

## Champollion play

### Characters:

- Jean-François Champollion (Founding father of Egyptology)
- Jacques -Joseph Champollion (Brother of Jean)
- Jules Champollion (Brother of Jean)
- Aimé- Louis Champollion (Brother of Jean)
- Alice-Louise Champollion (Sister of Jean)
- Jacques Champollion (Father of Jean)
- Jeanne- Françoise Gallieu (Mother of Jean)
- Napoleon
- English soldiers
- Pierre-François Bouchard (French digger)
- People at excavation
- Horatio Nelson (English Admiral)
- Dr Thomas Young (English polymath)
- Narrator 1.
- Narrator 2.

<u>Script</u>	<u>Theatre Arts &amp; Dramatic Commentary</u>
<p><b><u>Scene 1:</u></b></p> <p><b>Setting:</b> <i>Jean François Champollion's sitting room, Figeac in South-Western France, 1799.</i></p> <p><b>Jean:</b> Bonjour je m'appelle Jean-François Champollion. Hello my name is...</p> <p>Mon anniversaire, c'est le 23 décembre. Je suis né en 1790. My birthday is on the 23 Dec. I was born in 1790</p> <p>J'habite à Figeac en France. I live in....</p> <p>J'ai 3 frères : Jacques-Joseph, Jules et Aimé- Louis, et une sœur : Alice- Louise. I have three brothers and one sister....</p> <p>Voici mon père Jacques Champollion et ma mère Jeanne-Françoise Gallieu. Here is my father.....and my mother.....</p> <p>Ma mère est triste. My mum is sad <i>(Mum cuddles him and pats his head to reassure him)</i></p> <p><i>(showing empty purse)</i> Nous ne sommes pas riches. Je n'ai pas d'argent pour l'école.</p>	<p>Spotlight for Jean (1)</p> <p>Lights fade up USL on a tableau of family (frozen like a picture)</p> <p>Tableau comes to life.</p>

<p>We are not rich. I don't have money for school.</p> <p>Voici mon frère aîné, Jacques-Joseph.</p> <p>Here is my elder brother.....</p> <p><b>Jacques-Joseph:</b> Viens-ici, regarde! Je vais t'apprendre l'alphabet.</p> <p><i>(Points to book and says alphabet with Champollion repeating).</i></p> <p>Come here, look!</p> <p>...I will teach you the alphabet.</p> <p><i>(All sing the alphabet song).</i></p>	<p>Lights down/change of scene and set with music.</p>
<p><b>Scene 2:</b></p> <p><b>Narrator 1:</b> It is Paris , 1807....This is a very busy place. There is a great deal of hustle and bustle.***</p> <p><b>Champollion:</b> Bon giorno...guten tag....buenos dias...hello</p> <p>Hello...hello....hello.....hello</p> <p><i>(Direct to audience)</i> J'ai seize ans! J'adore les langues: le latin, le grec, l'hébreu, le sanskrit, ,l'arabe, le perse et le copte.</p> <p>I am sixteen years old. I love languages: Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Coptic ...</p>	<p>Lights up on outside scene. Busy street scene</p>
<p><b>As Champollion goes through each country , someone goes past dressed in the national costume of each country he speaks of , and holds a speech bubble in their hand with the word "Hello" in the language.</b></p> <p><b>Champollion:</b> Et bien sûr, j'adore l'Egypte.</p> <p>And of course, I love Egypt.</p> <p><i>(Champollion performs a short piece of an Egyptian dance and perhaps the previous group of pupils can join in too)</i></p> <p><b>Champollion:</b> J'adore l'Egypte!!</p>	<p>Lights very bright with a range of flashing colours to enhance the scene.</p>

<p><b>Narrator 2</b> - Napoleon invaded Egypt in 1798. There were many battles and a great deal of bloodshed.***</p>	<p>Use of red and blue lights flashing to highlight the war/ fighting.</p> <p>Battle sound effects to enhance the scene</p>
<p><b>Narrator 2:</b> En 1799, en Egypte, à Rosetta, près d' Alexandrie. Excavation!</p> <p>In 1799, in Egypt, at Rosetta, near Alexandria. Excavation!</p>	<p>Lights return to normal. Straw coloured gel to create a "warm" glow ...</p>
<p><b>Frenchman, Pierre- François Bouchard</b> <i>(as he digs with a pick):</i> Ho hisse, ho hisse. Zut Alors!! Qu'est-ce que c'est ?</p> <p>Humph, humph...my goodness! What's this?</p> <p><b>He hits a stone and pulls it out of the ground. People gather around.</b></p> <p><b>People:</b> <i>(mumbling/ questioning)</i> Qu'est-ce que c'est ? Il a trouvé quelque chose ? C'est quoi ?</p> <p>He's found something! What can it be?</p> <p><b>Pierre-François :</b> C'est une pierre. Il y a des dessins, des mots égyptiens, des mots grecs!! Il faut aller à l'Institut National au Caire.</p> <p>It's a stone! There are drawings, Egyptian words, Greek words!!</p> <p>We need to go to the National Institute in Cairo.</p> <p><i>(He exits followed by the excited crowd)</i></p> <p><b>Narrator 1</b> – The British decided that they did not want the French to claim Egypt as theirs because they saw it as important, culturally, geographically and strategically and so they decided to fight for the colonisation of Egypt.</p> <p><b>Les Britanniques/ Nelson:</b> Hum !! C'est très important ! A l'attaque!</p>	<p>Lights down.</p> <p>Music for scene change.</p> <p>Spotlight on narrator DSR</p>

<p>Hey! This is very important! Attack!</p> <p><i>Battle of the Nile between the French and the British. Nelson triumphs.</i></p> <p><b>Narrator 2:</b> Meantime, the British Archaeologist, Thomas Young, tried in vain to decipher the meaning of the Rosetta stone.</p> <p><b>Thomas Young:</b> (<i>trying to read what is written on the stone</i>)</p> <p>Je m'appelle Docteur Thomas Young.</p> <p>My name is Doctor Thomas Young</p> <p><i>Thomas scratches his head</i></p> <p><b>Thomas:</b> C'est difficile..... Je ne comprends pas..... Peut-être que..... Ah, d'accord.....Un mot, deux mots, trois mots.....Non. C'est trop difficile ..... (He takes off his hat and throws it down in frustration)</p> <p>It's difficult...I do not understand...perhaps.....okay...one word...two words....three words....No. It's too difficult.....</p> <p><i>Scene change to Champollion's office. Champollion is sitting at his desk, looking at the stone.</i></p> <p><b>Champollion :</b> C'est difficile ! Peut-être que..... Oh la la.....mais pourquoi pas..... Bof ! Ah, d'accord.... Bien sûr.....</p> <p>It's difficult...perhaps....oh là là...! okay...of course</p> <p><b>Narrator 2:</b> So Champollion worked tirelessly day and night.....on and on.....Until finally.....</p> <p><b>Champollion :</b> J'ai trouvé ! Eurêka. Voilà ! Les dessins sont comme un pictogramme !</p>	<p>Sound effects required – Battle sounds.</p> <p>Lighting frenetic – Blues and greens</p> <p>The office scenes can be done in the same space with the change of a flag or a few pre-set props to differentiate between Young's office and Champollion's office.</p>
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<p>I have it! Eureka! This is it! The designs are like a pictogram.</p> <p><i>He clasps his hands together. Music – La Marseillaise.</i></p> <p><i>Thomas Young is in a corner shouting....</i></p> <p><b>Thomas:</b> Je déteste Champollion. Tricheur !</p> <p>I detest that Champollion. He is a cheat!</p> <p>As he continues to rant, he is drowned out by the sound of the Marseillaise.</p>	<p>Tick tock sound effect or similar to denote the passing of time.</p> <p>Lights fade out , then brighten again.</p> <p>Lights fade out as music plays</p>
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