

Creative Fun with History!

Acting Up History:

The Story of King Alfred versus The Danes

Narrator:

A wondrous tale I've come to tell
About a king of old.
And, by the time my story's done,
On Alfred, you'll be sold!
In Alfred's day, old England gained
A navy, boats and such.
They even won a victory
At sea! A master touch!!

Chorus: (pointing in time to Alfred)
Alfred, Alfred, he's our man.
If he can't win, then no one can!

King Alfred:

Ahem. Thank you... (He stands to recite)
The Danes had come to steal our land
To kill, and loot, and burn.
We had to find a way to win
But quick! We had to learn.
The Danes, they came in Viking boats
And more, yet more, still more!
We fought them oft' in battles great
'Til all our folks were sore.
I had to flee to forests deep
And live upon the land,
Waiting for the proper time
My army to command.

Narrator:

Far away from spying eyes,
King Alfred comes to rest.
A peasant man and wife invite
Him in to be their guest.

Chorus: (pointing to Woman in the Hut)
She is the Woman in the Hut
(pointing in time at Alfred)
She thinks HE is some kind of nut!

Woman in the Hut:

I asked this guest to mind the cakes
A-cooking with the heat.

And while I turns to do my work,
He burns them black as peat!
HUMPH!! (she turns her back on Alfred)

Chorus: (pointing to Alfred)
Alfred, dear, don't feel the sting,
(pointing to the Woman in the Hut)
She doesn't know that you're the king!

Narrator:

King Alfred played the harp and sang
His songs quite well, you know.
So Guthrum, leader of the Danes,
Once said, "Come, do a show!"
Chorus: (pointing in time to Guthrum)
Guthrum, Guthrum, can't you see
That singer is your enemy!

Guthrum:

I asked a traveling man to play
His harp, with songs to sing.
I didn't have the slightest clue
He was the Saxon King!

Alfred:

When Guthrum brought me to his camp,
He little knew the cost.
I learned how best to beat the Danes
And so, you see, they lost!
At end of battle, Guthrum came
A beaten man, my slave.
He saw the "singer" was the king.
I spoke, and thus forgave.
"Dear Sir, if you will promise me
You'll never fight again,
And be a Christian from now on,
You'll see, we can be friends!"

Narrator:

So, Guthrum and his group obeyed,
And soon were all baptized.
They never fought the king again!
Now say, are you surprised?