

THE LEGEND OF ISIS AND OSIRIS

Narrator 1/Child: _____ Narrator 5/Dancer 1: _____ Isis: _____
Narrator 2/Farmer: _____ Narrator 6/Dancer 2: _____ Osiris: _____
Narrator 3/Anubis: _____ Narrator 7/Dancer 3: _____ Seth: _____
Narrator 4/Re: _____ Narrator 8/Dancer 4: _____ Nephthys: _____
Horus: _____ King Tut: _____ Guard 1: _____ Guard 2: _____

ACT I: Scene I

Narrator 1: Welcome to our play. Our class enjoyed learning about the ancient civilization of Egypt. Our play is based on one of the most famous Ancient Egyptian legends.

Narrator 2: First, let's go back in time to Egypt, 3000 years ago! (Dancer 1: Walking like an Egyptian, carry sign saying "3000 Years Ago")

KingTut: I am King Tutunkhamun. I was sealed in this tomb since I was just a boy.

Everyone: TUTANKHAMUN?

KingTut: You can call me King Tut for short.

Narrator 3: King Tut became Pharaoh of Egypt when he was just 9 years old.

Narrator 4: Just 9 years old to rule Egypt? That can't be right!

KingTut: Well, we did things a little differently back then.

Narrator 1: I'll say! We're not even allowed to walk home from school on our own until we're about 9, and you had to rule a country?

KingTut: Not by choice. (Pause) Boy, DOES, it feel great to be out again!! [*Picking up some bandage and holding it out for someone who might need it.*] Anyone got a bad leg?

Narrator 2: Please! Be serious--your majesty!

King Tut: (*Royally*) I remember when I was the most respected leader and no one dared talk back to me.

Narrator 4: King Tut, if you don't mind me asking, what made you become so famous?

King Tut: My people believed that all of Egypt belonged to the gods and Pharaoh was the representative of the gods. That's ME!

Narrator 1: King Tut, what did you do that was so important?

King Tut: My people were becoming angry that my father wanted to worship only one god, and our empire was weakening. Upon advice of my vizier I worked to strengthen our empire by bringing back some of our gods.

Narrator 2: History records show you died at the age of 19 from an injury to the head—possibly foul play was involved.

King Tut: (Reaching to feel the back of his head) I really don't recollect what happened. I last remember we were at war with Nubia.

Narrator 3: Since you had no sons, only daughters, your vizier became Pharaoh. Do you think he could have had anything to do with your early death in order to take your position as Pharaoh?

King Tut: That snake!! I thought he might be up to something.

Narrator 4: That's water under the bridge. I'm more interested in hearing about Egypt's gods and goddesses. There are many myths about who they were and what they did.

Narrator 1: The most famous of these is the myth of Osiris and Isis.

KingTut: Ooh, this is my favorite story!

ACT I: Scene II

Narrator 2: Long, long ago in the very beginning, the sky goddess Nut married the earth god Geb. Nut and Geb had four children. Their first son, Osiris, was a good boy, but he did show off a bit, and not everyone likes a show-off.

Osiris: (Steps forward) I am the god Osiris, son of Nut and Geb. I am clever, and handsome, and good. In fact, I am practically perfect? The people of Egypt love me. My parents love me. Everyone loves me MOST of all. I love me too. (Steps back looking very pleased with himself.)

Seth: (steps forward) I am the god Seth, son of Nut and Geb. I am clever too. In fact, I am far cleverer than my brother Osiris. I am NOT good. Everybody loves him, but I want everyone to love me best! (Makes rude gesture at Osiris, who ignores him. Steps back.)

Isis: (Steps forward between Osiris and Seth, separating them.) I am the goddess Isis. I am beautiful and clever and brave, and I am a powerful magician. I try to protect Osiris from harm, and I try to stop Seth and Osiris from quarrelling. (Steps back and puts a protective arm around Osiris.)

Nephthys: (Steps forward , whispering) I am the goddess Nephthys. I am beautiful and clever too, but I am very shy. I love to garden, and I rarely speak. (Steps back.)

Narrator 3: Osiris was a peaceful king who travelled the lands, giving laws, teaching his people many things, like how to farm along the banks of the Nile.

Osiris: I am a wise and just king who gave my people a code of laws. I bring order to Egypt and teach people to honor the gods.

Narrator 4: But all was not well. One person was NOT happy. Seth's jealousy and hatred for Osiris was growing.

Seth: Why does everyone love Osiris more than me? Can't they see that I would make a better king? (Seth stalks away from the others as he gives them filthy looks.) Just you wait! (exit the stage)

[LIGHTS & MUSIC]

Narrator 1: Seth had married Isis' sister, Nephthys, who was unaware he was secretly plotting to kill Osiris. [*Seth goes to the garden to see Nephthys. His guards follow closely but keep out of Nephthys' sight.*]

Nephthys: Seth, this is a surprise. What's going on?

Seth: I would like to give a magnificent party to honour Osiris.

Nephthys: What a kind gesture. What can I do to help?

Seth: Would you plan the banquet—a feast with Osiris' favourite food?

Nephthys: It will be my honour. (Curtsey a little.)

Narrator 2: Seth secretly measured Osiris and had a big box made which was shaped perfectly just for him.

Narrator 3: Little did anyone know WHAT Seth really had planned. However, Isis, who was full of wisdom and magic, kept a close eye over her love.

ACT II: Scene I

Narrator 4: A few days later everyone was gathered at Seth's mansion for the banquet. Seth had invited his best friends - all of them evil - to the party. But the guest of honour was Osiris. Seth watched for the moment to put his plan into action.

Osiris: (Walks into the party with Isis and is greeted warmly by Seth.) Seth, why the special occasion?

Seth: Do we need a reason to honour our great king?

Isis: (Whispers in Osiris' ear) I still don't trust him. Are you sure he's not up to something?

Seth: (Interrupts) Everyone gather around. Are dancers are ready to entertain.

(Music plays. Dancers perform Egyptian style dance. Audience is encouraged to clap in time to the music and to make Egyptian style dance movements in their seats. The music fades...)

Narrator 1: The guests ate and drank, sang, and danced to their heart's content.

[*Crowd gathers and carries on in fun.*]

Dancer 1: You sure know how to put on a good party, Seth.

Seth: (Modestly) Why thank you.

Narrator 2: Seth waves to his guards to bring in the beautiful box.

Seth: Everyone, may I have your attention? I have had this beautiful box built for this occasion. It is carved from the finest wood. It is decorated with silver and gold and jewels. I would like to give this beautiful box to whoever fits in it.

[The guests ooh and aaah]

Seth: The only rule is: whoever gets to keep it must be able to fit in it -- perfectly!

Dancer 2: What wonderful workmanship!

Dancer 3: What a great prize, Seth!

Narrator 3: People came forward to see if they could fit. The guests tried it for size.

Dancer 2: [*Climbing into the box*] I'll bet I can fit . . . Oops, too short. [*gets out*]

Dancer 3: Let me try . . . too small. How can that be?

Dancer 1: That looks like my size . . . ooh, I'm stuck. Can someone pull me out?

Narrator 4: Guest after guest climbed in and then out, but no one had just the right build for the beautiful box. Finally, only Osiris remained to try his fit . . .

Crowd: [*Chanting and clapping*] King O-Si-Ris! King O-Si-Ris!

Osiris: [*Shyly going to the box*] Well, I guess I should give it a try.

Seth: Honorable brother, if you so choose, you may wait to try it once the guests leave. (nods to the guards, and they nod back)

Osiris: Yes, I shall like to try it AFTER the banquet.

Narrator 1: At the banquet everyone danced and ate and had a divine time.

Narrator 2: At the end of the banquet, just as the guests were leaving Seth turns to his wife Nephthys.

Seth: (*Sneakily*) Would you be so kind to take Isis and show her our garden? You know how she loves your gardens.

Nephthys: I would love to. (Turning to Isis) Isis, come with me to get some fresh air while we walk in the gardens.

Isis: How I do love your beautiful gardens.

Narrator 3: As Nephthys and Isis leave to the gardens, Osiris walks over to the coffin admiring the beautiful box.

Osiris: Such intricate workmanship. I guess it's time to give it a try. (Remove crown and hand it to the guard to hold.)

Narrator 4: (*Speaking while Osiris stretches out in the box*) He was easily able to lie down inside the box. It was a perfect fit.

[Guards step forward menacingly]

Narrator 1: Little did the king know that Seth had secretly taken his measurements and made the box just for him.

Seth: (*Laughing*) Just for him, Mwaaaaah.

Narrator 2: The decorated box had, in fact, become a coffin.

Seth: (Looking at the audience) At last, the time has come for me to rule! (Talking to his guards) Take that chest - or should I say coffin, heh heh - and throw it in the Nile!

Narrator 3: The guards carried the coffin and threw it into the river Nile.

Seth: Mwaaaaah . . . (Guard places Osiris's crown on Seth's head) Now I am king of Egypt, and everyone will love me. Osiris will soon be forgotten!

[TURN OFF LIGHTS; CHANGE NARRATORS; TURN ON LIGHTS]

ACT II: Scene II

Narrator 5: Seth had forgotten all about brave Isis. Isis—upon returning with Nephthys from the gardens heard of the horrible thing that Seth had done.

Isis: Where is Osiris?

Guard 1: Osiris has gone to the sea. We have a new king. (Bows to Seth)

Isis: (Fall to knees and cries) Seth, what have you done?

Seth: What I have wanted to do for years. (Walks out)

Nephthys: (Puts her arm around Isis) I am here for you, my sister.

Isis: I am afraid without proper ceremonies and burial Osiris will not be able to go to the place of the dead. Oh, Nephthys. I must find him.

Nephthys: Seth would not hurt Osiris! I will come with you. [Isis & Nephthys hug and depart]

Narrator 6: Heartbroken, Isis sets out with Nephthys to look for Osiris.

Narrator 7: After the coffin had been thrown into the Nile, it floated a few miles then bashed into a tree growing on the banks of the river.

Narrator 8: Over time the tree became more beautiful as the body of Osiris touched the tree. The tree grew so much that it hid the coffin.

Narrator 5: Isis poured all her grief into the task of finding her husband's coffin.

Narrator 6: She had to move secretly, though, because "King Seth" had issued orders to have her arrested. She travelled up and down the Nile—

Isis: [*face partly hidden with a veil, comes to a farmer working in his fields.*] Excuse me, farmer, have you seen a black-and-white box in the last few days?

Farmer: I have heard rumour that a precious wooden box that had been spotted floating down the Nile many moons ago. That is all I know.

Isis & Nephthys: Thank you for your kindness.

Farmer: Your welcome, my ladies. I pray the gods look kindly upon you. (Returns to his farming work)

Narrator 7: The farmer's child who had been playing nearby had heard their conversation and walked over to Isis.

Child: I saw the very pretty black and white wooden box you ask about.

Isis: Where did you see it?

Child: It was at the base of a great tree along the shore in Byblos which is past the next great cataract.

Isis: Thank you. Thank you for your help. (Turns to Nephthys) Nephthys, you must help me. I must transform into a bird so that I can fly to Byblos and rescue Osiris.

Nephthys: (Say to Isis) Alright. Repeat after me:

Heka-wer, let me fly
Let me soar across the sky!

[ISIS FLIES]

Narrator 8: Isis flies to Byblos. When Isis finds her husband's coffin under the magnificent tree, she begins to mourn in great sorrow.

Isis: (Talking to the coffin) I will take you back to Egypt in order to give you a king's rightful dignified burial. (Look upward to the sky) Oh, great sun god, Amun-Ra, will you help me? I cannot let Seth take the throne and throw the kingdom into disharmony and chaos.

Narrator 5: When Osiris's body is returned home, Isis hid it in some marshes along the Nile.

Narrator 6: Before she went home, Isis, with her magical powers, transformed herself into a bird, fluttered over they body of Osiris. From this mystic power, she conceived a son they named Horus. This would son would be Osiris' rightful heir to his throne.

Narrator 7: One day while Isis was away tending to Horus, Seth found Osiris while he was out hunting in the desert.

Seth: (Discovering the coffin opens it. Enraged.) I can't believe my eyes! I thought I would never see Osiris again. But here he is--back in Egypt. How has this happened? How did he get here? I will get rid of him once and for all!

Narrator 8: Seth was so enraged he cut Osiris' casket in many pieces with his sword—exactly 14 pieces--and scattered his parts throughout Egypt.

[LIGHTS OFF; MOVE COFFIN TO FRONT; LIGHTS ON]

ACT III

Narrator 5: But Isis refusing to give up enters as a bird. Flying around collecting Osiris' body parts and putting them back in the coffin.

Isis: (Kneeling next to Osiris' coffin, looking up toward the sky) O god in heaven, why has Osiris had to suffer like this? Will he never live or breathe again? (Buries her face in her hands and sobs)

Narrator 5: Re, the great god of creation heard Isis and took pity on her.

Re: I see evil still rages. Poor Isis . . . I'll send Anubis down to comfort you and help good triumph over evil.

Narrator 6: Anubis, who was given special powers, helps Isis piece Osiris's body back together.

Anubis: I have brought special powers to help you. *Repeat after me:*

Heka-wer, heal his pain

And let Osiris rise again!

[Anubis kneels next to Isis. Anubis waves his hands over the coffin.]

[MUSIC; Isis stands up, goes to the head of coffin, and begins flapping her wings.]

Isis: (Speaking directly to the audience) Will you help me? Osiris having been cut in many pieces is being put back together by Anubis. But I need to use bandages to keep him put together. I am going to mummify him. He will be Egypt's first mummy.

Narrator 7: Osiris' body is reassembled, but before wrapping Osiris's body up bandages, Anubis treats Osiris with special ingredients to preserve him forever. Mummification will be complete.

[Anubis then reaches inside and helps Osiris to step out. He stands still beside the coffin. Music stops.]

[Osiris and Isis smile bravely at each other across coffin. Anubis turns but remains crouched like a dog in front of coffin's middle.]

Narrator 8: For many years Seth ruled Egypt. Horus and his mother Isis were forced to hide in the marshes.

Narrator 5: To Isis's sorrow, Osiris couldn't rejoin her in the land of living. Instead, he was made king of the land where people go after they die—the afterlife. Osiris became Egypt's first mummy.

Narrator 6: There, it is said, he continues to welcome everyone who has gotten Anubis' help in preparing properly to live after death.

Narrator 7: As Horus grew Osiris visited his son, Horus, from the spirit world and taught him how to fight.

Osiris: Horus, I am here to help you prepare to defeat Seth and retake your rightful throne. (Practice sword fighting.)

Narrator 8: Osiris returns daily to train Horus until he is ready to challenge Seth.

Osiris: Well done, my son. [RAISE SWORD] Now you are ready to avenge my death.
[HUGS HIS SON AND DEPARTS TO STAND NEAR ISIS]

Narrator 5: Horus tracks down Seth.

Horus: Seth, I am Horus, son of the dead Osiris. I should rule Egypt because my father was king before me—I am the rightful heir to be king of Egypt.

Seth: I am Seth, brother of Osiris. I should rule Egypt because my brother was pharaoh before me, and because I am older, wise and much stronger than you. Prepare to die. (The battle begins)

Narrator 6: The battle begins. In the battle the hateful Seth tears out one of Horus' eyes. But, Horus ultimately triumphs. However, Horus avenges his father's death.

Horus: [UPON KILLING SETH] My father's death is avenged!

Narrator 7: After the battle the god Thoth used his magic to heal Horus' eye and restore it to completeness. Then Horus went to the body of his father. He gave him his eye, placing it inside Osiris.

Narrator 8: Osiris ascended to heaven and became the ruler of the Otherworld and judge of the dead. The benevolent souls would live with Osiris in harmony.

Narrator 5: Horus remained the eternal king of Egypt, with each succeeding pharaoh being an incarnation of him on the Earth.

Narrator 6: Isis and Osiris were in time reunited. Osiris became the God of the underworld and Isis Goddess of magic and motherhood. Since Horus was born from magic, he became Sky God.