

Too Tall Tina

By Maria Merritt

Scripted by Elizabeth Bott & Emily Wheeler

Parts (12)	Tina	Dr. Lasso	Tina's Thoughts		
	Narrator	Mike	Anna	Mr. Lee	Luke
	Nancy	Felix	Ms. Como	Orange Team	

Summer

Tina: Something happened to me this summer. I grew. I grew taller and taller and taller! I went to see Dr. Tasso for my checkup.

Dr. Tasso: Wow, Tina! That's some growth spurt you've had.

Tina's Thoughts: Tina felt proud! But on the first day of school, Tina stopped feeling so great.

The First Day of School

Narrator: Tina used to be as tall as her two best friends. Now Tina is taller than Nancy and Luke. She is the tallest kid in all of third grade!

Tina: Hi, Mike!

Mike: Hi, Tina! (*Looks up at Tina*) Whoa, I mean– Too-Tall Tina!

Anna: How's the weather up there?

Tina's Thoughts: Mike and Anna laugh, but Tina does not think they're very funny.

Narrator: At recess Tina finds her favorite jump rope from last year. It's purple with sparkly handles. Tina takes a big jump and *Crash!* Her favorite jump rope is too short for her.

Tina's Thoughts: Maybe Mike is right. Maybe I *am* Too-Tall Tina.

Narrator: Nancy and Luke help Tina up.

Tina (mumbling): Thanks

Luke: Don't worry, you just need a longer rope!

Narrator: It is now the end of the school day, and the students are getting ready to go home.

Mr. Lee: Don't forget, Friday is Class Picture Day. Let's make Grade 3 look sharp.

Narrator: All the kids are excited-except Tina.

Narrator: The lady who takes the picture always lines the class up by how tall they are. Nancy, Luke, and Tina are next to each other every year. But not *this* year.

Tina: I don't want to be in the back row, away from you guys.

Nancy: Maybe you'll like the back row.

Luke: Yeah! When you're in the back, no one can tell if your socks are dirty!

Tina: But we're *a/ways* together– like the Three Musketeers.

Narrator: Nancy and Luke shrug. That night Lucy got to thinking

Tina's Thoughts: Aha! I know what to do.

Narrator: Tina goes to her closet.

Tina's Thoughts: and ... Yes! These are perfect! Nancy and Luke will be as tall as I am on Picture Day.

The Second Day of School

Narrator: Before school starts, Tina tells Luke and Nancy her idea.

Luke: Girls' shoes? No way!

Nancy: Oooh! High heels.

Narrator: Nancy puts them on and starts to walk. Wobble, wobble—*Plop!* Nancy falls, and lands with a thud.

Tina's Thoughts: So much for Plan A. It's time for Plan B.

Narrator: Tina tucks her head in. She bends her knees and squishes herself down and waddles over to Luke.

Tina: Now I'm as short as you are!

Luke: Yeah, but you look like a duck.

Narrator: Tina stands back up.

Felix: Hey, guys! Want to play limbo?

Nancy and Luke (yelling): All right!

Narrator: Nancy and Luke rush over. Nancy follows slowly.

Tina's Thoughts: Last year I was super at limbo. I'd scoot right under the stick— even when it was really, really low. But now I'm Too-Tall Tina.

Narrator: When Tina's turn comes, she takes a deep breath. Tina bends her knees lower and lower. She leans back farther and farther. She's halfway under the stick! Tina leans back just a little more— *Splat!*

Tina's Thoughts: I feel like crying.

Narrator: Tina gets up and walks away. Nancy and Luke follow her.

Tina: There's *nothing* good about being tall.

Luke: That's not true. You can see over everybody's head at parades!

Nancy: And reach the cookies on the top shelf!

Tina: I guess so.

Luke: I know what will cheer you up. Tomorrow is Sports Day. You love Sports Day!

Tina's Thoughts: I *do* love Sports Day. Wee, I *used* to love it—just like I used to love jumping rope and playing limbo. But now I'm Too-Tall Tina.

Sports Day

Narrator: Sports Day starts first thing in the morning. The gym teacher, Ms. Como puts Tina on the Orange Team with Nancy and Luke.

Tina's Thoughts: *Hmm.* Maybe this won't be so bad after all.

Ms. Como: The pole climb is first. Whoever climbs the highest gets a point for his or her team.

Tina's Thoughts: Uh-oh! I'm not so great at pole climbing.

Narrator: It's Tina's turn. She gulps hard, grabs the pole, and pulls herself up. She pulls and pulls.

Ms. Como: Time's up!

Narrator: Tina looks down.

Tina's Thoughts: I didn't get very far. Oh, well. At least I didn't fall off the pole!

Ms. Como: That's one point for the Green Team.

Narrator: The next game is Giant Steps. It is Tina against Anna and Mike. They warm up.

Ms. Como: Whoever reaches the red line in the fewest number of steps wins a point. Ready, set-*Go!*

Narrator: Nancy stretches her legs as far as she can and takes a long step. She takes another and other- all the way to the finish line.

Ms. Como: Anna took ten steps, Mike took nine, and Tina took eight. That means...

Narrator: Tina holds her breath.

Ms. Como: The Orange Team gets a point!

Narrator: Tina's whole team starts to cheer. Nancy and Luke cheer the loudest.

Narrator: The last game is the long jump. The score is tied.

Ms. Como: The team that makes the longest long jump wins.

Narrator: Luke goes first. He jumps far! Then it's Mike's turn. He jumps farther. The Green Team is in the lead. And Tina is the last one to go. Tina takes a deep breath, starts to run, and she closes her eyes. Tina jumps... her feet hit the ground.

Tina's Thoughts: Where did I land? I'm too nervous to look.

Orange Team: Way to go, Tina!

Narrator: Tina peeks out of one eye.

Tina's Thoughts: I did it! I jumped the farthest of anyone!

Ms. Como: The Orange Team wins!

Narrator: Tina is so surprised she just keeps standing in the sand pit with a smile on her face. Ms. Como gives Tina a big blue ribbon.

The Next Day

Narrator: More good things happen. On Thursday Tina finds a *long* jump rope with red sparkly handles.

Tina's Thoughts: It's perfect!

Narrator: Then Mike's soccer ball gets stuck in a tree. Lots of kids try to reach it. But only Tina's arms are long enough.

Mike: Thanks, Too-Tall Tina! Er, I mean *Terrifically* Tall Tina!

Mr. Lee: Tina, I'm going to make you our official Class Reacher!

Narrator: Nancy and Luke give Tina a thumbs up.

Picture Day

Narrator: Finally, it's Friday—Class Picture Day!

Tina's Thoughts: And guess what? I don't mind being in the back row. After all, I'm Terrifically Tall Tina!