

William Shakespeare's

All's Well That Ends Well



"Easy Reading Old World Literature"

All's Well That Ends Well

LEVEL 5

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About the Author

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-on-Avon, a city in England. His mother's name was Mary Arden. His father, John, was a wealthy businessman. There is very little known about William Shakespeare's early life. It is believed that he attended a local grammar school where the students learned Latin, public speaking, and religion. Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway in 1582. They had three children. Susanna was first, followed by twins Hamnet, and Judith. In 1584, Shakespeare left Stratford and went to London.

By 1592, Shakespeare was a well-known actor and playwright. In 1599, Shakespeare, along with others, opened the Globe Theatre. In the early 1600's Shakespeare's company worked under King James I and became known as the King's Men. In 1608, the King's Men acquired the Blackfriars Theatre, which became their winter home. In 1613, the Globe was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt a year later. However, by that time, Shakespeare had retired from writing. Shakespeare died in his hometown of Stratford on April 23, 1616.

Interdisciplinary Teaching Suggestions

Language Arts:

Be a Critic: Create a classroom critic's corner. Break students up into ten groups. Allow each group to read a chapter before the class and prepare a critique just like the movies!

Create a Diary based on Shakespeare's Characters: Have students choose a character from the story. After reading each chapter, students should write a diary entry on their character's feelings based on the events in the story.

Math:

Create a Bar Graph: What professions were available in Shakespeare's time? What were the average salaries paid? Create a bar graph.

Compare Prices: What was the average cost of food, shelter and clothing during Shakespeare's day?

Science:

Scientific Discoveries During Shakespeare's Life: Galileo Galilei was born in the same year as William Shakespeare. Research and report on Galileo's discoveries throughout Shakespeare's life.

Geography:

Create a Map: Research and compare Europe in Shakespeare's time and Europe as we know it today. Create a map of each.

General:

Create a Classroom Bulletin Board: Break up students into small groups. Make each group responsible for an area of the bulletin board that pertains to the story. Create a story cluster describing literary elements from the story, for example: *setting*, *characters*, and *plot*.

WORDS USED

Story 41	Story 42	Story 43	Story 44	Story 45
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KEY WORDS

abandon	descendant	brag	blush	appetite
ability	entirely	fame	compare	burglar
intent	goddess	heal	grant	confidence
sole	growth	peril	grave	decision
style	recently	scar	select	due
youth	rely	shuffle	sincere	vicious

NECESSARY WORDS

courtier	ailing	condemn	authority	apology
mourn	confess	contract	insult	duke
noble	humble	devil	miracle	ignorance
rank	inherit	forfeit	quality	liar
remedy	reform	regret	reject	
reputation	steward		restore	
virtue	vow			
ward				

Story 46	Story 47	Story 48	Story 49	Story 50
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KEY WORDS

admiration	desperate	bluff	alter	craft
cloak	generation	clue	appreciate	inspect
holy	obtain	crush	clung	lent
suggestion	rehearse	defeat	exhaust	perplex
troop	snare	release	hasty	proper
undertake	yarn	shrill	transportation	valuable

NECESSARY WORDS

conceal	ambush	betray	anguish	guilty
mingle	blindfold	deceive	repay	misfortune
modest	fabric			resemble
pursue	interpreter			suspicious
widow	passion			
	reveal			

Hesena's Hope

PREPARATION

Key Words

abandon	(ə ban' dən)	1. to leave behind <i>The pioneers had to <u>abandon</u> the wagon after the wheel broke.</i> 2. to give up completely <i>Marc refused to <u>abandon</u> his dream of becoming a sports announcer.</i>
ability	(ə bil' ə tē)	special skill; talent <i>Elizabeth had the <u>ability</u> to talk enemies into becoming friends.</i>
intent	(in tent')	plan or purpose that one has set one's mind to <i>The cat's <u>intent</u> was to reach the singing bird in its cage.</i>
sole	(sōl)	one and only <i>Chris was the <u>sole</u> child in his family to complete his education.</i>
style	(stīl)	the popular design of clothing; fashion <i>Bella couldn't decide which shoe <u>style</u> looked best with her dress.</i>
youth	(yūth)	the time between childhood and adulthood <i>During his <u>youth</u>, the hairs on Seth's chin grew into a beard.</i>

Helena's Hope

Necessary Words

courtier	(kor' tē ər)	one who gives company and help to a king or queen <i>The king told the <u>courtier</u> to bring him his robe.</i>
mourn	(môrn)	to feel great sadness over something lost <i>Those who came to <u>mourn</u> the mayor's death were dressed in black.</i>
noble	(nō' bəl)	of a family believed to be more deserving than a lower class; high and great by birth, rank, or title <i>Katherine comes from a <u>noble</u> family. A duke is a <u>noble</u>.</i>
rank	(rangk)	the position or class a person was born into <i>In some countries, a person can't move beyond one's <u>rank</u> no matter what great things one does.</i>
remedy	(rem' ə dē)	a way of fixing what is wrong; a cure <i>Shawn learned that the best <u>remedy</u> to loneliness was to join a club.</i>
reputation	(rep' yə tā' shən)	the good things people believe about a person <i>Jenny earned a <u>reputation</u> for being kind to others.</i>
virtue	(vēr' chü)	moral goodness; a good quality found in someone <i>Kindness is a <u>virtue</u>. Kindness is Kathy's greatest <u>virtue</u>.</i>
ward	(wôrd)	a young person under the care and protection of a grown-up <i>If her parents ever died, Elise knew she would become the <u>ward</u> of her favorite uncle.</i>

People, Places, Things

Count of Rousillon	is young Bertram
Mars	a planet named after the Roman god of war. Some people in Shakespeare's time believed the position of stars at one's birth decided their character.
Paris	a city in France
Parolles	is a name Shakespeare made up from a French word meaning "words." Some people's words can be as empty of meaning as what Parolles says!

Helena's Hope



*Bertram's father has died. Now a ward of the King,
Bertram must go to Paris.*

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentence under the picture.
 4. Read the first six paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Helena's father

- ☐ a. lives in Paris.
- ☐ b. is the best doctor in France.
- ☐ c. can cure the King's illness.
- ☐ d. is dead.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out who loves young Bertram.

Helena's Hope

"We have only just begun to mourn for your father," the Countess of Rousillon said to her son. The handkerchief she twisted in her hands was bright white against her black dress. "You having to go hurts as much as watching your father being buried."

"I don't *want* to abandon you," Bertam said, "but, nobody has the freedom to refuse the King."

Upon his father's death, Bertram had become a ward of the King. The old lord Lafew, friend of the Countess, had come to take him to the King's court in Paris.

"Is the King still ill?" the Countess asked Lafew.

"None of his doctors have shown the ability necessary to cure him," said Lafew. "They've disappointed him so many times that he's abandoned hope."

The Countess turned to the pretty young girl waiting a few steps behind her. "I wish your father were still alive, Helena. No doctor had greater abilities than he. *He* would have found a remedy for the King's illness."

"I've heard your father was the most skilled doctor in France," agreed Lafew.

"Helena was his sole child," said the Countess. "She became my ward after he died a few months ago. Her family gave her good character. Her own heart makes her even worthier."

"Your praise has made her weep," said Lafew to the Countess.

"I shouldn't have mentioned your father," said the Countess. "Don't cry so, Helena. You act as if your father died just moments ago, not months ago."

"All ages mourn over death," said Lafew. "But, youth must learn to control such shows of sadness."

Bertram grew impatient with the fuss over Helena. Although she was beautiful and kind, Helena was below his rank. He wasn't interested in her feelings. Bertram cleared his throat. "I should be leaving."

Lafew frowned at this interruption, but the Countess

smiled. "You're as handsome as your father was in his youth. Now, make your character as good as his, as well. Your actions should mirror his reputation. Be kind to all, trust only a few, and do no wrong to anyone."

Bertram looked at Helena. "Be good to your mistress," he ordered.

"Good-by, Helena," Lafew said. "I know you'll always keep up the fine reputation of *your* father, as well."

Alone in the hall, Helena let tears roll down her cheeks. She hadn't admitted the true cause of her sadness. She was in love with Bertram! But, he was from a noble family, and she was a doctor's daughter. Unless she found a remedy to the differences in their rank, she must abandon her love for him. "I might as well hope to marry a star in the sky!" she muttered.

Helena saw Parolles hurrying toward her. The colorful scarves that fluttered around his neck made him look like a swooping bird. *A man of virtue must seem bare and ugly next to Parolles*, Helena thought. Parolles pretended to be of noble birth. His clothes were always the latest style. Helena knew Parolles was a fool and a coward. But, youth blinded Bertram to his friend Parolles' many faults.

"Fair queen," Parolles said with a little bow, "why have you refused the love of so many men?"

"Men are the enemy of a woman's virtue," said Helena. "Since you call yourself a soldier, tell me how a woman can defend herself."

"She can't defend herself against a man's intent." Parolles stepped closer to Helena. "She becomes his sole reason for breathing. He'll camp outside her gates until she surrenders herself into his hands."

"A woman doesn't have to surrender," said Helena.

"It's natural for a man and woman to join together." Parolles inched closer until his bright

scarves brushed against her black dress.

Helena stepped back. "A woman should be able to choose which man she wants."

"Youth and beauty don't last forever," said Parolles. "An unused heart is like an old courtier wearing clothes long out of style. She walks through the court safe in herself, but, she has no chance at love."

Helena suddenly remembered Bertram's journey. "All the women courtiers will be after Bertram," she said. "Why can't those who we love sense how we feel? Because you and I are lower born, we can't tell them."

Parolles didn't like being reminded that he wasn't a noble. "The Count of Rousillon is waiting for me. I'll think of you sometimes. . . unless life at court makes me forget you completely."

Helena didn't let Parolles hurt her feelings. "Your kind words prove that your rank is well deserved. Maybe the stars forgot to watch over you when you were born."

"I was born under the planet, Mars," boasted Parolles.

"I can see how Mars has had an effect on your character," said Helena. "Losing so many battles has trapped you into such a low rank."

"You don't understand," said Parolles. "Mars was rising in the sky as I was born. Therefore, the planet gave my character strength in battle."

"Yet I have heard that you often retreat," said Helena.

Parolles scowled. "When I return from Paris, you'll be begging for my attention."

Helena suddenly knew what she needed to do. "Often the remedy to a problem lies in ourselves, not in any help from heaven. Heaven only abandons us when our intent is not strong enough." Helena decided to find a way to go to Paris. Once there, the King's disease would help her win Bertram.

Helena's Hope

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

Preview Answer:

d. is dead.

1. Why was Bertram going to Paris?
☐ a. The Countess abandoned him.
☐ b. To help the King get over his illness
☐ c. To become a ward of the King
☐ d. To get away from Helena

2. Bertram would not be going to Paris if
☐ a. his mother was a strong woman.
☐ b. his father were still alive.
☐ c. Helena's father were still alive.
☐ d. the King was in good health.

3. According to the Countess,
☐ a. Helena is a girl of good character.
☐ b. Helena has a heavy heart.
☐ c. Helena's life is out of control.
☐ d. Helena should go to Paris with Bertram.

4. Bertram
☐ a. is sad to be leaving Helena.
☐ b. has no interest in Helena.
☐ c. does not trust Helena.
☐ d. is angry that Helena lives with his mother.

5. Helena is full of sadness because
☐ a. she's only a doctor's daughter.
☐ b. she's in love with a noble.
☐ c. she feels abandoned.
☐ d. she doesn't believe she has a chance with Bertram.

6. Helena thinks Parolles' clothing makes him look like

- ☐ a. a nobleman.
☐ b. a coward.
☐ c. a man of virtue.
☐ d. a swooping bird.

7. Parolles

- ☐ a. was admired for his good character.
☐ b. always looked out for the feelings of others.
☐ c. was not happy with his station (social position) in life.
☐ d. felt threatened by Helena's good reputation.

8. Parolles wants to take Helena to himself because

- ☐ a. it makes him happy to feel he has power over others.
☐ b. he wants to make Bertram jealous.
☐ c. he senses that she loves him.
☐ d. he loves her.

9. Another name for this story could be

- ☐ a. "Off to Paris."
☐ b. "Love Out of Bounds."
☐ c. "Bertram's Youth."
☐ d. "The Sky's the Limit."

10. This story is mainly about

- ☐ a. making friends.
☐ b. the heartache Helena experienced for loving Bertram.
☐ c. the Countess' sadness over the death of her husband.
☐ d. why Bertram went to Paris.

Check your answers with the Key on page 67.

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Helena's Hope

VOCABULARY CHECK

abandon	ability	intent	sole	style	youth
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I. Sentences to Finish

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.

1. The hunter aimed his bow at the deer with the _____ of killing it.
2. Sheila's dress is out of _____.
3. In his _____, my brother dreamed of being President.
4. "You must _____ ship!" screamed the captain to his men. "We're going to sink!"
5. Jack was the _____ person in the class who scored 100% on the test.
6. Yolanda has the _____ to become a great musician.

II. Matching

Write the letter of the correct meaning from Column B next to the key word in Column A.

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ___ 1. ability | a. plan or purpose that one has set one's mind to |
| ___ 2. intent | b. the time between childhood and adulthood |
| ___ 3. sole | c. one and only |
| ___ 4. abandon | d. special skill; talent |
| ___ 5. style | e. to leave behind, or give up completely |
| ___ 6. youth | f. the popular design of clothing; fashion |

Check your answers with the Key on page 69.

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