

WHO'S YOUR MUMMY?

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Script Sample

ACT ONE, SCENE ONE

Children in modern day school uniforms enter onto the stage. We are now in the wonderfully-imagined, highly interactive Egyptian Exhibition of The British Museum in London. Teachers and Museum staff are also present.

Dottie Scott, dedicated tour guide and something of a specialist in all things Ancient Egypt, is talking to the pupils about the exhibition.

Dottie Gather round, everybody, fingers out of noses, listening ears on. You can see in front of you two mummies from Ancient Egypt.

Bradley My cousin Henry's got two mummies.

Dottie Oh, really? Is he a museum curator too?

Peter My cousin's got two daddies.

Dottie Right, I see where this is going.

Rocco Well, my cousin's got two mummies and two daddies.

Bradley That's a lie.

Rocco He has, honestly. He's called Norman.

Amy Do you mean he's a Mormon?

Rocco Um ...

Mrs Wold Yes, thank you everybody, that's quite enough. Do carry on, Dottie.

Dottie Of course. Well, as you can see, these sarcophagi contain the bodies of a man and a woman who have been dead for over two and a half thousand years.

Rocco Wow! (*pause*) I bet they smell worse than Bradley's socks.

The other children laugh.

Bradley Hey, they were fresh on yesterday.

Mrs Wold Yes, well, we'll have no more silliness.

Jack Hey, did you hear about the Egyptian businessman caught storing hundreds of corpses? He was convicted of mummy laundering.

Some of the children laugh.

Maria I don't get it. Is it a joke?

Mrs Wold Who knows, Maria?

She looks back at Dottie, who continues.

Dottie When these people died, their organs were removed from their bodies and placed in canopic jars, all except for the heart.

Mia Why all except for the heart?

Peter Are baked beans really good for the heart?

Rocco No, but they definitely make you far...

Mrs Wold (*interrupting quickly*) Sensible answers, please.

Amy Was it because they thought the heart was the core of their person, where their love and intelligence stemmed from?

Dottie That's precisely why, yes. What a clever answer. Have a house-point.

Mrs Wold We don't actually do house-points at our school. We have a much more rigorous and robust system in place. You can read all about it on the school website if you like.

Dottie Um, well, perhaps later.

Reginald Dottie?

Dottie Yes, young man. What's your name?

Reginald Reginald Chimley.

Dottie Oh. Yes, Reginald.

Reginald Who are the people inside?

Verity Were they married?

Lizzie Were they brother and sister?

Dottie What an excellent question, Reginald. All excellent questions, in fact. But the answer is ... we're not sure. One is a pharaoh ... or, was a pharaoh ... but we're not certain about the girl. She's somewhat of a mystery. There's more on this in the next room actually; we'll go there now.

Mrs Wold Right, follow Dottie everybody, and no pushing.

The class shuffle out after Dottie. Reginald and Verity are at the back (as always).

Mrs Wold Do your shoelace please, Reginald. Wait with him, Verity.

Reginald bends down to do his shoelaces as Mrs Wold hurries the other children off. Verity remains with Reginald but moves back towards the mummies.

Verity Imagine being preserved for thousands of years. My brother, Iggy, wrapped me in loo roll once. He used three whole loo rolls, then Dad didn't have any when he really needed some. He was stuck on the loo for two hours whilst mum was having her nails done.

Reginald If I was a mummy, I'd wake up and haunt people, just for fun.

Verity They can't wake up, they're dead.

Reginald Rodney Wallace. That's who I'd haunt. And George Burton. That would teach him to stop pushing me around.

Reginald has got himself rather worked up. He takes out his inhaler from his pocket and takes a puff on it.

Verity In which case, I would definitely haunt Peaches Bottomley. Fancy her mocking my name when she's called something as ridiculous as that.

Mrs Wold returns to the room abruptly.

Mrs Wold Come on, you two, I've already lost Bethany Lewis' confiscated lip gloss, I don't want to lose you as well. Through you go.

Reginald and Verity exit along with Mrs Wold. The Egyptians, frozen throughout the scene as if part of the exhibition, now come to life once more as the lights change and music plays.

Suggested scene change music: Call It Egypt – Interlude 2