

Assembly script:

AAA: Where is everyone? Oh hey there Quinton Hall, I am looking for my form group. You see, we are meant to be performing an assembly and I am slightly late...but I can't find my class! Mr Ford, have you seen them? Oh, what to do...I don't even know my lines and now I can't even find my class! Going to get into so much trouble....

BBB: We're here, and we got a song for you!

Driedel song – Sing until 2nd verse, start 3rd chorus and then a child interrupts

AAA: Not too sure what's happening here, P5MA are supposed to performing an assembly today and all we get is all you lot sing this rather catchy tune!

CCC: (interrupts) Well actually, this is our assembly!

AAA: Oh yeah? What's it about then? Dreidels? Whatever that is.

All: Our assembly is about Hanukkah!

CCC: And a dreidel is a toy that Jewish children play around this time to celebrate Hanukkah but more on that later.

AAA: Hanukkah you say? What is that?

CCC: Well Hanukkah is a festival that is celebrated by people of the Jewish faith all around the world during this time of year.

DDD: That's right, it's a festival of light...

AAA: (interrupts) A bit like Diwali?

DDD: ...yes exactly like Diwali, but don't interrupt!

AAA: Sorry!

DDD: Anyway, it's a festival of light to commemorate a miracle. You see there was a battle...

AAA: (interrupts) did you say battle????

DDD: Urgh, you like interrupting don't you! I feel sorry for your teachers at Quinton Hall! Anyway, I'll take you back in time when this battle took place.

(Everybody get ready and person 1 and 5 go to the side)

EEE - KOS: My name is Antiochus and I am the King of Syria. I decree that everyone must worship my Gods and my idols! The Jews must not disobey my command or there will be serious consequences....like death! MWAHAHAHAHAHA.

FFF - JM: My name is Judah Maccabee and I shall not convert to a false religion. I will stand up to this tyranny with all my Maccabee brothers and fight them off!

EEE - KOS: Don't be ridiculous Maccabee. Your puny army can't compete with my highly trained one. You are outnumbered fool! I have already taken over the golden temple in Jerusalem and I will take over all religious buildings in Israel and the world.

FFF - JM: We'll see about that! Me and my brothers can surely defeat your stuck up army!

EEE - KOS: (sarcastically) well good luck.....(quietly) not!

(Syrian army all laugh and point)

AAA: What's going on?

GGG: You see, Antiochus was a nasty dictator who ruled over Syria. He believed in the Greek Gods and forced all his subjects to worship them. He destroyed Jewish temples and threatened them with death if they didn't convert. But you see, the Maccabees would not sit quietly and....hold on, think the battle is going to commence!

(brief battle scene and KOS and other soldiers flee saying we surrender!)

FFF - JM: Brothers, let's go back to the temple and see what those horrible people have done to our place of worship.

GGG: They went back and they discovered their holy temple in ruins and were so upset at the sight. They found a menorah just like the one on that table, a special candle holder sacred to the Jewish people and wanted to light it to commemorate their victory.

HHH: However, they found only enough oil to light the candle for one day. (Pause to light Menorah). But then, a miracle occurred. They menorah stay lit for 8 days! How was this possible? Well, let's ask Judah Maccabee.

FFF - JM: Brothers, come and look, it's the eighth day since our triumph and the menorah has stayed lit and is as bright as ever. This is a miracle from God and surely a sign that he is on our side!

HHH: And so, it was from that day, Jewish people the world over has celebrated this day with the lighting of their very own menorahs in their homes and synagogues.

AAA: So they celebrate this day during Christmas? (Thinks?) That means two presents!

HHH: You need to remember that the Jewish faith predates Christianity and there was no such thing as Christmas back in Maccabees day. They have their own calendar which is very different to our own and they celebrate this in the Hebrew month of Kislev, usually between late November to late December.

AAA: So I understand the history, but how do people celebrate during this festival? Hindus celebrate their festival of light with fireworks. Is it the same with Jewish people too?

III: Not quite, let's have a look how children might celebrate Hanukah

(go to scene where two children are playing dreidel)

JJJ: (spins the top) I win the chocolate again!

KKK: Not fair! You're always winning and I have no chocolate! Are you cheating???? I think I am going to tell mum....MUM!!!!!!!

LLL: What is it kids, you're disturbing me from watching my favourite soap opera, EastEnders.

KKK: He's cheating at dreidel! Look, he has all the chocolate!

JJJ: Not my fault if you are rubbish! And I have all the delicious candy! Haha!

LLL: Now children, the idea is to celebrate Hanukkah and the blessings this festival brings us, not to kill each other. Can't you behave yourselves for one day? (Grumbling) Gosh, everything we do for

our kids, and they show us no respect. Fight, fight, fight, that's all they do. Back in my day, if we argued, we would have got a smacked bottom. They don't even know they are born! It's all these playstation 8s and smart phones with their whatsapp and facebook, I tell you, if I behaved like that in my day....

AAA: That mum is one grumpy mum! (Mum shouts 'I heard that' behind the screen) Why is she so grumpy?

III: Probably because she has been cooking all day to prepare for the feast they are about to have. Today she cooked Latkes, which is like a potato filled pancake, sufganiyot, which is a deep filled jelly doughnut and brisket too!

AAA: Delicious! But I am more interested in those chocolate coins over there. I wanna play!

BBB: I can teach you if you like! The rules are as follows: Each player puts one gold coin in the pot and then take turns spinning the dreidel. Wait for it to stop spinning where it will land on a letter. Each Hebrew letter on the dreidel represents what you can win. Nun means none! Gimel means give me all the coins! Hay means half. Shin means put one in! Pretty simple really.

AAA: (Goes over to the children) Let me play!

JJJ: Who are you?

KKK: Mum, there is a strange person in our living room!

LLL: (from behind the screen) stop bothering and let me cook my latkes for you brats!

AAA: Hey, I am not strange, I am in your class, and this is our assembly!

JJJ: This guy is scaring me, let's get of here! (Both run going ahhhh!)

AAA: Hmm, who should I play??? How about(choose a teacher)

MMM: You each receive ten gold chocolate coins. Ante is 1 coin and you have 3 goes each.... good luck! And now, let me introduce our participants of the morning. On my left, we have the undisputed dreidel champion of QHS, feared by his enemies and respected by his peers, he is the Yorkshire Destroyer, Mr WOOOOOOD. Now, on my right, we have the challenger, vying for the prize of undisputed dreidel champion, (insert name here). Now for the children and parents in attendance, and the millions watching all around the world, LET'S GET READY TO DREIDELLLLLLLLLLLLLL.

(go four times, give running commentary)

AAA: I can't believe I won/lost! Hanukkah seems so much fun.

NNN: Just like Diwali for Hindus, Ramadan for Muslims and Christmas for Christians, Hanukkah is a time for celebration and gift giving. Jewish people spend time with family and friends as well as remembering the religious significance of this festival. Without the Maccabees, and their bravery, their religion might have been forever extinguished. We must always stand up for what is right and for our freedom to expression and religion.

BBB: Now please bow your heads in prayer. Dear Lord, we give thanks that all people around the world are able to celebrate religious festivals in their own unique way. We give thanks for being able to express our freedoms just like the Maccabees did when they stood up to Antiochus. We are thankful for having the freedom to choose our religion in the UK and to practise and celebrate it with our friends, family and neighbours. Amen.