**Daniel and the Lions**

Dramatis Personae:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Daniel | 1 student |  | King’s servant | 1 student |
| Daniel’s servant | 1 student |  | Soldiers | 2 students |
| Officers | 4 students |  | Narrators | 4 students  (male & female voices) |
| King Darius | 1 student |  | Props & Scenes | student helpers |
| King’s Guards | 2 students |  |  |  |

Scene 1 – a park bench

**Narrator 1:** Long, long ago there was a powerful country.

**Narrator 2:** Its name was Babylon.

**Narrator 3:** It was also a very, very big country.

**Narrator 4:** It stretched from India to Africa.

**Narrator 1:** One day, this country got a new king.

**Narrator 2:** His name was Darius.

**Narrator 3** He was a very smart king.

**Narrator 4:** He appointed 120 people to help him rule the country.

**Narrator 1:** Over these 120 rulers were few officers.

**Narrator 2:** Among these top officers was Daniel.

**Narrator 3:** Everyone knew Daniel for his wisdom, hard work and honesty.

**Narrator 4:** So the king planned to make him the No. 2 in the country.

*(Officers enter stage, sit on bench, think deeply, looking troubled)*

**Narrator 1:** This news made all the officers deeply unhappy.

**Officers:** And very angry!

**Narrator 2:** They had one common wish.

**Narrator 3:** Which was …..

**Officer 1:** *(loudly, angrily)* Get Daniel out!

**Officers:** *(fast gesture)* Out, out! Out of our way! *(then smile of satisfaction)*

**Narrator 4:** They must tell the king bad things about Daniel.

*(Officers come close together, happily, discussing)*

**Narrator 1:** They thought and thought. *(officers very serious)*

**Narrator 2:** They went over aspect after aspect. *(officers act silent talk, quite animated)*

**Narrator 3:** But they could find no bad thing in Daniel. *(officers look worried)*

**Officer 2:** *(disbelieving)* Not ONE bad thing in his life or work?

**Narrator 4:** Absolutely nothing! *(officers slump their bodies, sighing, shaking heads)*

**Officer 3:** Daniel makes us all look bad. *(sounding disappointed)*

**Officer 4:** If we don’t get him out, we will soon be sorry. *(worried, almost scared)*

**Officer 1:** But he is just so perfect! *(unbelieving tone)*

**Officer 2:** Yes, he makes no mistake in anything. *(sadly)*

**Officer 3:** His service to the king and country is excellent. *(like giving up)*

**Officer 4:** The king will not throw him out for nothing. *(downcast)*

**Officer 1:** Of course not. *(little irritated)*

**Officer 2:** It seems we will not find ONE mistake to report to the king. *(dejected)*

**Officer 3:** *(suddenly look up, with little smile)* Unless . . .

**Officers:** *(excited)* Unless what?

**Officer 3:** *(look at others smugly)* Unless it’s something to do with … his God!

**Officers:** Ah, of course! *(1 – clap hands, 2 – clench fists, 4 – raise hands)*

**Officer 4:** We can make praying illegal.

**Officer 1:** I get it ….. illegal to pray to Daniel’s God!

**Officer 2:** Even better – to any god, except the king!

**Officer 3:** Perfect!

**All officers:** We got it! *(all look very happy. Walk off stage. Go to meet the King)*

Scene 2 – King’s court

*(King seated on throne, guards behind him)*

**All officers:** *(enter, bow down)* O King, live forever!

**King Darius** Rise and speak.

**Officer 4:** Your majesty, all your top officers feel that you should make a new law.

**King Darius:** About what?

**Officer 1:** About praying, Your Majesty.

**Officer 2:** For the next 30 days, everyone should pray only to you, our king.

**Officer 3:** Anyone who breaks this law shall be thrown into the den of lions.

**Officer 4:** Now, O king, please make this law.

**King Darius:** *(thinking)* Hmm, everyone should pray only to me for the next 30 days ….. sounds good.

**Narrator 1:** The king’s officers saw their chance and they quickly took it.

**All officers:** Put it in writing, O King.

*(Officers open a scroll before the king, he reads, light smile comes to his face, dips pens in ink and sign)*

**Narrator 2:** This country had a very interesting tradition.

**Narrator 3:** Once the King signs a law, it can never be changed or cancelled.

*(Officers bow, leave the stage. Darius and guard leave later. Daniel come to the stage)*

Scene 3 – Daniel’s home

**Narrator 4:** When Daniel heard about the king’s new law, he went home.

*(Servant opens door, bows and greets)*

**Servant:** Good evening, Sir.

**Daniel:** Good evening, Arman. How was your day?

**Servant:** Pretty good, Sir. Thank you. And how was yours?

**Daniel:** *(cheerful)* Great, just great. *(walk in. Servant get back to house work)*

**Narrator 1:** Then Daniel opened the windows towards Jerusalem, as he had always done.

**Narrator 2:** Then he got down on his knees and prayed to God.

**Narrator 3:** He gave thanks to God for His love and care.

**Narrator 4:** The new law did not make Daniel change his habit of praying. *(Officers come to side of the stage).*

**Narrator 1:** He still prayed to God three times a day.

**Narrator 2:** Through the open window, the officers saw Daniel praying *(gesture)*.

**Narrator 3:** The officers rushed to get help. *(officers exit. Daniel continue praying, servant on the other side doing house work)*

**Narrator 4:** Then the officers returned with soldiers!

**Narrator 1:** Again they found Daniel praying to his God!

**Officer 1:** *(bang the door)* Open up!

**Officer 2:** Quickly!

**Officer 3:** Now! Or we’ll break the door!

**Servant:** *(open door, speak calmly)* Sirs, please wait here! I’ll call my master!

**Officer 4:** *(harshly)* Wait? We can’t wait! *(all officers rush in to Daniel, guards hold servant)*

**Officer 1:** *(shouting at Daniel)*  What are you doing?

**Officer 2:** *(call out)* Soldiers, take him! *(soldiers arrest Daniel)*

**Officer 3:** You know the new law, don’t you?

**Officer 4:** Soon there’ll be no more Daniel!

**All officers:** *(laugh out loud, with satisfaction)*

**Servant:** *(as Daniel taken out in handcuffs)* Sir, your God will take care of you! *(Daniel looks, nods)*

Scene 4 – King’s court

*(King Darius sitting on his throne, Officers enter. Soldiers hold Daniel at entrance)*

**All officers:** *(bow)* O king, live forever!

**Officer 1:** Your Majesty, did you not make a new law yesterday?

**King Darius:** I signed a few laws yesterday.

**Officer 2:** We mean the one about praying, Your Majesty.

**Officer 3:** That for these 30 days, everyone in the country should pray only to you.

**Officer 4:** And anyone who prays to any other god or man will be thrown into the lion’s den.

**King Darius:** Oh, that one?Yes I did.

**Officer 1:** Daniel doesn’t care for you, O king, or for your law.

**Officer 2:** Guards, bring him in!

**Officer 3:** He still prays three times a day to his God. *(soldiers push Daniel in front of the King)*

**Narrator 2:**The King realized that the officers had tricked him.

**Officer 4:**Your Majesty, remember that in our country, a law made by the king can never be changed.

**King Darius:** *(upset)*Of course I know that.

**Narrator 3:** The king had to give the order. *(signal the soldiers, who grab Daniel and lead him out)*

**King Darius:** *(to Daniel, as led out)*May your God, whom you always serve, be with you!

**Daniel:** *(nod)*

**Narrator 4:** The soldiers led Daniel to the lions’ den. *(on the extreme side of the stage)*

**All officers:** *(triumphantly)* To the lions’ den!Hurray! *(all move towards lions’ den)*

**Narrator 1:** They opened the gate and threw him in. *(act out)*

**Narrator 2:** A stone was put over the mouth of the lions’ den. *(guards act out)*

**Narrator 3:** The king sealed it with his own ring. *(king act out)*

**Narrator 4:** Then the officers sealed it with theirs. *(officers act out)*

**Officer 1:** Even if Daniel escaped the lions …

**Officer 2:** There’s no way he can come out!

**Officers:** Ha Ha Ha!

**Narrator 1:** Then the officers went to their homes happy.

**Narrator 2:** The king returned to his palace.

**Narrator 3:** *(King on throne)* But he was very sad because Daniel was his most trusted officer. *(King act distressed)*

**Narrator 4:** Most of all, he knew he had sent a good man to his death.

**Narrator 1:** That night the king could not work.  *(King act restless)*

**Narrator 2:** He also could not eat. *(servant enters with tray)*

**Narrator 3:** In fact, he did not even want to see food. *(act out with servant)*

**Narrator 4:** And neither could he sleep! *(toss and turn)*

**Narrator 1:** Early in the morning, the king got up and was about to leave the palace.

**Guard 1:** Your Majesty, where are you going so early in the morning?

**King Darius:** To the lions’ den.

**Guard 2:** But Your Majesty, you can’t go without armed guards!

**King Darius:** Come along then! *(King runs to lions’ den, guards try to keep up)*

**King Darius:** *(in anguished voice)* Daniel, did your God, whom you always serve, protect you from the lions?

**Daniel:** Yes,O king. My God sent His angel, and he closed the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me.

**King Darius:** *(overjoyed)* Wonderful! Wonderful! *(to guards)* Quick, break the seals! Open it up and pull Daniel out! *(guards obey. King hug Daniel, both very happy)*

**Narrator 2:** There was nothing wrong on Daniel’s body.

**Narrator 3:** Not even a scratch!

**Narrator 4:** Because he trusted in the God of heaven.

**Daniel:** One more thing, O king.

**King Darius:** Yes, Daniel, what is it?

**Daniel:** I have never done any wrong before you, or behind your back.

**King Darius:** *(wave dismissively)*I know, I know. (see o*fficers standing at little distance)* Guards, take those men and throw them into the lions’ den! *(officers try to run but arrested, taken to lions’ den)*

**Officer 1:** *(scream)* No, Your Majesty, Don’t do this!

**Officer 2:** *(scream)* This is not fair!

**Officer 3:** *(scream)* King, you are wrong!

**Officer 4:** *(scream)* Your Majesty, have mercy!

**All officers:** *(scream as thrown in; play sound of lions roaring, if possible)*

**Narrator 1:** The jealous officers were killed by the hungry lions.

**Narrator 2:** Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples in the country.*(Guard 1 bring scroll, pen and ink bottle)*

**King Darius:** *(dip pen in ink, write on scroll)* I now make a new law: *(read from scroll)* “All the people of this land must respect the God of Daniel. He is the living God and he lives forever. He does wonderful things in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”

**Narrator 3:** So Daniel served as No. 2 in the country under King Darius.

**Narrator 4:** And he continued to do great things under the next king, Cyrus.

**THE END**