

# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

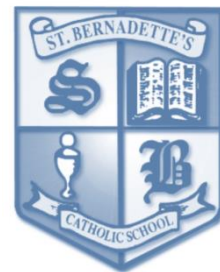
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Newsletter 14  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

At St Bernadette's we are fully committed to safeguarding our children. We expect all staff, parents and visitors to share this commitment.

## Week 6 – Lockdown

### Ash Wednesday -17<sup>th</sup> February

Ash Wednesday falls in half term this year and marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before Easter. During this season, we have the opportunity to change our daily lives and become closer to God. We are encouraged to pray more often, to fast and to be more charitable than we would usually be. In school we will be supporting the Good Shepherd Appeal and families are encouraged to make donations to the charity via Parent Pay. Lent lasts for approximately forty days, as this was the time that Jesus spent fasting in the desert, whilst resisting temptation from Satan.

Beatrice, from year 6, has written a letter to parents, explaining the significance of Ash Wednesday.

*Dear Parents,*

*Ash Wednesday — officially known as the Day of Ashes — is a day of repentance, when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. During a Mass, a priest places the ashes on a worshiper's forehead in the shape of a cross. The ashes symbolize both death and repentance. Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities. In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries in order to replicate the account of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days; this is known as one's Lenten sacrifice, I will give up junk food, like sweets during this time.*



### Changes to In-service training day

When we sent out the dates to parents in September, an in-service training day was booked for the first day back after the February half term. We recognise that it will be difficult for key workers to arrange a day off work at this time and therefore have decided to move the training day to later in the academic year. We will be open, therefore, to children of key workers and vulnerable children, on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

### Positive Covid Tests

This week two children have tested positive for covid and as a result, the children in Reception and Year 6 have been sent home. The children from these year bands, who had been in school last week, must now isolate for ten days until Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February. We will welcome them back in school after the half term break.

### Return to school 8<sup>th</sup> March

To date, we have not been given any further details on the possible reopening of schools on 8<sup>th</sup> March. If schools are allowed to reopen on this date, it maybe that the Government will dictate a phased return, with certain year bands returning before others. As soon as we receive any further information, we will notify parents.

## The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes 11<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday of this week, was the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, when the children in school celebrated mass, online, at Holy Family Church. This feast day is particularly important for the children at St Bernadette's School as we remember when Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette in Lourdes in 1858.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> 1858, Bernadette went to gather firewood with her sister and a friend. As she approached a grotto near a river, she saw a light coming from a spot near a rosebush. The light surrounded a woman who wore a white dress and held a rosary. Seeing the lady in white make the sign of the Cross, Bernadette knelt, took out her own Rosary, and began to pray. When she finished praying, the woman motioned for her to approach. But she remained still, and the vision disappeared.

Her companions had seen nothing, so Bernadette described the lady in white to them, demanding they tell no one, but the secret came out later that day. The next Sunday, Bernadette returned to the grotto, where she saw the woman again. The identity of the apparition, however, would remain unknown for several weeks.

Some adults accompanied Bernadette on her third trip, on February 18<sup>th</sup>, though they did not see the vision she received. The woman in white asked the girl to return for two weeks. A group of family members and others went with her to the cave the next day, but only the young peasant girl saw the woman and heard her words.

Over the next few days, the number of people who visited the cave grew. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, 250 people saw Bernadette break into tears, but only she heard the woman's message: "Penance! Penance! Penance! Pray to God for sinners. Go, kiss the ground for the conversion of sinners."

A larger crowd was there on February 25<sup>th</sup>, but they were shocked to see Bernadette drinking from a muddy stream and eating weeds. The apparition had told her to drink the water, and the weed-eating was a penitential act. Onlookers, meanwhile, saw only the girl's unusual behaviour, and popular fascination turned to ridicule and suspicion.

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, Bernadette made a joyful discovery: the spring from which she drank was not muddy now, but clear. As the crowds continued to gather, this change was noticed, and a woman with a paralyzed arm came to the water hoping to be healed. Four years later, her case would be recognized as the first miraculous healing at Lourdes. Public interest continued, and Bernadette heard a recurring message from the vision: "Go, tell the priests to bring people here in procession and have a chapel built here."

While others were quick to conclude that Bernadette was seeing the Virgin Mary, Bernadette herself did not claim to know the woman's identity. As she conveyed the repeated message to the parish priest, the priest grew frustrated and told Bernadette to ask the woman her name. But when she did, the woman smiled and remained silent. Her identity remained a mystery after the first two-week period.

Three weeks later, on the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette visited the cave again. When she saw the lady, she kept asking to know her identity. Finally, the woman folded her hands, looked up and said: 'I am the Immaculate Conception.' Bernadette, did not know what these words meant but she related them to the priest, who was stunned and informed his bishop.

Bernadette saw the Blessed Virgin Mary two more times in 1858: and in 1862, the local bishop declared the apparitions worthy of belief.

We celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11<sup>th</sup> as this was the first day she appeared to Bernadette in 1858.



## Vulnerable Pupils and Children of Key Workers

St Bernadette's School continues to follow the government guidance and will continue to remain open to vulnerable children, that is those who are on a Child Protection Plan or a Child in Need Plan, or those who have an Education Health Care plan and to children who have parents who are key workers. **We are unable to take any additional children into school at this time.** In recent weeks, following the announcement from Government that schools would remain closed to the majority of pupils until at least 8<sup>th</sup> March, we have had numerous requests from parents to allow their children to attend school but we are unable to accommodate any further requests. Our staffing was arranged to allow us to ensure we could continue to educate the children who are in school, whilst also allowing us to provide high quality lessons for those who remain at home. Whilst there maybe a small minority of parents whose circumstances have changed in the last two weeks, ie they are now working as key workers and were not previously, the majority of families circumstances remain as they were at the beginning of lockdown. Any requests made for places in school will be refused, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## Teams Meetings

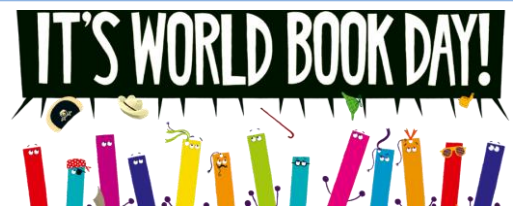
It was fantastic to see so many children across the school joining the Teams meetings that had been arranged by staff. The children in school were delighted to be able to see so many of their classmates and those children who have been working from home, have had the chance to say hello to their year band teachers and to the other children in school. The staff have worked incredibly hard to make this a success and I know they have had many sleepless nights worrying about any technical issues that might arise. I would like to say a big thank you to each and every one of them for making this possible.

## Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day was celebrated on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February this year and is an event, organised by the UK Safer Internet Centre, which aims to promote safe, responsible and positive use of internet technology.

It involves lots of local and national organisations coming together to raise awareness of correct internet practices. They look at lots of topics including consent, ownership and data privacy, and it runs with the slogan, 'Together for a better internet'. They also raise issues about cyberbullying, digital identity and social networks.

The main goal of Safer Internet Day is to raise awareness and start a conversation about internet safety. The link <https://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides> provides advice for parents on many of the sites that children will frequently visit, including Fortnite, Roadblocks and Instagram. Many children are regularly accessing sites that are totally unsuitable and this is a useful guide for parents which provides top tips for keeping children safe on line.



## World Book Day

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day. At present, it seems unlikely that we will be all back in school for this date, so below is some information regarding our World Book Day 'lockdown' plans. We will be celebrating World Book Day via Seesaw this year. Children will be expected to complete their normal Maths and English lessons, and then will have some reading-related activities to complete also. We would love to see pupils (including our key worker groups) dressing up as their favourite book character, even if it is via pictures on Seesaw or Twitter.

Throughout the week of World Book Day, we will be sharing links to videos, reading challenges and lots of different material to promote reading. These are not compulsory, but we would ask that you do whatever you can to help 'celebrate' this special day of reading.

The most important thing you can do is to take the time to sit and share a story with your child. A recent study by Egmont found that the single biggest impact on a child's independent reading is whether a parent reads to them. Children, regardless of their age or reading ability, benefit greatly from being read to. If this is an older child, perhaps you could take it in turns reading pages, or paragraphs. We would love to hear what stories you are enjoying sharing together.

## Free School Meals During Half Term Break

Parents will now have received an email from school, stating how they can redeem their free school meal voucher for the half term break. The email provided parents with a cheque number and a validation code as well as a booklet telling them how to redeem the voucher. Children from Reception to Year 6 will have received a voucher for £15 and those children in Nursery, who are eligible for free school meals, will have received a voucher for £10. Please look out for this email as this will not be resent.

## Children who have impressed

Children continue to work really hard and produce some fabulous online work which impresses their class teachers and other staff within school. Thank you to all of our parents who we know are working tremendously hard to support their children at home. The following children have been congratulated this week for working hard and maintaining a positive attitude to school life.

## Nursery

The nursery staff wanted to congratulate Orla for her fabulous yoga moves and Buster for his sunny disposition which never fails to cheer everyone up. He always tries his best in nursery.

## Reception

Miss Deards has been delighted with Ava-Mae for completing her home learning tasks every day to a brilliant standard.

Mrs Dawood chose Alisha Oppong for adapting and settling into school well last week.

Miss Fullerton has been really impressed with Amelia Wright for her super neat handwriting. Keep up the hard work Amelia.

## Year 1

Mrs McGrath would like to thank Jacob for completing his English work every day and Hansikka for producing super pieces of History work on the Victorians.

Miss Gibbs would like to thank Carmel who has worked very hard on her English writing this week and Aaishah for responding to feedback on her English work. She would also like to congratulate Ismaeel and Jai for a good effort with their home learning in Maths.

Miss Bowden wanted to say thank you to Connor for his amazing English and phonics work every day and to Aaishah for always putting so much effort into her online learning. She has been creating some beautiful pieces of work!

## Year 2

Miss O'Toole has been delighted with Year 2's writing this week. Miguel and Mollie shared their work with Miss Cowings on Tuesday and it was amazing.

Miss Fiddler, wanted to say a big well done to Keone for all the hard work he is putting into his maths work and to Daisy for her amazing opening paragraph for her setting description.

Mrs Lennon was so impressed with the children in school last week. They were hardworking, kind and polite. Thank you Year 2. For their online work, Mrs Lennon would like to congratulate Charlie for his dedication to his maths work which is completed to a high standard every day and Macey who submitted a detailed and informative piece of work about the sacrament of marriage.

## Welfare Calls

Throughout lockdown, Staff have endeavoured to contact every family at least every fortnight, to check that everyone is okay in the home. These phone calls have been well received by many of our parents, who have welcomed the regular contact with school. There have been a small minority of parents who we have been unable to contact and as such, we will arrange for a home visit to take place. Many staff are working from home at present and are therefore using their own phones to make the calls. They have been asked, therefore, to withhold their number for obvious reasons. Whilst I do understand that some parents deliberately refuse to answer calls from a withheld number, we do not have the capacity to make all welfare calls from the school office. Therefore, if you have not received a call in recent weeks, please contact the school office and avoid a home visit.

## Online work for Nursery and Reception children

Parents of children in Nursery and Reception, must remember that all online work after the half term will be provided through Seesaw and not Tapestry. Parents were asked last week, to give their consent, to allow their children access to Seesaw, via parent pay. Once we have received parent's consent, we will then email you the log in details for your child.

**YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS ANY ONLINE WORK, WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION AFTER THE HALF TERM.**

Please follow these instructions:

1. Give your consent via parent pay to allow your child access to seesaw.
2. Check your email for log in details which will be unique to your child.
3. Complete all online work on Tapestry before Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February
4. Begin all online work on Seesaw on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February



## Year 2

Mr Wayne was impressed by Mollie, Teddy, Nuala and Louis for playing more than 20 minutes of TTRS every day and for their continued positive attitude to online learning.

He also wanted to congratulate the children in school and Charlie, Khalil, Harley H and Tafari for their snowy setting story writing. They have incorporated many of their own ideas.

## Year 3

Miss Corkery was delighted with Amiah for her explanation of how we see in their topic of Light and with Matt for his brilliant English work, including his spelling shed work.

Mrs Kelly wants to give a special mention to Kaiyan, Kirsty, Ellie and Lacey M from 3TK Maths set for their wonderful commitment and perseverance when completing their Maths work and from 3TK class Grace Biniam for her amazing pictures, photographs, video recordings and voice mails that she posts every day on Seesaw. They really brighten Mrs Kelly's day.

Mrs Hussain would like to congratulate Jeremiel for his detailed and well-presented pieces of work. He has been putting in 100% effort into his work and this really shows. She also wants to thank Georgio for writing a detailed and well planned non-chronological report about his own animal creation. He has planned his report carefully and edited it to improve it further.

Mrs Hill would like to say a big well done to Lucas, Renihya and Trey for their continued efforts with their Maths work.

Ms Ryan would like to thank Alysia and Ava for their enthusiasm in their poetry writing and also to Kian for describing so well what reading means to him.

## Year 4

Mrs Brownhill is delighted with Lillie-Rose for her continued hard work in school.

In RE, Mr Kingston would like to mention Reign for his detailed answers about Moses and the Burning Bush. He has a good understanding of how God protects us.

Miss Hulse is pleased with Izzy-May and Jaeden for their brilliant reasoning and problem-solving work when exploring area in Maths.

William is making super effort in his English work for Miss Manders.

Mrs McDaniel is pleased with Kelvin's work. He has made a real improvement in his online learning this week.

## Year 5

Mr Baker is really pleased with how well Charlie, Cheldane and Hermela have been doing in maths. He thinks Kimii-Li has made a great effort in English and Georgie has been working hard in both maths and in her class lessons.

Mrs Canning is very impressed with Lola, Julia and Alayna's great attitude towards their class lessons. She is delighted with Joshua and Megan H for their hard work in maths and is very proud of Saoirse, Hermon and Cheldane for continuing to work hard learning their spellings on Spelling Shed.

Mrs Harston would like to thank Ashin and Noel for always completing their classwork to such a high standard. She's really pleased with Alisan's great English work and Sienna-Rose's excellent maths work. She is proud of Lola, Arham and Shania who are trying really hard with their maths learning.

Mrs Docker and Miss Grant have been delighted with the enthusiasm that David has shown towards his work. Mrs Docker would like to thank George for all his support and technical assistance and for always being ready to lend a hand. Also, Ethan has shown a real thirst for learning and has tried his very best with all set tasks.

## Year 6

Miss Lakin was impressed with Amanda, Ann, Eshan, Bailey and Riya for their consistently good class work; Freddie for working so hard in English and Elisia, Mattia, Lawrence and Charlie, for persevering through our fractions unit!

Mr Markham-Jones would like to mention Josh, Beatrice, Keiron and Elisha who have produced some excellent Topic and RE classwork. He is particularly impressed with Jayden S and Emanuel's effort to complete their maths work every day and was particularly pleased to read some of the excellent sentences created by his English set.

Miss Connaire and Miss Grant would like to say a huge thank you to the children in their English set who have logged on and completed their English work each and every day of this half term with the same effort and commitment that they would in class. There are too many to mention every name but you know who you are!

Miss Boron wanted to say a well done to Jor'el for his fantastic redesign of the Titanic with additional safety features. In addition, Macey has produced some excellent written work in English and consistently works hard in all of her online learning. Finally, well done to Chelsea for her outstanding effort in both English and maths, and to Bailey for always giving 100% effort in his English work.

Mr Carroll would like to congratulate Daniel and Amanda for always trying their best with their maths work.

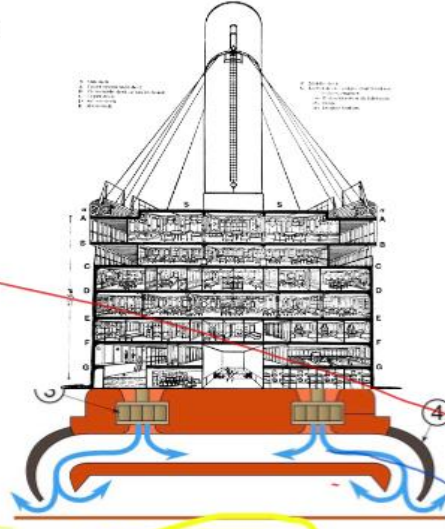
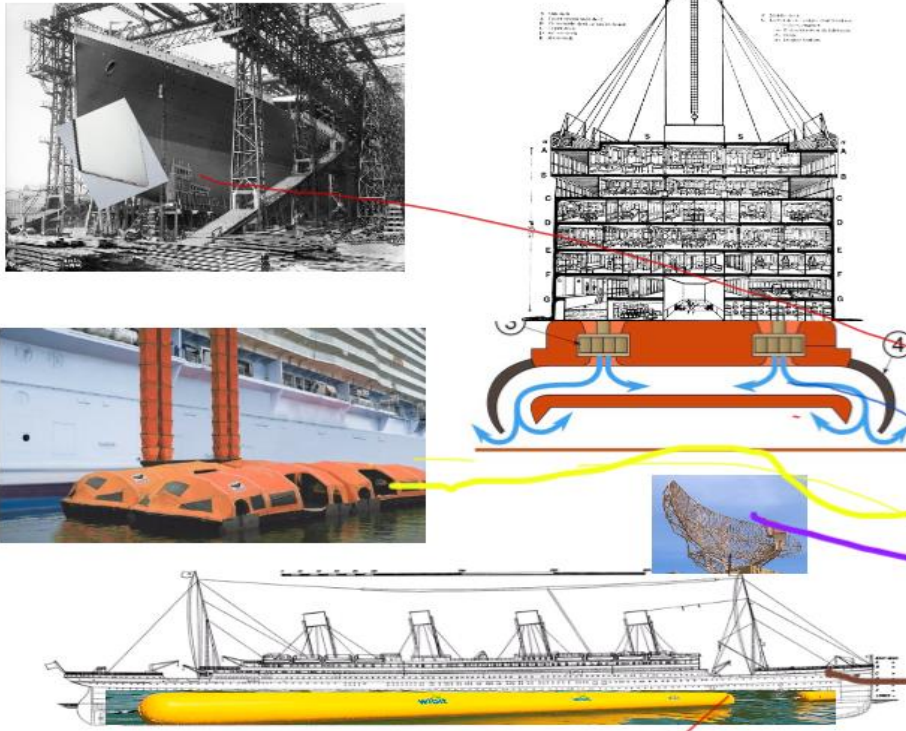
## Sharing Good Work

### Some of the work that we have really enjoyed reading this week....

I opened the heavy door and I stepped out, I saw the snow it looked like white marshmallows had fallen from the sky. I looked up and saw the trees they looked like they were covered in candy floss. The white fluffy clouds looked beautiful as I continued on my walk. I put on my hat and gloves to keep me warm as toast as I continued on my walk. (By Daisy in Year 2)

**Year 6 have been studying the Titanic and have been asked to consider the changes they would make to the vessel to make it safer. Freddie's design has impressed us all.**

Your improved design of the Titanic



**Purpose**

**To protect everyone on board the Titanic.**

**Tools, equipment and materials**

- Heavy duty nylon and rubber for lifeboats.**
- Electronic equipment.**
- Platinum materials for building the front of the ship.**
- wood floats**

**New safety features**

- Platinum sheets for cutting through icebergs.**
- Hovercraft rubber skirts**
- Bigger lifeboats to hold more people.**
- Radar**
- Huge inflatables on the side of the ship to prevent sinking**

An extract of the Alma story by  
Kimani - Year 6

On that ominous morning, the villagers of the enchanted streets of old town Barcelona, awoke to find a titanic amount of fresh, white, crisp snow. The elegant snowflakes danced proudly and whirled from the wintry sky, propelled by a wind that whistled through all the alleyways in the town.



Alma, a zealous, little explorer, vivaciously bounced into the snow-filled wonderland. Bright-eyed and rosy-cheeked, she was thankful for the warmth from the rose-coloured jacket, dark blue hat and silver-like gloves that she was wearing.

While bounding her way down the abandoned, tranquil alleyway, Alma suddenly came to a stop as she saw a wall inscribed with names - boys' and girls' - that she didn't know. She wanted to be included in this unknown group; she calmly wrote the name : Alma! She stepped back to praise her wonderful work, but at that moment, a loud creeeeaaaakkk made Alma's eyes widen. She sensed a presence : she felt an urge to turn.

Gradually rotating her head over her shoulder, Alma's bright, blue eyes were focused on one specific shop front. An unusual, lone doll was stood there in the centre; an unknown being she hadn't noticed minutes ago. Alma was drawn to it. Frozen to the spot, she tried to process the padded, rose-coloured body warmer; the baby-blue hat; the boyish, khaki trousers and the blonde hair on the unknown being. Scanning her own attire, a bright smile spread across her rosy-cheeked face : she had found a doll that was identical to her!

# The Egyptian Cinderella

**Rhodopis** A servant girl who has green eyes and blonde hair.

**Kipa** Chief servant girl who is unkind, has brown eyes and brown hair.

**Servant Girl 2** Unkind, has brown eyes and brown hair.

**Servant Girl 3** Unkind, has brown eyes and brown hair.

**Master** A kind but sleepy man

**Horus** A falcon

**Amasis** Pharaoh of Egypt, wears a red and white crown.

**Act One: Master's house, in the garden near a river.**

**Act Two: Where the Pharaoh is holding court, the city of Memphis.**

**Act Three: Back at the master's house.**

**Act One: Master's house, in the garden near a river.**

**Narrator:** On the banks of The River Nile - in the country of Egypt - a servant girl lived. Her name? Rhodopis, meaning rosy-cheeked. Her hair was as golden as Amun, and her eyes matched the grass that adorned the face of the ground. The other servants, however, had hair the colour of kohl, and eyes which were black. Their master was a kind, lovely man, but, while he was sleeping, the girls forced the green-eyed outcast to do their work.

**Rhodopis:** (on her knees scrubbing the floor)

**Kipa:** Make sure my dress is in perfect condition! (yelling)

**Servant Girl 2:** When will you be done making our food? (in an annoyed voice)

**Servant Girl 3:** Finish cleaning my boots!

**Narrator:** Unfortunately, Rhodopis was made to work till her back was crooked. But afterwards, she loved to visit her favourite place – the riverbank; there, she would sing and dance among her best friends, the animals.

**Rhodopis:** (sits down and heaves a big sigh) Oh! What a terribly exhausting day; it's as if I'm on repeat. Working. Working. Working.

**Master:** (sleeping and snoring)

**Rhodopis:** (singing and dancing beautifully)

**Master:** (wakes up and sees her dancing) (to himself) What can I do for her? I know! I'll get her some elegant shoes, so she can dance properly.



**Narrator:** Sparkling like rubies, Rhodopis' master presented her with glittering shoes as a present. Despite this, the other servants continued to taunt Rhodopis: they were very jealous.

**Kipa:** (loudly) Have you heard that the Pharaoh is holding court? 'Some of us' are invited. (smirking)

**Servant Girl 2:** (to annoy Rhodopis) Yeah, some of us won't be able to go, like YOU Rhodopis! You have far too many jobs to do like cooking and cleaning, and too many others to even count!

**Rhodopis:** (with great sadness) I wish I could go. Why does no one ever let me do anything? When will they stop treating me like this?

**Servant Girl 3:** (looking at lonely Rhodopis) Well, what are you doing watching us? There are many things still to be done; you don't have time to come with us.

**Kipa:** (laughing with self-satisfaction) You have to clean all the cloths.

**Narrator:** Shortly after, Rhodopis looked on as the mean girls climbed onto a raft to travel to the Pharaoh's court; they had left poor Rhodopis behind to do all the chores.

**Rhodopis:** (humming quietly in sorrow) Mmmmmmmmm... (suddenly) Oh no! My shoes are wet!

**Narrator:** One of the raft paddles had splashed water onto her pristine shoes. Rhodopis had no choice but to leave them in the Egyptian sun to dry. (Falcon comes down and takes the shoes) A falcon came by and took her shoes, glistening once again in the light of the sun. Rhodopis tried to snatch back her beloved shoes.

**Rhodopis:** (desperately) No! Please, don't take away my shoes!

**Narrator:** But it was simply too late. Disheartened, she walked sluggishly back to her master's place. The falcon was the god Horus - she knew that for sure - so Rhodopis knew there must be an important reason her shoes were taken away from her. Nevertheless, she reached the house with a saddened heart, awaiting fate's decision.

## **Act Two: Where the Pharaoh is holding court, the city of Memphis.**

**Amasis:** (yawning) Isn't there anything better to do today? It's so boring, I feel like sleeping.

**Narrator:** All of a sudden, the falcon lands on Amasis' lap and flies away, leaving a ruby slipper glimmering in the Pharaoh's lap

**Amasis:** Where has this come from? Why has Horus given this to me? (realisation dawning) This must be a sign: whoever this shoe fits will become the next Queen of Egypt. Every woman must try this on; I must find my Queen.

## **Act Three: Back at the master's house.**

**Narrator:** Many months later, while Amasis was still searching he came to the house of Rhodopis' master. Upon seeing the Pharaoh, Kipa and the other envious servant girls tried their hand, or foot, at fitting into the dazzling shoe.

**Kipa:** It's mine! Here I am.

**Servant Girl 2 and 3:** It's me! (shouting) It's not hers! Try mine!

**Narrator:** Unsurprisingly, the shoe didn't fit any of them. But just when the Pharaoh was about to abort his special mission, he spotted Rhodopis' blonde hair among the reeds.

**Amasis:** Let this girl try it on.

**Narrator:** With no other choice but to obey the Pharaoh, the servants moved aside, making way for the servant girl Rhodopis.

**Amasis:** (while slipping on the shoe) It is a fit! (with a final grin) You shall be the queen to my kingdom!

**Kipa:** But she's a slave!

**Servant Girl 2:** Who will do all the work here?

**Servant Girl 3:** She's not even from Egypt.

**Amasis:** She is as Egyptian as one can be, for the green eyes that bejewel her face are the colour of the beautiful Nile. Her face is like no other: a blooming Bougainvillea - she is simply Egyptian beauty. You must marry me.

**Narrator:** At last, we come to the end of our story! Rhodopis agrees to the Pharaoh's proposal, and just like that, Queen Rhodopis and Pharaoh Amasis lived happily ever after.

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