SAMPLE OF SCRIPT FOR ELEMENTS

*Screams as the space ship starts to crash. Lights black out. Crashing sound effects. Silence. The lights come up slowly. The children stand in a group. Terra and Safara look around.*

Safara Nice going, Terra! You’ve put us down on a barren wasteland.

Terra There wasn’t another choice.

Safara So now, instead of dying in space, we can starve and slowly suffocate on this dusty rock!

Terra Why can’t you say anything helpful? Why do you always have to start a fight! You were there too. What would you have done?

Marina Stop fighting. That’s not going to help anyone. We have to find some water.

Safara There isn’t going to be any water. Look at this place…

Ellil The air. It’s so close, it’s difficult to breathe, and it’s so cold and dark out here. Maybe we should get back on the ship.

Safara And do what? It’s too badly damaged to fly.

Ellil At least we’d be warm.

Marina Maybe mum’s ship will spot us and come and rescue us.

Terra There isn’t going to be another ship, Marina. You saw the planet fall apart as we flew away. There wasn’t time for them to leave.

Marina But she said…

Terra She lied to make us leave. It’s just us on our own now and we have to find a way to survive. Send the children back on to the ship where it’s warmer and we’ll go and have a look around.

*Marina looks upset, but turns and sends the children away. The four of them are left alone. They begin to walk searching for something. They exit. When they come back on it has been some time and they are freezing cold.*

Ellil I can’t keep going. It’s so hard to breathe.

Safara And it’s so cold. Face it Terra, we’re done for.

Terra No. I promised mother I would look after you all and I can’t give up now.

*Ellil sits down too tired to carry on. Marina sits with her.*

Safara Terra…

Terra I just can’t believe it would end like this.

*She looks up at the stars.*

Terra It’s seems so stupid to escape from the destruction of one world to end up dying here.

Safara At least the view is pretty. Look at all the stars. They’re so bright.

Marina Mother always says… or used to say, that you could wish on a star and if you wished hard enough maybe your wish would come true.

Ellil Maybe we should wish together.

Safara Sounds like rubbish to me, but I guess at this point in time anything is worth a try. Terra?

Terra It couldn’t make things any worse.

*They stand together and close their eyes. When they open them nothing has changed.*

Safara I didn’t think it would work.

Ellil It was nice though to all be together and agree on something for a change.

Safara I’m sorry, Terra. You’re right. There was nothing else you could have done and if I’d been in charge, we would still have ended up here.

Terra Thanks. I just wish there was more we could do.

Marina Look. A shooting star.

Ellil It’s so pretty.

Safara Is it just me, or is it falling this way?

*Falling star lands behind them. The star enters in dazzling sequins, like a famous rock star.*

Star Did someone down here make a wish? What are you staring at? Haven’t you ever seen a star before?

Terra Not this close.

Star Sorry. We can be a little over whelming, I know, but you should look a little happier to see me. I’m here to help you after all.

Marina You are?

Star You made a wish, all four of you, the same wish. That made a very strong wish, which brought me here to fulfil said wish… you following me so far?

Ellil So you can help us?

Star Saw the crash landing. Know all about your planet being destroyed etc. etc. etc. and so, after careful consideration the stars have agreed to help you, especially after you wished so nicely, but there is a small catch…

Terra Which is?

Star What would you be willing to give up to save your people and create a world which would thrive?... Just so you know, all you have to do is answer the question…

Terra I’d give you anything you want.

Star You don’t have to give me anything. It’s not that sort of sacrifice. It works like this…. In order for a world to survive it needs four things. Earth, Water, Air and Fire. As you can see, this planet doesn’t really have any of those things. I can give you the power to be these elements and create a world in which your people would be able to live.

Safara And the catch with that is?

Star You would become immortal, you know, live forever, and it would be your responsibility to be in charge of your element for all eternity.

Terra But that way we would be able to make a planet that people could survive on?

Star Not just survive. Thrive. As long as the four elements exist together then there is a great future for this world.

Safara So does this mean we’d possess magical powers?

Star Pretty much. Yeah.

Safara So on one hand we have death, on the other, a chance to live forever with the magic to make the world a better place. Sounds like an obvious choice to me.

Ellil Sounds like it’s the only way out of this mess.

Terra You realise we’d have to give up a normal life.

Marina Terra, there is no normal life for us. This is our only chance.

Star So are you all agreed?

Terra Yes.

Star Cool! So now comes the important part. You four siblings shall become the guardians of the elements. No longer human, but instead, spirits of great power.

*Star walks up to Ellil and places a hand on her/him.*

Star Ellil, I name you the Air Giver. You can guide breezes over the lands and dance across the sky. You are the freest of all the elements. A spirit born to travel and explore with great speed and grace.

*Walks up to Safara and places a hand on her.*

Star Safara, I name you the Fire Wielder. You bring the flames of the sun to the land and warm it with your heart. Both strong and bold, you hold a power which blazes as brightly as your smile.

*Walks up to Marina and places a hand on her.*

Star Marina, I name you the Water Bringer. You can guide water to the driest ground, bring rain from the sky and quench the world’s thirst with one tear. Your power flows through you. Adaptable and determined, you possess both grace, strength and flexibility.

*Walks up to Terra and places a hand on her.*

Star And finally, Terra, I name you Mother Earth. It is on you that everything rests. You are stable and steady. With your guidance life can spring from the ground and cover the land in green. You provide food and shelter and the hope your people need to survive.

*Walks away.*

Star Your wish has been granted. Make your world as you would have it and I wish you luck. I can’t come back again, but I’ll be watching you. Don’t forget to have fun!

*Star exits.*

Ellil I don’t feel any different. Do you?

Safara Not really.

Terra Maybe we should try it and see.

Marina Ok. You first.

*Terra puts her hand on the floor and closes her eyes, concentrating. Nothing happens.*

Terra It’s not working.

Ellil Maybe the star was just having a laugh.

Marina Maybe you don’t believe it enough.

Terra Probably because I don’t.

Marina Try again, but this time try to really believe in it.

*Terra sits down on a rock. She closes her eyes again and slowly a flower rises up by her hand. The others watch amazed. She opens her eyes and looks at the flower.*

Terra It worked. It actually worked!

Ellil Then let’s really try this out. Come on!

*Music plays. They exit. The scene changes to the festival. A banner with the words 1000 years of the elements is being hung up and people are dancing, looking happy.*

**CELEBRATION DANCE**

*Song pauses in the middle, everyone frozen. In come Than and Jabez.*

Jabez Well, this world looks like a possibility.

Than A very big possibility.

Jabez Good, because travelling the galaxy makes me hungry.

Than You’re always hungry.

Jabez I can’t help that.

Than In all this time, you still haven’t learnt to enjoy the plotting and meddling, only the final reward.

Jabez We’re destroyers of worlds. The destruction is what it’s all about.

Than You need to learn to feed on the mayhem and fear that can be created before the world is destroyed. Think of it as an appetizer.

Jabez What do you have in mind?

Than I don’t know yet. To plan the destruction of a world, you first need to know everything about it, for example, what do you see going on here?

Jabez A load of happy smiling people celebrating something….

Than But what are they celebrating?

*Jabez looks at the sign.*

Jabez 1000 years of the Elements. What’s that supposed to be?

Than Let’s watch and find out.

*The chorus un- freeze and carry on with their happy song. At the end of the song Brin gathers everyone together.*

Brin Alright, everyone. The guests of honour should be here very soon, so can we all remember what we’re doing? I’ll go over the plan again, to make sure. When they arrive we go into the welcome and then the children perform their presentation, starting with the story of how the elements began and finishing with the song.

Reece Is mother Earth really going to be here?

Brin Of course she is.

Reece I’m so excited. I can’t wait to meet her. She’s so amazing.

*Garrett runs on.*

Garrett They’re here!

Brin Places everyone! Places!

*People cross the stage and set themselves up ready for the arrival of the elements. The four elements enter. They now even dress more like their element and play to the crowd like famous stars. There is a big cheer from the crowd.*

Brin We are honoured by your presence and welcome you to our small town on this day of celebration.

Terra We were glad to come.

Brin Mother Earth, we are especially honoured to have you here, and in light of this great day the children have put together a presentation for you.

Terra How nice.

Brin Please, sit.

*Brin shows them to their seats. The children get ready to perform their piece. This is all done like small children in the school play.*

Alex In the beginning there was darkness and the world was cold and barren. To help the people survive the four children who had led the people to this world made a wish and a star granted them the gifts of the elements.

Reece I am a star. I give you these gifts to help your world.

Safara (to the other elements) I don’t remember the star using such short words.

Terra (to Safara) shh.

Reece As long as the four elements exist together there will be a great future for your world.

Alex And so the star flew back to the heavens.

Child 1 The Elements began creating the world. Ellil the Air giver called the winds to the ground and gave us the breeze and made the sky clear.

Penny Safara the Fire Wielder made the sun glow hot and gave us warmth.

Alex Marina the Water Bringer called water from the ground and made the rivers and oceans.

Child 2 And Terra, the mother of the earth, created life. Flowers and food grew from the ground. Trees and rocks burst forth to give us shelter and animals were given life.

Children And that is why we celebrate today and give thanks to the mother Earth.

*Terra applauds enthusiastically. The others do too, but Safara doesn’t look convinced.*

Terra Thank you all for your presentation. It is good to know we are appreciated, but we have work to do so we will have to go soon.

*Children ‘ahh’, disappointed.*

Reece Can’t you stay for a little longer, please Mother Earth?

Brin They have been so excited to meet you. They have arranged a feast and have drawn pictures that they wanted to show you.

Terra Well. I suppose we could stay a little longer. I would hate to disappoint them all.

Brin Children. Let’s go and get your drawings to show to the elements.

*The children and crowd exit, leaving only the elements on stage, watched by Jabez and Than.*

Safara What was all that about!

Terra What?

Safara After 1000 years I thought maybe they’d show a little more appreciation.

Terra They showed lots of appreciation.

Safara Yes. For you, they did. They barely even mentioned the rest of us.

Ellil Can we go. I’m bored.

Terra Don’t you start too.

Ellil You know I hate staying in one place too long.

Terra We can’t leave yet. They have more to show us.

Safara No. They have more to show you and you don’t want to leave because you’re enjoying being the centre of attention.

Terra That’s not true.

Safara Of course it is.

Marina Please, can you two stop arguing. Don’t you think you’ve been doing enough of that recently.

Safara It’s not my fault she’s so annoying.

Terra I’m annoying? What about you! You never can be quiet. You always think you can have fun, and let’s not forget that field of crops you burned down last week.

Safara That was an accident. And what’s wrong with having a little bit of fun and adding a bit of colour to things? That’s who I am. At least I’m not boring and sensible like you.

Terra There you go again. Trying to make everything bright and bold. We’ve had this conversation hundreds of times. There’s nothing wrong with being calm and sensible and everyone else seems perfectly happy with my world.

Ellil Face it. You two are never going to agree on anything. You’re just too different. I’m bored of listening to this same argument day after day.

*Ellil starts to leave.*

Terra Where do you think you’re going?

Ellil Anywhere and everywhere but here.

Terra Oh no you don’t. Not today. Every time we try to sort this out you fly off and try to avoid responsibility, but not this time. Not on our 1000 year anniversary. You’re going to stay here and take part in the celebration.

Marina Please Ellil.

Ellil Fine. I’ll stay. But only because Marina asked me to.

*The children enter with their paintings. They are all of mother earth. The elements put on their smile for the crowd faces and begin to look at them. Freeze.*

Than How interesting. A world ruled by the elements.

Jabez It’s definitely something unique.

Than And it’s how we’re going to destroy this world.

Jabez What do you have in mind?

Than It seems the elemental gods are not as happy as they pretend to be. All we have to do is ‘fan the flames’ so to speak and soon the Fire Wielder will no longer be able to supress her temper.

Jabez And then?

Than Then we work on dividing them and this world is as good as ours.

*The crowd un-freeze again. Safara is hovering away from the others, whilst Terra signs autographs on her pictures. Than and Jabez approach her.*

Than This is a fairly impressive party.

Safara I suppose so.

Than So good to see everyone celebrating the Mother of the Earth on her anniversary.

Jabez All her adoring fans.

Safara It’s our anniversary. All four of us.

Than Really? I wouldn’t have known. Look at them all. They’re only interested in her.

Jabez She is the most powerful after all.

Safara You’re wrong about that!

Jabez Are you trying to say she’s not better than you.

Safara She isn’t.

Than Does she know that? Because it seems to me she thinks she’s better than the rest of you. Always bossing everyone else around.

Safara She’s the oldest…

Than And that makes her the best.

Jabez Looks that way to me.

Safara No.

Than I don’t even think I’ve heard what the Fire Wielder can do, other than make the sun shine.

Safara I can do far more than that!

Jabez Prove it.

Safara I will!

*Safara closes her eyes. Flames begin to rise. The children look worried. Than and Jabez disappear to the side, hidden from sight once more.*

Terra Safara! What are you doing!

Marina The whole town is starting to burn! Safara!

Terra Stop this right now!

Safara Why should I? Just because you tell me to. Well, I’ve had enough of doing everything your way, Terra. Are you afraid I’ll burn your lovely portraits, ruining the immortal image of how fantastic you are? All your adoring fans and a show all about you. What about the rest of us? We’re a team of four, but you’re happy to take all the glory and you think you can just boss us all around and we’ll do what you say, but I’ve had enough.

Terra Safara! I gave you an order to stop!

Safara I don’t take orders from you!

Terra Yes you do. I’m Mother Earth. I’m in charge and you’ll do what you’re told.

Safara Just because you’re Mother Earth and the oldest doesn’t mean you’re the best! You think you’re so much more important than the rest of us, but you couldn’t do anything without us.

Terra I am more important and just try me. I bring life. All you do is loose your temper and destroy things and hurt people, just like you always did when we were children.

Safara No I don’t!

Terra You’re losing your temper right now!

Marina Safara, Terra. Stop. This doesn’t help anyone.

Safara No. I’ve had enough. I might have spent 1000 years doing things her way, but I won’t spend another 1000 that way. I’m in charge of me now, and I don’t need anyone else, or your stupid rules!

*Safara storms off.*

Ellil Safara?! Come back.

Terra Marina, the fire.

*Marina puts it out.*

Ellil She’ll cool off and be back. You know what she’s like.

Marina I don’t know. She seemed really upset this time. Terra. What do we do?

Terra Get on with doing what we always do.

*Terra exits. Ellil follows her and Marina begins to go. The children stand watching, amazed and worried.*

Alex Did we cause this?

Marina No. Sometimes Earth and Fire don’t get along. Earth is too solid and fire can burn it too easily. I’m sure it will all be fine in a couple of days. You’ll see.

*Marina exits. The children pick up their things and follow Brin off.*

Jabez And so it starts. Now what?

Than We go after the Air Giver.