

Resource 5

Story Whoosh

*The Story Whoosh has been broken down into clear moments of action. Times when you need to invite the next child into the centre to create a new character (or object) are highlighted in **bold**.*

In the beginning nothing existed except for the deep, **dark waters of Nun**.

Endless, still, waters. No people, no gods, no land or sky.

But deep within the still waters of Nun there floated **a perfect egg**.

And inside the egg was a solitary **spark of life**.

Suddenly, the egg cracked open.

With a surge of energy, life broke free.

WHOOSH

Out of **the waters** rose a **mound or hill**. And seated on the mound was the **God Ra**, who shone as the sun, bringing light into this new-born world.

WHOOSH

Lonely on the mound **Ra** set about creating the living. Out of Ra's body sprang twin children: **Shu**, the God of Dry Air; and **Tefnut**, the Goddess of Moisture. Ra, Shu and Tefnut lived happily on their mound.

WHOOSH

And then the Earth God, **Geb**, and the Sky Goddess, **Nut**, were created.

Then **Sekhmet**, the Goddess of Vengeance, **Osiris**, God of the Afterlife, **Isis**, the goddess who listens to everyone's troubles, and **Anubis**, who has the head of a jackal.

WHOOSH

Then humans were created: **the God Khnum** took lumps of clay from the ground and shaped **humans** which the **Goddess Heqet**, who took the form of a frog, breathed life into.

WHOOSH

And the great **River Nile** was created, that gave life and prosperity: the fertile earth out of which crops grew plentifully; the **fish** teeming through the river for the **people** to catch with nets and rods; the **animals** and **birds** that came to drink from the pools created by the flooding and receding waters of the river.

WHOOSH

The people of Egypt grew prosperous because of these gifts from the Nile and great Kings and Queens were born and ruled.

But even the lives of Kings and Queens end, and when they do they must make their journey to the underworld to seek eternal life.

A dead **king** faced his **ka**. And the **ka** left the body and set off to travel the difficult path through the underworld.

WHOOSH

First the **ka** had to travel through great **caverns** and through **tunnels**.

WHOOSH

The **ka** had to dodge **fire** and **crocodiles** and **Apep** - the serpent God of Destruction - until the **ka** reached the **magical gates**, which opened and let them through.

WHOOSH

At last the **ka** reached the hall of Ma'at - the place of balance and harmony - to face truth and justice.

And here the **ka** will be judged by 42 gods, and they have to make declarations of innocence.

To the **first god** the **ka** declares: '*I have not made anyone cry.*'

The god lets him pass.

WHOOSH

To the next **god** the **ka** declares: '*I am not an eavesdropper.*'

Once again the god lets him pass.

WHOOSH

To the next **god** the **ka** declares: '*I have not polluted the water.*'

And the god lets him pass.

WHOOSH

And the **ka** has to make 39 more declarations of innocence.

[Ask the children to think of more things the Ka might say to declare his innocence.]

Finally, the **ka** of the departed King arrives at the God **Anubis** - who has the head of a jackal.

Anubis has a **set of scales**: on one side he places the heart of the King and on the other a white ostrich feather and Anubis weighs the heart in the balance.

Waiting beside Anubis is **Ammitt** - part crocodile, part leopard and part hippopotamus. If the heart is heavier than the feather it will be thrown to Ammitt.

The scales balance, the heart of the King is as light as a feather.

And so the **ka** is reunited with his body and is released into the **Field of Reeds**, a place of no pain or sadness, a place of eternal life.