



WHAT SHOULD WE REMEMBER
FLORENCE
NIGHTINGALE
 FOR???

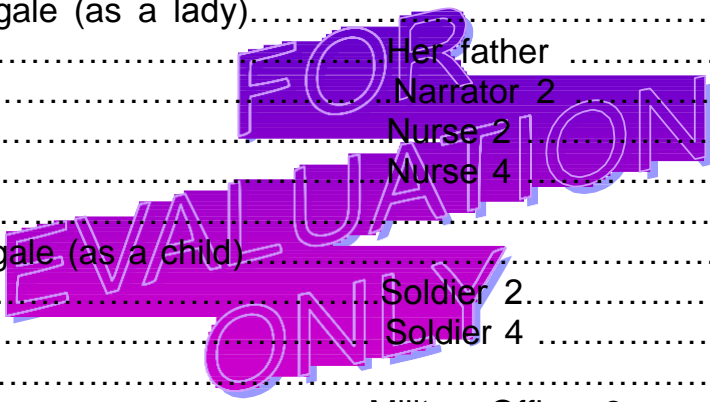
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A musical play for Primary Schools and Drama Clubs

Duration approx 25-30 mins.

Cast:

Florence Nightingale (as a lady).....
 Her mother Her father
 Narrator 1..... Narrator 2
 Nurse 1 Nurse 2
 Nurse 3 Nurse 4
 Other Nurses
 Florence Nightingale (as a child).....
 Soldier 1..... Soldier 2.....
 Soldier 3..... Soldier 4.....
 Other soldiers
 Military Officer 1..... Military Officer 2
 Lord Houghton Modern Day Teacher
 Modern Day Group of Children: Barry..... Sanjeev.....
 Lorna..... Sophie others
 Singers



Props needed: big history book, embroidery, rifles/swords, old blankets, lantern, jug of water and a cup, medicine, pills, bandages

CD LISTING NB: The special CD contains audio tracks, the script to customize, a piano score and a Powerpoint presentation which includes lyrics.

1. *What Should We Remember Florence Nightingale for?*
2. *This Cannot Be*
3. *A Lantern Shone*
4. *I Saw an Angel*
5. *What Should We Remember Florence Nightingale for (backing track)*
6. *This Cannot Be (backing track)*
7. *Sad Music*
8. *A Lantern Shone (backing track)*
9. *Guns and Wind music*
10. *I Saw an Angel (backing track)*

Narrator 1: *(Teacher and children onstage)* Welcome to our play about the life of a very important lady who lived in Victorian Times. We hope you enjoy our show. First of all, we take you to a modern school, where a history lesson is taking place.

Teacher: *(Holding a Big History Book)* Good morning, class. In our history lesson today we are going to learn about the life of a very famous person called Florence Nightingale. Does anyone know who Florence Nightingale was?

Sanjeev: I think she was just a nurse in a war a long time ago.

Lorna: She wasn't a very important person like a king or a politician. She was only a nurse in the Crimean war.

Sophie: That was a long time ago! Why was she so important if she was just a nurse?

Barry: I've never heard of Florence Nightingale. What should we remember Florence Nightingale for?

SONG: Track 1: What Should We Remember Florence Nightingale For? (Backing Track 5)

All: What should we remember Florence Nightingale for?

She was just a nurse in the Crimean war.

That was a long time ago! What is there to know?

What should we remember Florence Nightingale for? She was just a nurse in the Crimean war! That was a long time ago. What is there to know?

Teacher/All: In these pages you can read tales of human history!

Tales of struggles to be free!

They changed the world for you and me! For you and me! (repeat all)

Teacher: In those days, there were no modern hospitals, and when soldiers were hurt, they died from their wounds because they weren't looked after properly.

Lorna: She must have been a very kind person then.

Teacher: Yes, Lorna, and very brave too.

Barry: Brave, yes! And stupid! Think of all those bedpans and bandages and all that blood!

Sophie: She must have been a strong person to put up with all that.

Teacher: Yes. Some people say she was a hero. The hospitals were cold at night and hot during the day. They were dirty, and if the patients didn't die from their wounds they died because of germs and diseases. Nurses did not get paid much money, and they had to work long hours. Nursing was seen as a very working class job, so it was unusual for a rich girl to become a nurse. Come, we will learn more. *(Exit teacher and children)*

Narrator 2: Florence Nightingale had a rich father and mother. She was given the name Florence because she was born while they were abroad in Florence, Italy, on 12th May, 1820. Her father was a good religious man. In those days, slavery was still common. He worked hard to put an end to slavery. Florence was very close to her father. Her father treated her as his friend and companion. He showed her how to become a refined young lady and he taught her Greek, Italian, Latin, French, German, history, philosophy and mathematics.

(Enter Florence as a child and father. Florence is sewing an embroidery.)

Florence: Good morning, papa. You have risen late today.

Father: Indeed I have. I was working late into the night on my anti-slavery campaign.

Florence: What's slavery, papa?

Father: It is an evil thing that should be stopped. No one has the right to own another human being and force them to do work without any pay.

Florence: Yes, slavery sounds very cruel. Do you like my embroidery, papa?

Father: Yes, but have you done the schoolwork I gave you?

Florence: Yes, papa.

Father: And what have you learnt today?

Florence: I have learnt that it is good to be truthful, to be honest, to work hard, and to serve others. In fact, I think I would like to work in a hospital when I grow up!

Father: That's not possible, Florence. Only men can become doctors in this country!

Florence: I don't want to be a doctor, papa! I want to be a nurse! A nurse!

Father: Don't be silly, Florence. (Exit)

Narrator 1: Florence grew to become an intelligent young lady. Her mother was a bossy woman. She wanted her fine young daughter to have a good husband and raise a family.

(Enter Florence as a young lady, with her mother and father)

Mother: Florence, it is time to consider your future.

Florence: Yes, mama. I must choose my career wisely.

Mother: You don't need a career. You are far too restless and your head is full of useless daydreams. You should be married into a rich and noble family.

Florence: But mama, I have been having such wonderful dreams about my future and my place in the world.

Father: Yes. She believes that God wants her to care for other people.

Florence: Oh yes, papa! I want to see the world and do great things!

Mother: Stuff and nonsense! I have big plans for you! You must settle down and marry into society. In fact, I have agreed another visit from your suitor. Please go to the door and meet him. (Exit Florence)

Father: Lord Houghton is an excellent writer and a good politician. He is friendly with our great modern poets such as Keats, Tennyson and Swinburne.

Mother: He would make a very suitable husband for our daughter. *(Enter Florence and Lord Houghton)*

Lord Houghton: Good day. It is an honour to meet you once again. But I must be on my way.

Mother: Oh, Lord Houghton. Don't go! Please stay! You are most welcome in our house.

Lord Houghton: Your daughter does not want me here. Goodbye! *(Exits)*

Mother *(to Florence)* Dear child! Explain!

Florence: Mama, he has asked me to be his wife. I don't want to be married!

Father: What do you want to do with your life?

Florence: I want to leave home and train to be a nurse! Nursing is my destiny!

Mother: *(aghast)* A nurse! A nurse! That's a job for common working women. I forbid it!

Father: A nurse? Tell me it's not so! I forbid it!

***** SONG: Track 2 *This Cannot Be* ***** *(Backing Track 6)*

*Father: Tell me it's not so! I don't want you to go!
Tell me it's not so! I don't want you to go!
Oh no this will not do! Nursing is not right for you!
Oh no this cannot be! You are high society!*

(All): High society! High society!

*Mother: Tell me it's not so! I don't want you to go! Tell me it's not so!
I don't want you to go! Oh no this will not do!
I have got big plans for you! Oh no this cannot be!
You are aristocracy!*

(All): Aristocracy! Aristocracy!

*(All, except parents:) She knows what she wants and what she wants to be! Nursing is her destiny!
You will never never never You will never change her mind!
You will never never never You will never change her mind!*

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE