle's face.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 Oh no! Mr. Noodle! Are you all
 right?

Mr. Noodle stumbles backwards, pointing the hose in the air. Water rains down on him. It also comes down on the garden, watering the seed.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 Look, Mr. Noodle, you're doing it!
 You're watering the garden.

He's amazed.

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 Yes, you're doing it! You're
 watering the vegetable.

Mr. Noodle realizes what's going on and puffs up with pride.

ELMO (O.S.)
 Very good, Mr. Noodle. That's how
 you grow a vegetable.

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

ELMO
 Thanks, Mr. Noodle! Thanks, Shade.

Mr. Noodle waves and Shade draws down. Elmo turns and walks over to Dorothy.

ELMO (CONT'D)
 And now Dorothy wants to ask
 someone else. How do you grow a
 vegetable?

CRAYON WIPE TO:

INT. DOROTHY'S ROOM

A CHILD is standing next to Dorothy's bowl with a small planter, a shovel, a watering can, and a bean. The child demonstrates the following actions while describing them.

CHILD
 Dorothy, this is how I plant a
 seed. I find a spot in a garden or
 a box like this, then I dig a
 little hole like this, then I put
 the seed inside and gently cover it
 up, like this. I put it in the
 sunshine and give it lots of water,
 like this.

We pull back to see a SECOND CHILD with a planter with a full-grown bean plant.

SECOND CHILD
 And then, after a long time, the
 plant grows up and makes
 vegetables, like these beans. And
 that's how you grow a vegetable,
 Dorothy.

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

ELMO
Wow, thank you, kids. And now, Elmo
will ask a baby.

He walks over to a BABY, which is holding a toy shovel.

ELMO (CONT'D)
Hi, baby. Hello. How do you grow a
vegetable?
(beat)
Ha, ha, ha, ha. Thank you, baby.

He walks away.

WIPE TO:

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

Elmo chews on a large carrot.

ELMO
Mmmm, Elmo just loves carrots.
Mmmm.

He chews a bit more.

ELMO (CONT'D)
Now, Elmo has a question for...doo-
doo, doo-doo...you! Yes, you! How
many peas do you see in this pea
pod? Let's count them.

A cartoon pea pod moves into the frame in front of Elmo. It
opens little by little, revealing small smiley-faced peas.

ELMO/CHILDREN
One...two...three...four...five...
six...seven. Seven peas!

The peas pop out and bounce out of the frame while Elmo
dodges them.

ELMO
Jumping jellybeans, those peas sure
are bouncy. Must be a little tight
in there. Good counting, everybody.

The pod scoots away too. Elmo walks to one side.

ELMO (CONT'D)
 But Elmo still wonders, who--
 besides Elmo--eats vegetables?

The DRAWER grows up like a plant out of the ground and emits a steady CRUNCHING sound.

ELMO (CONT'D)
 Oh, it sounds like somebody's
 eating vegetables inside Drawer
 right now. Is anybody eating
 vegetables in theeeere?

Drawer springs open, pushing Elmo offscreen. A letter flies out and fills the screen.

MONTAGE

There is the picture of a tree; when Elmo speaks, a head of lettuce appears in front of it.

ELMO (V.O.)
 Does a tree eat vegetables?

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 No.

A person with a plate of salad appears, sitting under the tree.

ELMO (V.O.)
 But you can eat a vegetable under a
 tree.

A glass of water appears; when Elmo speaks a bunch of green beans appear.

ELMO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Can a glass of water eat a
 vegetable?

CHILDREN (V.O.)
 No.

A person with a plate of beans and a glass of water appears.

ELMO (V.O.)
 No, but you can drink a glass of
 water while you eat vegetables.

A robin appears; when Elmo speaks a head of broccoli appears.

ELMO (V.O.)
 Does a bird eat a vegetable?

CHILDREN (V.O.)

No.

EXT. SESAME STREET - DAY

BIG BIRD is holding a head of broccoli.

ELMO (V.O.)

He does if he's Big Bird

Big Bird takes a bite of broccoli.

BIG BIRD

Oh, I just love fresh vegetables,
don't you? They're so delicious.

He walks away, chewing.

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

The letter goes back inside the Drawer, which closes. Elmo walks back into the frame.

ELMO

Thanks, Drawer. And now...

The COMPUTER leaps into the frame.

COMPUTER

Elmo's got mail! Elmo's got mail!
Elmo's got mail!

ELMO

Oh, Elmo got an email. Let's see.

He reaches for the mouse.

ELMO (CONT'D)

Hey, a mouse can eat vegetables
too!

He clicks on the mouse and a picture of COOKIE MONSTER appears on the monitor.

ELMO (CONT'D)

Oh look! Elmo's friend Cookie
Monster sent Elmo email.

He clicks on the mouse again.

COOKIE MONSTER

Hi, Elmo. Me Cookie Monster.

EMAIL MESSAGE

COOKIE MONSTER (CONT'D)

Me write you an email, Elmo, to
tell you all about that yummiest of
foods--VEGETABLES!

Cookie Monster throws several vegetables up in the air.

COOKIE MONSTER (CONT'D)

Now, me know, me know. Me COOKIE
Monster. Me not VEGETABLE Monster.
Me like cookies. And me still like
cookies--cookies are good dessert
or for snack--but vegetables...

He holds up an entire stalk of celery for emphasis.

COOKIE MONSTER (CONT'D)

Vegetables are just as yummy as a
cookie and healthy too, with
vitamins, to make a monster grow up
strong and big.

(sad)

So me love cookies...and me love
vegetables...but cannot eat both.
And then...

(brightening up)

Me have brilliant idea. Me make...

He reaches below the frame and comes up to reveal his stalk
of celery squeezed between two chocolate chip cookies.

COOKIE MONSTER (CONT'D)

VEGETABLE COOKIE SANDWICH! Me love
it! Yum, yum, yum, yum, yum.

He devours the sandwich while the email's time runs out.

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

Cookie Monster's picture goes back inside the envelope on the
monitor and the Computer hops off.

ELMO

Wow, that's some sandwich. Thanks
for the email, Computer. Elmo's
friend McKay knows a lot about
vegetables too. She went to the
market with her mom and told Elmo
all about it.

CRAYON WIPE TO:

INT. NEW YORK CITY APARTMENT - DAY

A nine-year-old girl named MCKAY puts on her jacket with her MOTHER.

MCKAY (V.O.)

The farmers' market was open in the fall when it's cool outside because that's when most the fruits and vegetables are harvested.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

McKay and her Mother walk down the street.

MCKAY (V.O.)

Farmers from all around the state brought the food they grew so that we could buy it.

EXT. UNION SQUARE - DAY

They arrive at the Union Square Farmers' Market, and survey the entire scene. McKay's actions parallel her narration.

MCKAY (V.O.)

The market was like a big fair. All of the farmers worked together. There were lots of booths and each one was selling something different. There were more kinds of fruits and vegetables than I'd ever seen before. There were all different kinds of apples and pears, peaches and apricots. And there were hundreds of vegetables, like celery, asparagus, spinach, okra, eggplants, pumpkins, squash, potatoes, and yams. The farmers explained the differences between the different types of potatoes to us. I never knew there were so many different kinds of corn. They weighed it and put it in a bag, and we even got to shuck it ourselves. After we bought all our fruits and vegetables we had a special treat: homemade potato doughnuts and fresh apple cider. Yum!

McKay plays at Evelyn's Playground at 17th Street.

MCKAY (V.O.)
What a great day.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

McKay and her Mother walk away with their bags.

MCKAY (V.O.)
I want to come back to the farmers'
market all the time.

CRAYON WIPE TO:

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

Elmo's hands are full of vegetables.

ELMO
Wow, there are so many different
kinds of vegetables. Elmo wonders
where he can learn more about them.

The TELEVISION pops up out of the floor.

ELMO (CONT'D)
Oh, yeah! He can watch the
Vegetable Channel. Thanks,
Television. Turn yourself on.

The Television nods and switches on.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
It's the Vegetable Channel: all
vegetables, all the time.

TITLE: THE VEGGIE CHRONICLES

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
And now, Parker Parsnip in "The
Veggie Chronicles."

EXT. FIELD (ANIMATED) - DAY

PARKER PARSNIP, a woman in a pith helmet, stands in the
middle of a field of grass.

PARKER
Vegetables have been around a
really, really long time. Way back
when vegetables were new they
looked a lot different from today.

A giant vegetable appears in the field behind her.

PARKER (CONT'D)
And the folks who ate them looked a
little different too.

A DINOSAUR jumps up and bites into the vegetable, CRUNCHING
away.

A group of CAVEMEN with spears run up. The dinosaur YELPS and
runs away. The cavemen stop and dig into the vegetable.

PARKER (CONT'D)
Vegetables were some of the first
things people ever ate.

CAVEMEN
Mmmmmmmmm.

PARKER
And they've just kept on eating...

EXT. AGORA (ANIMATED) - DAY

Parker stands next to a group of ancient GREEKS in togas,
MUNCHING away at various vegetables.

PARKER
...and eating...

INT. MEDIEVAL CASTLE (ANIMATED) - DAY

Parker stands next to a MAN kneeling to be knighted. The KING
is attempting the business with a long asparagus stalk, while
the QUEEN chows down on various veggies.

PARKER
...and eating...

EXT. PLYMOUTH COLONY (ANIMATED) - DAY

Parker stands next to the assembled PILGRIMS and NATIVE
AMERICANS gathered for the first Thanksgiving, chowing down
on pumpkins, corn, and other vegetables.

PARKER
...and eating.

EXT. FIELD (ANIMATED) - DAY

Parker stands to the side of a lone CAVEMAN sitting on a rock, staring at the ground.

PARKER

But they found that to eat the stuff they had to grow it first, so they invented agriculture: farming and gardening and things. Vegetables don't grow on trees, after all.

As Parker describes the subsequent inventions, they each appear, quickly expanding into vast farms, cities, railroads, and highways.

PARKER (CONT'D)

People invented shovels for digging, buckets for carrying water, canals, aqueducts, tillers, and threshers. From Eli Whitney's cotton gin all the way to the little doohickey that puts stickers on apples, agriculture changed the world. And today all the food we eat comes from farms and gardens, sent around the world for folks like us to eat. That makes me feel like singin'!

Parker jumps out of frame.

EXT. BARN (ANIMATED) - DAY

She lands in a pile of vegetables in front of a barn, and starts holding them up and eating while singing.

PARKER

(sings)

Dig, dig, crunch--do the vegetable bop!
Sun, sun, munch--I like to do it a lot!
With a munch and a crunch I can eat a bunch for lunch.
'Cause when it's time to crunch I do the vegetable bop!
(spoken, mouth full)
Mmmmmmm. Until next time, I'm Parker Parsnip. Happy eating!

TITLE: A SPINNING GLOBE WITH FLYING VEGETABLES

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 Coming up next on the Vegetable
 Channel: "A Bean Grows in
 Brooklyn," followed by "A Separate
 Peas" and, later, "For Whom the
 Bell Pepper Tolls."

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

The Television stops playing and hops away.

ELMO
 Thank you, Television. Thank you!
 Wow. Elmo wants to learn more about
 vegetables.

A sound of a DRUM SET--brushes on a high hat--begins.

ELMO (CONT'D)
 Huh? What's that?

He walks to the door and opens it. Outside stands a BEET
 POET: a red beet with a French beret, sunglasses, and a
 goatee.

ELMO (CONT'D)
 Oh, hi. Who are you?

The Beet Poet comes inside, the door closing behind him.

BEET POET
 I'm a Beet Poet, cat, ya dig?

ELMO
 Oh, you're a vegetable! Elmo is
 learning all about vegetables.

All of the other vegetables return.

ELMO (CONT'D)
 And who are these?

BEET POET
 More vegetables, daddy-o. This
 here's Colonel Corn.

Colonel Corn bows stiffly.

COLONEL CORN
 I say, good day, old chap.

ELMO
 Hello.

BEET POET
And Collin Flower.

COLLIN FLOWER
Hi there.

ELMO
Hi.

BEET POET
And Tom Ato.

TOM ATO
How's it goin'?

ELMO
Hiya.

BEET POET
And Arty Choke.

ARTY CHOKE
'Tsup?

ELMO
Hi.

Southern Belle Pepper comes forward, CLEARING HER THROAT.

BEET POET
And allow me to introduce Southern Belle Pepper.

SOUTHERN BELLE PEPPER
I have always relied on the spices of strangers.

ELMO
Oh, Mr. Beet Poet, Mr. Beet Poet, Elmo has a question. How many vegetables should Elmo eat every day?

BEET POET
I'll tell ya in a poem. Listen good:
I hope you dig my poem just like can dig a tater,
'Cause if you don't pay attention then I won't repeat it later.
Everyday as you grow up I'll tell you just what to do:
Be sure to eat your vegetables, about a cup or two.

ELMO

Oh, one or two cups!

BEET POET

That's right. Eat yummy vegetables,
'cause you can never beat 'em.
And plus there are so many ways
that you can choose to eat 'em.

Elmo points offscreen.

ELMO

Oh, look! Dorothy is imagining some
different ways that Elmo can eat
vegetables right now.

A thought bubble appears above Dorothy's head and grows to
fill the screen.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Elmo, bundled in a heavy coat, sits atop the snowy peak
eating a dishful of creamed corn.

ELMO (V.O.)

Dorothy is imagining Elmo eating
creamed corn on top of a mountain.
That looks nice and warm. Mmm.

EXT. MARATHON - DAY

Elmo in exercise gear runs down the street, munching on a
carrot.

ELMO (V.O.)

Oh, and now Elmo is running in a
race, getting extra energy from
that yummy carrot. How handy!

BEET POET (V.O.)

Yeah man, vegetables can go
anywhere and help you do anything.

A crowd CHEERS as Elmo crosses the finish line.

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

The thought bubble shrinks back above Dorothy's head and
disappears. Everyone is now gathered around the piano.

BEET POET

So who wants some veggies?

The others all cheer and talk at once:

TOM ATO

I'd love some spinach.

COLLIN FLOWER

I hope some will turnip soon.

ARTY CHOKE

Could I peas have some peas?

SOUTHERN BELLE PEPPER

Does anyone have a sweet potata?

COLONEL CORN

Frankly, my dear, I don't give a
yam.

ELMO

Dorothy wants us to sing "The
Vegetable Song" because Dorothy
loves vegetables. So does Elmo.
Here we go!

He plays the PIANO as they all sing.

ALL

(sing)

Vegetables, vegetables, veggie
vegetables.
Vegetables, ve-vegetables, veggie
vegetables.

INT. MR. NOODLE'S ROOM

Mr. Noodle dances along with his flowing hose and cucumber.

INT. ELMO'S WORLD

ALL

(sing)

Vegetables, vegetables, veggie
vegetables.
Vegetables, ve-vegetables, veggie
vegetables.

Elmo stops playing as the music switches to his THEME SONG.

ELMO
Say goodbye, Dorothy.

Dorothy swims past.

ELMO (CONT'D)
Say goodbye, vegetables.

ALL
Goodbye!

Elmo starts to dance.

ELMO
(sings)
Doo doo doo-doo, Doo doo doo-doo.
Dah dah doo wah dah, doo doo wah
dah.

ALL
(sing)
That's Elmo's World!

FADE OUT