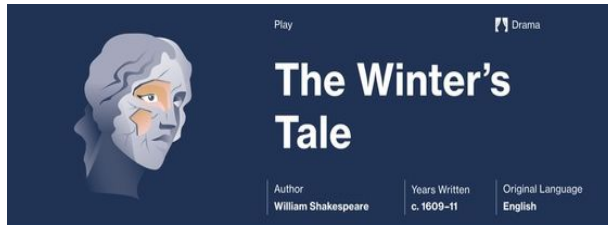


The Winter's Tale



OVERVIEW

Heartbreak Can Lead to Redemption

King Leontes unfairly puts his wife on trial for adultery and sends his baby daughter to her death. The baby is secretly rescued by a shepherd, but Leontes's wife and son have both died. Years later, Leontes regrets his actions. Is there still hope for his family's happiness?



Jealousy

Leontes accuses his pregnant wife, Hermione, of adultery.

Death

Leontes condemns his baby daughter to death and hears Hermione died of grief.

Rebirth

The rescued daughter reunites with Leontes, and Hermione comes back to life.

Author



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
1564–1616

After decades of success in the theater, Shakespeare was near the end of his career when he wrote *The Winter's Tale*. In it, he explores the many sides of marriage, parenthood, kingship, innocence, guilt, and forgiveness—but most of all, the miracle of time's triumph and the healing powers of love.

Main Characters



Leontes

Irrationally jealous king of Sicilia; persecutes his wife and brings his family to ruin but later repents



Hermione

Loyal queen who loves Leontes but is forced to stand trial; dies but comes back to life to reunite with Leontes and Perdita



Perdita

Leontes and Hermione's daughter; abandoned by family and raised by a shepherd

Print Version

Newspaper of the Year

(none)

60 SECOND STANDARD

Amazing event reunites family

It's a miracle!

King Leontes of Sicily and old friend King Polixenes of Bohemia are celebrating tonight after an astounding series of co-incidences and marvels brought the Sicilian ruler's daughter, thought dead, back to him. And long lost Perdita had a family addition of her own - she's engaged to be married to Polixenes's son Florizel!

The young lovers had fled together, after Florizel's dad forbade their marriage, believing Perdita to be a low class shepherd girl. But now he knows the lowly lass is actually the heir to Leontes' throne he's more than happy to see the two hitched.



The unlikely saga began sixteen years ago, when Leontes had a sudden mad attack of jealousy during a visit by Polixenes. Despite everyone's protests, he accused his queen, Hermione, of having an affair with Polixenes, forcing the Bohemian King to flee.

Then, after his poor wife gave birth in a prison cell, he rejected his baby daughter as a bastard. Cruelly, Leontes forced faithful servant Antigonus to take the baby away and abandon her.

The shock of this, and the death of her son, was too much for Hermione, who collapsed while defending herself in court.

"Be stone no more; approach"

Paulina, commanding Hermione (above right) to revive. Act 5, Sc 3

Who's Who



Leontes

King of Sicilia, Leontes loved Hermione, but allowed jealousy to take him over. This destroyed his family and drove him to despair. He and Polixenes were childhood friends.



Polixenes

King of Bohemia, Polixenes was a loyal and fair man, but could be harsh. When he thought his son was marrying beneath himself, he wasn't at all sympathetic.



Perdita

Leontes' only heir, this good and faithful girl was brought up by shepherds after being left on the coast of Bohemia as a baby. Her loveliness and good character won over Polixenes easily.



Hermione

Leontes' queen, Hermione was a good and faithful woman, steadfast and intelligent, and was respected by everyone. Even when accused of adultery in open court, she managed to stay dignified.

As her old friend Paulina took away the body, messengers arrived from an Oracle, and confirmed the tragic queen's innocence. Sadly, it was too late.

But the return of Perdita - left on Bohemia's shore with letters proving her identity, and raised by kindly shepherds, this sad tale is finally ended. Even better was to come when Perdita insisted on seeing a statue of her mother.

As the court gazed at the amazingly life-like statue, it moved - and Hermione lived again. A miracle? Or had Paulina secretly sheltered her all these years? We may never know.

"A sad tale's best for winter: I have one Of sprites and goblins."

Mamillius Act 2, Sc 1

"What's gone, and what's past help Should be past grief."

Paulina, Act 3, Sc 1

Story Summary for Teachers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJXg8Yufnnk>



The Winter's Tale Themes

“ (Aside) Too hot, too hot!
To mingle friendship far is mingling bloods.
I have tremor cordis on me: my heart dances;
But not for joy; not joy. This entertainment
May a free face put on, derive a liberty
From heartiness, from bounty, fertile bosom,
And well become the agent; 't may, I grant;
But to be paddling palms and pinching fingers,
As now they are, and making practised smiles,
As in a looking-glass, and ten to sign, as 'twere
The mort o' the deer; O, that is entertainment
My bosom likes not, nor my brows! Mamillius,
Art thou my boy? (1.2.11)

”



Out of nowhere, Leontes turns CRAZY jealous at the sight of Polixenes and the pregnant Hermione chatting it up and touching hands.

JEALOUSY



What am I telling you?

Divide players into small groups of even numbers, separated from each other. The groups each send a member to the play leader who tells them something to communicate to their group without using words. When the group guesses the message, a second member comes forward and asks for a new message and they have to guess that. This continues until all members have had a turn. The first team that finishes is the winner.

“I am hungry/angry/tired/afraid/happy/proud/surprised or “I love you”, “leave me alone”, “come with me”, “stop”, “sit down”, “be quiet”. Older players can be “jealousy”, “disgust”, “excitement”, “boredom”, “impatience”, and so on.



Character Traits



Using a blank face children chose from printed emotions, character names and events in the play to create the characters hair.



How does it feel?

An activity to get children thinking and feeling jealousy but **must** be planned with opportunity to discuss and write about feelings immediately after.

Tell the class that some of them will be given a gift/treat (must be something everyone in the class would want). Build this up throughout the morning. Hand out the ‘treat’ which are actually empty boxes. Ask children how they feel, record this in groups. Reveal that the boxes are empty. Discuss feelings.



Faces Feeling

Using magazine or newspaper pictures cut out and create a characters face, to show an emotion for a particular scene



The Winter's Tale Themes



I think there is not in the world either malice or matter to alter it. (1.1.4)



Before Leontes unfounded jealousy, Archidamus notes that Leontes and Polixenes have such a deep affection for one another, it seems like there's nothing in the world that could possibly come between them.



Friendship



Freeze Frame

Freeze frames are a quick and effective way to start a drama session. They can easily be used with any age from children to adults. Participants create an image using their bodies – with no movement. Freeze frames can be made by individuals, small groups or even the whole group.

- Leontes and Polixenes as children
- Leontes becoming jealous
- Hermione and Paulina



Team Activity

Children stand in a circle and holding hands.
(Can make it more challenging with every other child facing the opposite direction)
Placing a large hoop through the joined hands children must work together to pass the hoop around the circle.
Can you do it without talking?
What is the quickest time you can do it in?

Instructions



**Ingredients
to make a
good friend**



Kenning Poems

A Friend

Secret keeper
Shoulder weeper
Problem solver
Laughter reaper
Morning beeper
A good friend

By Sue Mill



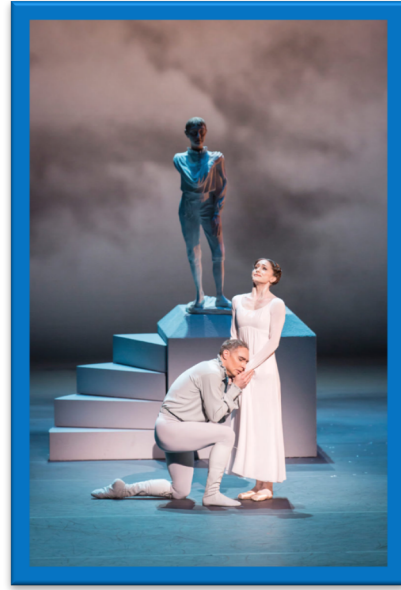
The Winter's Tale Themes

“

O, she's warm!
If this be magic, let it be an art
Lawful as eating.
She embraces him.
She hangs about his neck:
If she pertain to life let her speak too. (5.3.13)

”

When Hermione is reunited with Leontes, it seems that she has already forgiven him for his sins against her. She 'embraces him' and 'hangs about his neck' as though he's not the man responsible for the 16yrs of suffering.



Forgiveness



Characters

Making the characters out of paper with a folded tab so they can stand children can use cameras to create a storyboard frames to show the Acts of forgiveness in the play.



Diary

To write excerpts from Hermione's diary after she is a statue to show feelings and why she forgives Leontes.



Photography

Using iPads or camera pupils take photos which illustrate forgiveness



Thought Tracking

Thought tracking is a natural follow-up to still images and freeze frames. Once children have made an image, explain that when you tap them on the shoulder you would like them to speak the thoughts or feelings of their character aloud. At the beginning this may just be one or two words but children will soon gain confidence to express themselves in longer sentences. It doesn't take long to thought-track each child in a group so that you reveal a wide range of attitudes and feelings from different characters.

- Leontes and Polixenes
- Leontes and Hermione
- Hermione and Paulina

