

Intriguing Illumination Workshop Script

Character	Narration	Action
Narrator	We are in Anglo-Saxon England at the start of the 11th Century. Ethelred II, often known as “Ethelred the Unready” was the King. He was a devout Christian and married to Queen Emma.	Emma and Ethelred enter wearing crowns.
Narrator	One of Ethelred’s big challenges was to protect England from Viking invasions.	
Ethelred	I want to protect the Church and Christian values in England from the Vikings, but I don’t know how!	Looks confused.
Narrator	Because Ethelred needed help, he had advisors. One of these was called Wulfstan, the Archbishop of York.	Wulfstan comes on stage wearing mitre and joins Emma and Ethelred.
Wulfstan	I help Ethelred rule England by writing laws to keep England safe, and writing lots of sermons to encourage people to practise Christianity!	
Narrator	Wulfstan wrote about Christianity and how important the King was. He helped Ethelred a lot. But in the year 1016, disaster struck! A Viking Prince called Canute invaded England. Ethelred then died and Canute claimed the English throne. Then Canute married Emma!	Canute comes on stage. Canute steals the crown from Ethelred and Ethelred ‘dies’ dramatically. Canute and Emma stand next to each other.
Narrator	Even though he was a Viking, Canute was a Christian and he wanted people to think that he was a just and holy ruler. So Canute asked Wulfstan and Emma for help.	Canute turns to Wulfstan and Emma.
Canute	Emma, will you help me rule the English?	
Emma	Yes, people respect me and I can promote you in the Church and royal courts.	
Canute	Wulfstan, will you be my advisor like you were for Ethelred?	
Wulfstan	Because you are a Christian, yes I will help you.	
Narrator	Wulfstan helped write laws for Canute and kept writing sermons. Canute was grateful for his help and so to say thank you, he and Emma gave Wulfstan a gift.	Wulfstan pretends to write.
Emma	We should give him a gift, let’s have a beautiful manuscript made for Wulfstan.	
Canute	Good idea! Let’s have a beautiful golden Gospel book made for him.	
Scribe	Pretends to write in a book.	Gives the book to Canute who gives it to Wulfstan.
Narrator	The York Gospels is a Latin manuscript from the eleventh century. Wulfstan used the beautiful Gospel book and he even added some pages of his own! He put three of his sermons and a copy of King Canute’s instructions to the English in the back of the book. It has survived for over 1000 years, and today, we’re going to learn all about it.	

Narrator (1 of 2)

Narrator: We are in Anglo-Saxon England at the start of the 11th Century. Ethelred II, often known as “Ethelred the Unready” was the King. He was a devout Christian and married to Queen Emma.

Action: Emma and Ethelred enter, wearing their crowns.

Narrator: One of Ethelred’s big challenges was to protect England from Viking invasions.

Ethelred speaks.

Narrator: Because Ethelred needed help, he had advisors. One of these was called Wulfstan, the Archbishop of York.

Action: Wulfstan (wearing mitre) joins Ethelred and Emma onstage.

Wulfstan speaks.

Narrator: Wulfstan wrote about Christianity and how important the King was. He helped Ethelred a lot. But in the year 1016, disaster struck! A Viking Prince called Canute invaded England. Ethelred then died and Canute claimed the English throne. Then Canute married Emma!

Narrator (2 of 2)

***Action:** Canute comes on stage. Canute steals the crown from Ethelred, and Ethelred 'dies' dramatically. Canute and Emma stand next to each other.*

Narrator: Even though he was a Viking, Canute was a Christian and he wanted people to think that he was a just and holy ruler. So Canute asked Wulfstan and Emma for help.

Canute, Emma and Wulfstan speak.

Narrator: Wulfstan helped write laws for Canute, and kept writing sermons. Canute was grateful for his help and so to say thank you, he and Emma gave Wulfstan a gift.

Emma and Canute speak.

Scribe comes onstage with quill and book and pretends to write. When they have finished, they give the book to Canute, who gives it to Wulfstan.

Narrator: The York Gospels is a Latin manuscript from the eleventh century. Wulfstan used the beautiful Gospel book and he even added some pages of his own! He put three of his sermons and a copy of King Canute's instructions to the English in the back of the book. It has survived for over 1000 years, and today, we're going to learn all about it.

Ethelred

Ethelred Script

***Action:** At the beginning, you and Emma are onstage together.*

...

After the narrator says “protect England from Viking invasions”, you say:

**I want to protect the Church and Christian values in
England from the Vikings, but I don’t know how!**

...

***Action:** When Canute comes on stage. Canute steals the crown from you,
and you ‘die’ dramatically.*

Wulfstan

Wulfstan Script

***Action:** When the narrator says your name for the first time, you come onstage.*

After the narrator says “the Archbishop of York”, you say:

I help Ethelred rule England by writing laws to keep England safe, and writing lots of sermons to encourage people to practise Christianity!

...

When Canute asks “Will you be my advisor like you were for Ethelred?”, you say:

Because you are a Christian, yes I will help you.

...

***Action:** When Canute and Emma hand you a book, you pretend to read it.*

Emma

Emma Script

Action: *At the beginning, you and Ethelred are onstage together.*

Action: *After Ethelred pretends to die, Canute becomes king and decides to marry Emma. Now you move to stand with Canute instead.*

...

When Canute asks, “Emma, will you help me rule the English?”, you say:

Yes, people respect me and I can promote you in the Church and royal courts.

...

When the narrator says “Canute and Emma gave Wulfstan a gift”, you say:

We should give him a gift, let’s have a beautiful manuscript made for Wulfstan.

Canute

Canute Script

Action: After you hear the narrator say “Then, Canute married Emma!”, you come on stage. You steal the crown from Ethelred, and Ethelred ‘dies’ dramatically. You and Emma stand next to each other.

...

After the narrator says “Canute asked Wulfstan and Emma for help”, you say:
Emma, will you help me rule the English?

Emma replies, then you say:

Wulfstan, will you be my advisor like you were for Ethelred?

...

After Emma says “Let’s have a beautiful manuscript made for Wulfstan”, you say:
Good idea! Let’s have a beautiful golden Gospel book made for him.

...

Action: After the scribe has given you the book, you give it to Wulfstan.

Scribe

Scribe's Instructions

After you hear Canute say “Let’s have a beautiful golden Gospel book made for him”, you come onstage with your quill and book and pretend to write.

When you are finished, you give the book to Canute, who gives it to Wulfstan.