**Scene 2**

**Lights Up. Inside the palace. The king is sat on his throne with his wife stood beside him.**

Rama’s stepmother: My dear, I’ve just come from the gardens.

King: Did you enjoy your walk?

Rama’s stepmother: Unfortunately not as your son was very rude to me... again. He gloated about how he will become king one day and threatened to have me banished to the forest.

King: Rama said that? No, he couldn’t have done.

Rama’s stepmother: Are you saying that you don’t believe your beloved wife?

King: I’m sorry my dear, I’m getting too old and tired for this. What has got into that boy? For weeks, you have told me about how boastful and mean he has become. Perhaps he won’t make a good king after all?

Rama’s stepmother: I fear the same.

**Rama and Sita enter.**

Rama: **(cheerful and bowing)** Good morning father!

Sita: **(curtseying)** Good morning your majesty.

King: Rama, I must ask why you have become so boastful lately? You gloat about how

you will become king one day. This is not how a future king should behave!

Rama: What? I don’t understand.

King: I thought you would make a kind, understanding king but I fear you will not. I think there is someone better for the role.

Rama: But…

Rama’s stepmother: **(interrupting Rama)** Not everyone is cut out to be king, Rama.

Rama: It's you! You have been putting ideas into my father’s head. You horrible woman!

King: **(angrily)** ) ENOUGH! I’ve heard enough. Rama, that is no way to speak to my wife. I banish you to the forest for 14 years. By then, I will be gone and a new king will rule. Leave immediately! **(storms off stage)**

**Rama falls down to his knees with his head in his hands. Sita tries to comfort him. Having seen this, Rama’s stepmother laughs and leaves the stage.**

**Lights down**