**The Fiery Furnace**

Dramatis Personae:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Shadrach  | 1 student |  | Wise Men  | 3 students |
| Meshach | 1 student |  | Guards | 3 students |
| Abednego | 1 student |  | Narrators | 4 students (mixed voices) |
| King (Queen) | 1 student |  | Crowd | All other students  |
| Builders  | 3 students |  | Props & Scenes i/c  | Teachers’ assistants |

Scene 1 – King’s palace

**Narrator 1:** A long, long time ago,

**Narrator 2:** in a kingdom far, far away,

**Narrator 3:** there lived a king.

**Narrator 4:** This king wanted to show how powerful he was.

**Narrator 1:** He decided to build a very large gold statue of himself

**Narrator 2:** And it must be made of pure, solid gold.

**Narrator 3:** Then when the statue was finished, everyone would be amazed.

**Narrator 4:** In fact, the kind wanted everyone to worship his statue.

**Narrator 1:** So, the king called a meeting with his builders.

 *(Builders enter)*

**Builders:** *(bow)* Long live, O King!

**King:** Stand up and come nearer.I have something very important to tell you. *(builders obey)*

I want you to make a very, very large statue. A statue so big, everyone can see it from everywhere.

**Builder 1:** That will be a very big statue.

**King:** Yes. The biggest ever.

**Builder 2:** That will be a lot of work.

**King:** Sure! *(critical)* Does that scare you?

**Builder 3:** No, your majesty. The job makes us excited!

**King:** And my huge statue must be made only of gold.

**Builders:** Wow!

**King:** Wow indeed! *(head high, confident and happy)*

**Builder 1:** That will be a lot of gold.

**King:** Of course! *(critical)* Is that a problem?

**Builder 2:** Certainly not, your majesty.

**Builder 3:** Your statue will be the biggest the world has ever seen.

**Builders:** And the grandest!

**King:** Good, good! Now go and get started.

 *(Builders exit; put up the statue on screen)*

Scene 2 – A field

**Narrator 2:** After the statue was built, the king called all the people in the kingdom together.

 *(A crowd of people gather on stage)*

**King:** Now you must bow down to the statue. When you hear the music, everyone must bow to show me respect. Anyone who does not bow down will be thrown into the fiery furnace.

**Narrator 3:** Grand music was played.

**Narrator 4:** And everyone bowed down low.

**Narrator 1:** Except for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

**Narrator 2:** The king’s wise men noticed the 3 who did not bow down. *(Wise men point, whisper, and look angry)*

**Narrator 3:** As soon as the music stopped, the wise men ran up to the king.

**Wise Man 1:** *(bowing)* Great King, didn’t you tell everyone that they must bow down to your statue when music was played?

**King:** Yes, I did.

**Wise Man 2:** Well King, there are three men who did not bow down.

**Wise Man 3:** They should be thrown into the furnace!

**King:** Who are these men? Bring them to me. NOW!

*(Guards go and get Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, take them to the King)*

**Guard 1:** You’ll be barbecued!

**Guard 2:** How silly can you be?

**Guard 3:** They want to be heroes! *(all guards laugh. Push young men before the king)*

**King:** *(angrily)*Is it true that you did not bow down to my statue?

**Shadrach:** *(politely)* Yes King, it is true.

**Meshach:** *(firmly)* We can only bow down to the one true God. *(point to heaven)*

**King:** I will give you one more chance. I will have the music played again. If you bow down, I will not throw you into the fiery furnace.

**Shadrach:** Thank you, King; but there is no point. We will not bow down – the second time or any other time.

**Meshach:** We would rather die, than bow to your statue.

**Abednego:** Throw us into the fire. If our God saves us, we will live. If he does not, we are willing to die.

**King:** *(angrily)* Make the fire as hot as you can and throw these stupid boys into the furnace. *(fire and strong crackling sounds on screen, if possible)*

**Narrator 4:** The guards grabbed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and took them to the furnace. *(Guards grab the three men and pull them towards the furnace, which can be off stage)*

**Narrator 1:** The fire was very, very, VERY hot.

**Narrator 2:** The guards threw the three men into the fire. *(throw the men in)*

**Narrator 3:** It was so hot that it burned the guards before they could walk away.

**Narrator 4:** Right after doing their duty, the guards died of their burns. *(fall down dead)*

**Wise Man 1:** OKing, that will teach people not to disobey you.

**King:** Yes. *(firmly)* Nobody can disobey me and live. *(satisfied)*

**Narrator 1:** The king looked into the furnace. *(king look)*.

**Narrator 2:** He could not believe what she saw! *(king act out)*

**King:**  Didn’t we throw three men into the fire?

**Wise Man 2:** Yes, King, we did. But why?

**King:** *(point)*Look, I see four men! And the fourth looks like the Son of God!

**Wise Man 3:** *(look at furnace)* What in the world!

**Narrator 3:** The king took a few steps closer to the fire. But not too close because of the great heat.

**Narrator 4:** With one hand he shielded his eyes. *(king act out)*

**Narrator 1:** With another he made a megaphone close to his mouth. *(king act out)*

**Narrator 2:** And he called out loud the names of the 3 young men.

**King:** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, are you O.K. in there?

**Shadrach:** We are fine, O King.

**Meshach:** Our God has saved us.

**Abednego:** He has sent someone to protect us.

**King:** Come out of there. Come out so I can see you away from this heat.

 *(Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego come out of the furnace)*

**Narrator 3:** The king touched the hair on the young men’s heads.

**Narrator 4:**  Next, he smelled their clothes.

**Narrator 1:** Then he held each young man by the shoulders.

**Shadrach:** Our God has kept us safe, even from your fire.

**Narrator 2:** Finally the king said:

**King:** Now I believe you worship the one true God.

**THE END**