



Literature Focus

- Pride and Prejudice
- As You Like It



Pride and Prejudice

1 Match the headings below with the texts.

- a About the story
- b About the author
- c About the book

1

Jane Austen was an English writer, born on 16th December 1775, in the village of Steventon, in Hampshire. The seventh child in a family of eight, she was the daughter of reverend George Austen, and Cassandra (Leigh) Austen. George loved learning, and his children shared his passion, while Cassandra Leigh was known for her improvised stories. Both were big influences on Jane's love for writing. Jane had six brothers and one other sister she was extremely close to, also named Cassandra. The family would move a lot throughout Jane's life, living most famously in Bath, which she used as background to her novels. In 1816, Jane started feeling unwell. Her health worsened* as the years passed, and by 1817, she could not leave her bed. She moved to Winchester with her sister to receive treatment but, unfortunately, passed away on 18th July, 1817. Austen was never married, and little is known about her love life, as her sister burnt all her letters on that matter.



2

Pride and Prejudice is one of six novels written by Austen and generally considered the most popular. It was published anonymously* in 1813, and its author would only be revealed after her death, by her own brother. Austen began writing the novel as a short story in 1796 with the title *First Impressions*. The title *Pride and Prejudice* would be taken from a quote from the novel *Cecelia*, by fellow author Fanny Burney. While it would later become her most famous novel, Austen did not receive much money for it at the time – she asked the publisher for £150 but, in the end, sold the rights for £110. Austen also worried that the book was not serious enough but wrote to her sister Cassandra that she was '*satisfied enough*' with the



story. She would also call the character of Elizabeth Bennet ‘*as delightful* a creature as ever appeared in print*’. It seems that many agree with her, as *Pride and Prejudice* became a classic in literature and was adapted multiple times, including films, five TV series from the BBC alone and many rewritings using modern themes.

3

Elizabeth Bennet is one of five unmarried daughters in the Bennet house, and their mother is obsessed with finding suitable husbands for her daughters. When a young bachelor, by the name of Charles Bingley, moves into town, Mrs Bennet sees an opportunity to marry one of her daughters. The girls attend a ball where Mr Bingley is present, along with his best friend Fitzwilliam Darcy. Mr Bingley shows interest in Jane Bennet, the eldest Bennet sister, and encourages Mr Darcy to dance with Elizabeth. The man refuses, letting out a rude comment on Elizabeth’s appearance and class, loud enough for her to hear. What follows is a chaotic* relationship between the two young people, as they must both work on their pride and prejudice to be with one another.



Glossary

worsened (v): something became worse

anonymously (adv): published by an author who is not known to the public

delightful (adj): very nice

chaotic (adj): messy, crazy

Section 1

- 1 Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. Why would the Bennets be talking about the new arrival? Give a possible reason.

The story so far ...

The novel opens with what was then considered a universal truth – that a single rich man must be looking for a wife. When such a man arrives in a new place, no matter what his feelings may be, some mothers may feel that their own daughters deserve to marry him more than most. Mr and Mrs Bennet talk of a new arrival – the estate of Netherfield Park has been taken by a young man from a rich background, who moved from the north of England, by the name of Mr Bingley.



Mr and Mrs Bennet are talking about a new arrival.

- 2 Now do Exercises A to E on pages 168–169 in the Activity Book.



‘What is his name?’, Mr. Bennet asked his wife.

‘Bingley’ replied Mrs. Bennet.

‘Is he married or single?’

‘Oh! Single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!’

‘What do you mean?’

‘My dear Mr. Bennet,’ replied his wife, ‘how can you be so tiring! You must know that I am thinking he could marry one of them.’

‘Is that his plan to live here?’

‘Plan! Nonsense*, how can you think he would want to live here! But it is very likely that he may fall in love with one of our girls, and therefore you must visit him as soon as he comes.’

‘I see no reason for that. You and the girls may go, or you may send them by themselves, which perhaps will be even better, for as you are as beautiful as any of them. Mr. Bingley may like you the best of them all.’

‘My dear, you flatter* me. I certainly have had my share* of beauty, but I do not pretend to be anything extraordinary now. When a woman has five grown-up daughters, she ought to give up thinking of her own beauty.’

‘But usually, a woman has often not much beauty to think of in such cases!’, said Mr. Bennet.

‘My dear, you must indeed go and see Mr. Bingley when he comes into the neighbourhood.’

‘That is more than I want to do, you can be sure of that.’

‘But consider your daughters. Only think what it could mean for one of them. Sir William and Lady Lucas are determined to go, just because of that. You know, they visit no newcomers*. Indeed you must go, for it will be impossible for us to visit him if you do not.’

‘You are too careful, surely. I’m sure Mr. Bingley will be very glad to see you; and I will send a few lines with you to tell him I fully agree he can marry whichever he chooses of the girls; though I must throw in a good word for my little Lizzy.’

‘I would rather you didn’t. Lizzy is not a bit better than the others; and I am sure she is not half so beautiful as Jane nor half so good-humoured as Lydia. But you are always giving her the preference.’

‘Well, that is because our other daughters are all silly and ignorant*, like other girls,’ Mr. Bennet replied; ‘but Lizzy is quicker than her sisters.’

‘Mr. Bennet, how can you speak of your own children in such a way? You must find it funny to embarrass me. You have no sympathy* for my poor nerves.’

‘You are wrong, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. I have heard you mention them a lot these last twenty years at least.’

‘Ah, you do not know what I suffer.’

‘But I hope you will get over it and that you live to see many young men who win four thousand a year, like Mr. Bingley, who will come into the neighbourhood.’

‘It will be no use to us, if twenty such should come, since you will not visit them.’

‘You can be sure, my dear, that when there are twenty, I will visit them all.’

Glossary

nonsense (n): something silly, crazy

flatter (v): to compliment something or someone

share (n): the amount of something that is acceptable for one person

newcomers (n): people who are new to a place

ignorant (adj): someone who is not educated or does not know much

sympathy (n): understanding someone’s feelings

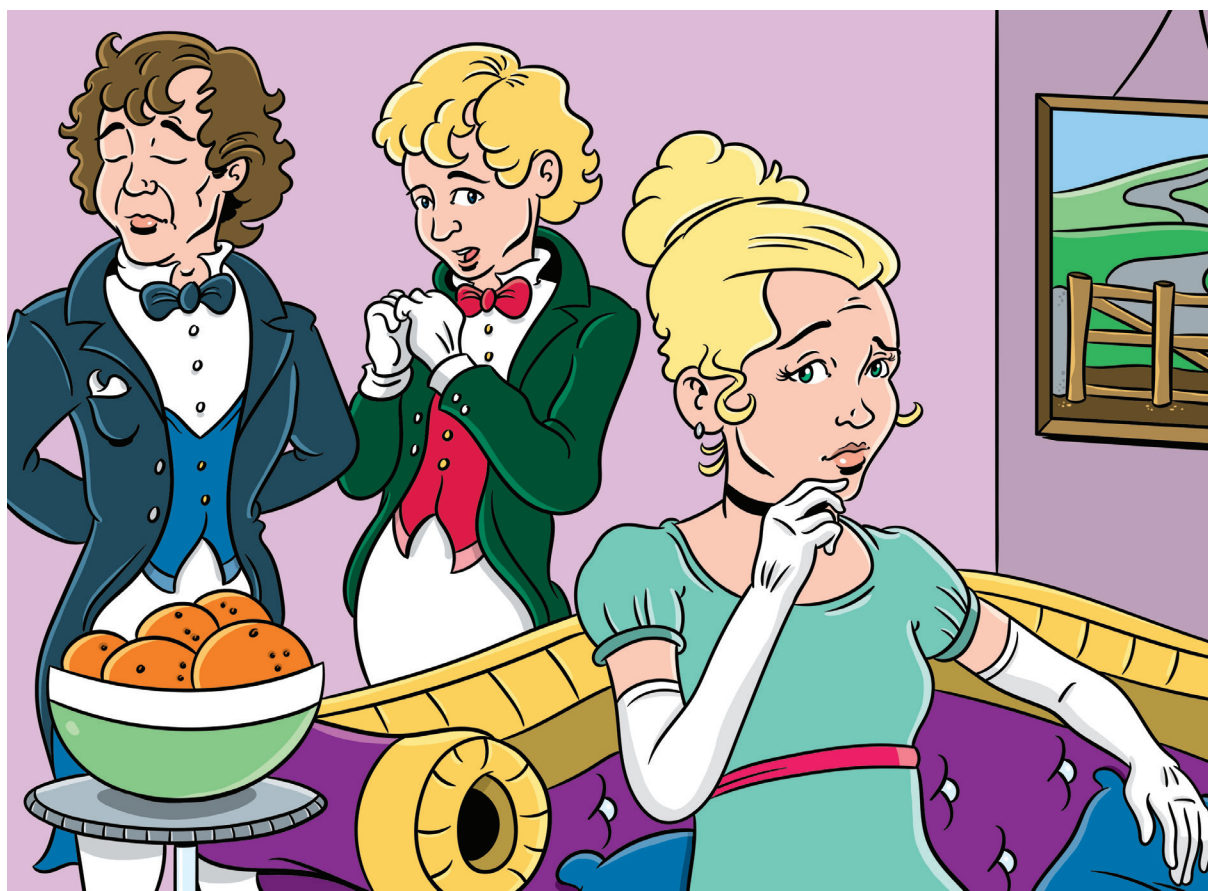


Section 2

- 1 Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. What do you think Mr Bingley and Mr Darcy are talking about?

The story so far ...

Mrs Bennet is angry at her husband for thinking he shouldn't have to visit Mr Bingley. We are introduced to the Bennet sisters, Jane, Elizabeth (Lizzy), Mary, Catherine (Kitty) and Lydia, who all talk of Mr Bingley with their parents. After a long discussion, they find out that Mr Bennet had actually listened to his wife in the end and paid a visit to Mr Bingley that same morning. The young man then travels to London to bring his two sisters, his cousin, his brother-in-law, and lastly, his best friend, Mr Darcy. They go together to a ball, which the Bennet girls also attend. While Mr Bingley is friendly with everyone, he is charmed by Jane Bennet and dances with her for most of the night. Mr Darcy, however, seems to dislike the party, and Elizabeth overhears a shared conversation with his friend.



Elizabeth overhears a conversation.

- 2 Now do Exercises A to E on pages 170–171 in the Activity Book.



‘Come, Darcy,’ said Mr. Bingley, ‘I must have you dance. I hate to see you standing about by yourself in this stupid way. You had much better dance.’

‘I certainly will not. You know how I hate it unless I know my partner very well. At such a party as this, it would be horrible. Your sisters are engaged, and there is not another woman in the room whom I would like to stand up with.’

‘I would not be as picky* as you are,’ cried Mr. Bingley, ‘for a kingdom! I swear* I have never met with so many lovely girls in my life as I have this evening; and several of them are very pretty.’

‘You are dancing with the only beautiful girl in the room,’ said Mr. Darcy, looking at the eldest Miss Bennet.

‘Oh! She is the most beautiful creature I have ever seen! But there is one of her sisters sitting down just behind you who is very pretty, and I dare* say, very pretty. Do let me ask my partner to introduce you.’

‘Which do you mean?’ and turning round he looked for a moment at Elizabeth. When he caught her eye, Mr. Darcy looked away and coldly said: ‘She is pleasant* but not beautiful enough for me; I am in no mood at the moment to give attention to young ladies who are ignored by other men. You had better return to your partner and enjoy her smiles, for you are wasting your time with me.’

Mr. Bingley followed his advice. Mr. Darcy walked off; and Elizabeth remained with no very friendly feelings toward him. She told the story, however, laughing with her friends; for she had a lively, playful manner and found ridiculous* things like this very funny.

The evening went pleasantly for the whole family. They returned home, therefore, in a good mood. They found Mr. Bennet still up. When he had a good book, he often lost track of time. He also was curious to find out what happened, so he stayed up. He had rather hoped that his wife’s views on the stranger would be disappointed; but he soon found out that he had a different story to hear.

‘Oh! my dear Mr. Bennet,’ as Mrs. Bennet entered the room, ‘we have had a most delightful evening, a most excellent ball. I wish you had been there. Jane was so admired, everybody said how well she looked; and Mr. Bingley thought her quite beautiful, and danced with her twice! Only think of that, my dear; he actually danced with her twice! and she was the only creature in the room that he asked a second time. Oh, my dear, I am quite delighted with him. He is so handsome! And his sisters are charming* women. I have never in my life seen anything more elegant than their dresses. The lace* upon Mrs. Hurst’s gown*—’

Here she was interrupted* because Mr. Bennet protested against hearing these descriptions. She, therefore, had to find another topic and told him, with much anger and some exaggeration*, how rude Mr. Darcy had been.

‘But I can assure you,’ Mrs. Bennet added, ‘that Lizzy does not lose much by not pleasing him, for he is a most horrible man. So proud and so conceited* that no one could stand him! He walked here, and he walked there, thinking himself to be so very great! He said that Lizzy was not handsome enough to dance with! I wish you had been there, my dear, to have shown him his place. I quite hate the man.’

Glossary

picky (adj): someone who is hard to please

swear (v): be sure of something

dare (v): be brave enough to say something

pleasant (adj): nice, attractive

ridiculous (adj): crazy, silly

charming (adj): very attractive/nice

lace (n): a thin material tied around a dress

gown (n): an outfit, usually a dress

interrupt(ed) (v): to stop someone

exaggeration (n): something that is bigger, more dramatic than the truth

conceited (adj): with a very high opinion of oneself

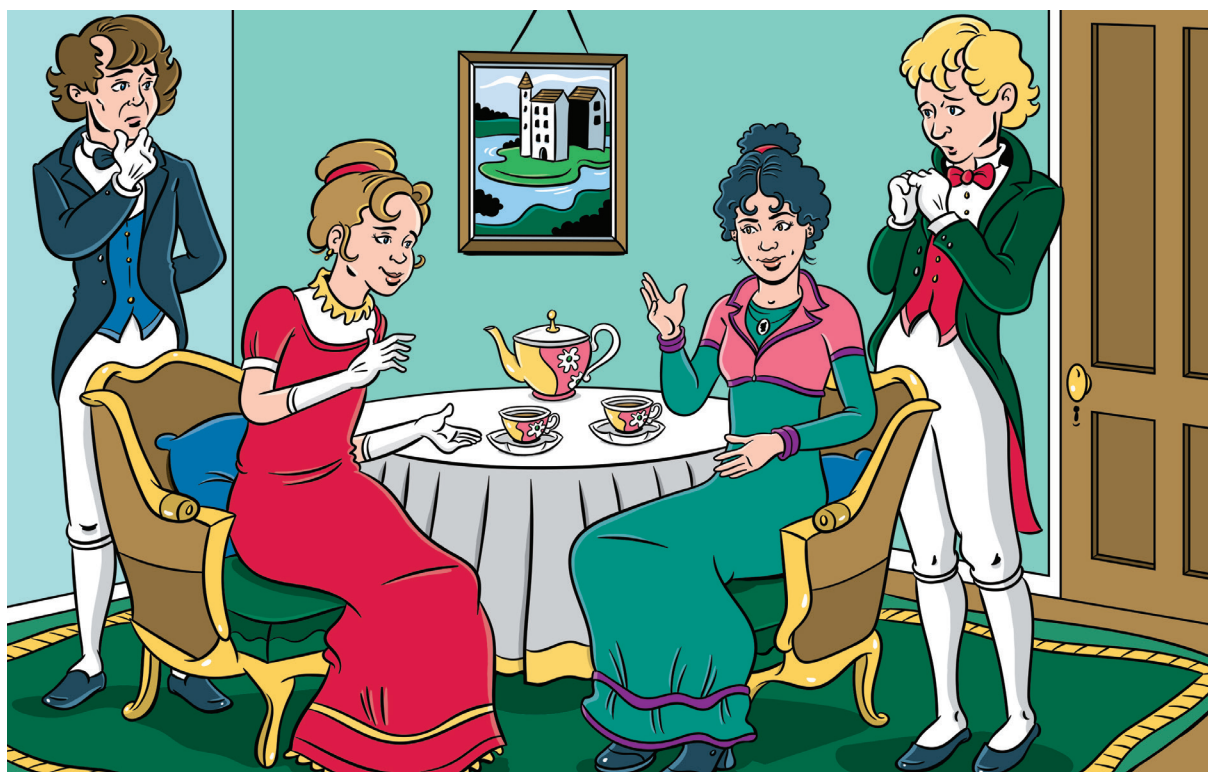


Section 3

- 1 Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. What do you think about the Bingley sisters?

The story so far ...

The morning after the ball, the Bennets discuss the events with their neighbours, the Lucases. The eldest Lucas, Charlotte, who is Elizabeth's best friend, points out that while she danced with Mr Bingley first, he thought Jane to be the prettiest girl in the ball. Mr Bingley and Jane's romance develops as he and his sisters, Miss Caroline Bingley and Mrs Louisa Hurst (Hurst is her husband's surname), begin to see the Bennets regularly, along with Mr Darcy. Mr Darcy begins to form an interest towards Elizabeth and begins to pay more and more attention to her. At a ball in the Lucases' house, Sir Lucas suggests Elizabeth and Mr Darcy dance together, and she refuses. Surprisingly, this led to Mr Darcy telling Caroline that he is falling for Elizabeth, and Caroline becomes jealous of this romance. During one of the visits to Netherfield, Jane gets caught in a storm and falls ill. She has to stay in the Bingley household to recover. Upon hearing this, Elizabeth walks the whole way to the estate*, arriving in a muddy dress, much to the surprise of the Bingleys, Mr and Mrs Hurst and Mr Darcy.



The Bingley sisters

- 2 Now do Exercises A to E on pages 172–173 in the Activity Book.



Their brother, indeed, was the only one of them whom Elizabeth could give some sympathy. His anxiety for Jane was clear, and his attentions to her most pleasing, and they stopped her from feeling so much an intruder*, as she believed she was considered by the others. She had very little notice from any but him. Caroline was only interested in Mr. Darcy, her sister just a bit less so; and as for Mr. Hurst, by whom Elizabeth sat, he was a lazy man, who lived only to eat, drink and play at cards. When he found she preferred a plain dish to a ragout*, he had nothing to say to her.

When dinner was over, Elizabeth returned directly to Jane, and Caroline began talking badly about her as soon as she was out of the room. Her manners were declared to be very bad indeed, a mixture of pride and lack of respect; she had no conversation, no style, no beauty. Mrs. Hurst thought the same, and added:

‘She has nothing, in short, to recommend her, apart from being an excellent walker. I shall never forget her appearance this morning. She really looked almost wild,’ said Caroline, ‘Very silly to come at all! Why must she be walking about the country because her sister had a cold? Her hair, so untidy!’

‘Yes, and her petticoat*’; I hope you saw her petticoat,’ said Louisa, ‘six inches* deep in mud, I am absolutely certain; and the gown which had been let down to hide it not doing its job.’

‘Your picture may be very exact, Louisa,’ said Bingley; ‘but I did not care about any of that. I thought Miss Elizabeth Bennet looked remarkably well when she came into the room this morning. Her dirty petticoat quite escaped my notice.’

‘You observed it, Mr. Darcy, I am sure,’ said Caroline; ‘and I am inclined* to think that you would not wish to see your sister make such an exhibition.’

‘Certainly not.’

‘To walk three miles, or four miles, or five miles or whatever it is, above her ankles in dirt, and alone, quite alone! What could she mean by it? It seems to me to show a terrible sort of proud independence, a most country-town indifference to good manners,’ said Caroline.

‘It shows a love for her sister that is very pleasing,’ said Bingley.

‘I am afraid, Mr. Darcy,’ observed Caroline in a half whisper*, ‘that this adventure has rather affected your admiration of her fine eyes.’

‘Not at all,’ he replied; ‘they were brightened* by it.’ A short pause followed this speech, and Mrs. Hurst began again:

‘I have an excessive regard* for Miss Jane Bennet, she is really a very sweet girl, and I wish with all my heart she were well married. But with such a father and mother, and such low connections, I am afraid there is no chance of it.’

Glossary

estate (n): a large area of land owned by someone or something

intruder (n): a stranger who wasn't invited

ragout (n): a type of food with vegetables and meat

petticoat (n): clothing used underneath a skirt

inches (n): a unit to measure length or height

inclined (adj): wanting or feeling you have to do something

half whisper (n): said in a low voice but loud enough for people to hear

brightened (v): to become lighter, happier

have regard for (v): have great respect for



Section 4

- 1** Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. Why do you think Elizabeth looks so shocked?

The story so far ...

Mrs Bennet, Lydia and Catherine arrive at Netherfield to visit Jane and Elizabeth. Mrs Bennet, not used to the life of the rich, embarrasses herself in front of the Bingleys. Later, Elizabeth notices Caroline trying to win over Mr Darcy; from complimenting his writing to reading the sequel of the book Darcy is reading. However, Darcy only becomes more and more interested in Elizabeth with every argument they have. Jane gets better, and she and Elizabeth return to the Bennets' house. Mr Collins, who will take over the Bennets' property when Mr Bennet passes away, comes for a visit. He is a very boring man who is looking for a wife and takes interest in Elizabeth. Mr Collins visits town with the Bennet sisters, and they are introduced to two military men: Mr Denny, who is Lydia's friend, and Mr Wickham. They all attend a dinner party at the Bennets' uncle, where Elizabeth and Mr Wickham end up talking to each other alone. The topic of Mr Darcy and Mr Wickham comes up in the conversation.



Elizabeth meets Mr Wickham.

- 2** Now do Exercises A to E on pages 174–175 in the Activity Book.



'Yes – the late Mr. Darcy left me enough to live more than a comfortable life in his gift. He was my godfather*, and very attached to me. I cannot do justice to* his kindness. He meant to provide for me and thought he had done it; but when he died, it was given to someone else,' said Mr. Wickham.

'Good heavens!' cried Elizabeth; 'but how could that be? How could his will be ignored? Why did you not look for legal advice?'

'There was just such an informality in the terms of the bequest* as to give me no hope from law. A man of honour could not have doubted the intention, but Mr. Darcy chose to doubt it – or to treat it as just a recommendation and to claim that I had given up all claim to it by extravagance*, imprudence* – in short, anything or nothing. Certain it is that the inheritance became available two years ago, exactly as I was of an age to hold it, and it was given to another man; and no less certain is it that I cannot accuse myself of having really done anything to deserve to lose it. I have a warm, careless temper*, and I may have spoken my opinion of him, and to him, too freely. I can recall nothing worse. But the fact is that we are very different sorts of men, and that he hates me.' Mr. Wickham explained.

'This is quite shocking! He deserves to be disgraced* in public.'

'Some time or other he will be – but it shall not be by me. Till I can forget his father, I can never expose him.'

Elizabeth honoured him for such feelings and thought him handsomer than ever as he expressed them.

'But what,' said Elizabeth after a pause, 'can have been his motivation*? What can have made him be so cruel?'

'A strong and determined dislike of me – a dislike, which I cannot but blame partly on jealousy. Had the late Mr. Darcy liked me less, his son might have related to me better; but his father's uncommon connection to me irritated him, I believe, very early in life. He had not a temper to tolerate* the sort of competition in which we stood – the sort of preference which was often given me.'

'I had not thought Mr. Darcy so bad as this – though I have never liked him. I had not thought so very ill of him. I had supposed he hated his fellow-creatures in general but did not suspect him of being capable of such malicious revenge, such injustice, such inhumanity as this' Elizabeth said.

After a few minutes' reflection, however, she continued, 'I do remember his boasting* one day, at Netherfield, of the strength of his resentments*, of his being unforgiving. His manner must be terrible.'

'I will not trust myself on the subject,' replied Wickham; 'I can hardly be fair to him.'

Elizabeth was again deep in thought and, after a time, exclaimed, 'To treat in such a manner the godson, the friend, the favourite of his father!' She could have added, 'A young man, too, like you, whose very manner may vouch for* your being friendly' – but she just said 'and one, too, who had probably been his friend from childhood, connected together, as I think you said, in the closest manner!'

Glossary

godfather (n): a man who promised at a Christian church to take care of a child

not do justice to (idiom): be very thankful for

bequest (n): money or property that is given to a person at the request of a dying one

extravagance (n): something that is more than someone can afford or that is necessary

imprudence (n): acting without thinking

temper (n): to become angry quickly and easily

disgraced (adj): someone who lost the respect of others

motivation (n): the reason for doing something

tolerate (v): to hide your feelings about someone who does something you do not like

boast (v): to talk proudly about something you have done or that you own

resentments (n): feeling angry at something unfair

vouch for (phr v): show

Section 5

- 1 Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. What do you think is happening?

The story so far ...

Mr Bingley invites the Bennet sisters to another ball at Netherfield. Elizabeth has no choice but to promise her first two dances to Mr Collins, but she is excited to see Mr Wickham again. When he does not show, she finds out that Mr Wickham does not visit Netherfield because of Mr Darcy. To try and escape Mr Collins, Elizabeth dances with Mr Darcy, and they find themselves talking of Mr Wickham. Mr Darcy avoids the subject. The very next day, Mr Collins proposes to Elizabeth who turns him down, and he, in turn, proposes to Charlotte. Mr Bingley returns to London, where he will stay all winter. Mr Gardiner, Mrs Bennet's brother, invites Jane to stay with his family in London, which she accepts in hopes of seeing Mr Bingley. He also notices Mr Wickham and Elizabeth growing closer and warns her that she should marry someone rich instead. Mr Wickham, however, is interested in a rich woman named Miss King and intends to marry her. When visiting Jane and the Gardiners, Elizabeth is invited to travel with them to the countryside. There, she finds Mr Darcy who is visiting with his cousin, Colonel Fitzwilliam. During one of their conversations, Fitzwilliam mentions that Mr Darcy has recently told him that he had stopped a friend from marrying the wrong person. Elizabeth believes that this was to do with Mr Bingley and Jane. While reflecting on this news alone, Mr Darcy arrives and proposes to her. He does, however, mention her poverty and lowly connections, and how he had decided to ignore them in order to confess his feelings. Elizabeth becomes extremely upset.



Mr Darcy proposes to Elizabeth.

- 2 Now do Exercises A to E on pages 176–177 in the Activity Book.



‘And of course, you had no right to interfere with any relations between my sister and Mr. Bingley, no matter the reason you claim to separate the two. Jane is very shy and barely expresses her true feelings to me, and yet I can assure you she is very much in love with your friend. But it is not just the matter of my sister and Mr. Bingley,’ she continued, ‘on which my dislike is founded. Long before it had taken place, my opinion of you was decided. Your character was revealed in the recital which I received many months ago from Mr. Wickham. On this subject, what can you have to say? In what imaginary act of friendship can you here defend yourself?’

‘You take a keen interest in that gentleman’s concerns,’ said Darcy in a less calm tone and with a reddish colour.

‘Who that knows what his misfortunes have been, can help feeling an interest in him?’

‘His misfortunes!’ repeated Darcy with irony; ‘yes, his misfortunes have been great indeed.’

‘And because of you,’ cried Elizabeth with energy. ‘You have reduced him to his present state of poverty. You have refused to give what you must know to have been intended for him. You have taken away the best years of his life of that independence which he deserved. You have done all this! And yet you can treat the mention of his misfortune as if it didn’t deserve respect.’

‘And this,’ cried Darcy, as he walked with quick steps across the room, ‘is your opinion of me! I thank you for explaining it so fully. My faults, according to this calculation, are heavy indeed! But perhaps,’ added he, stopping in his walk and turning towards her, ‘these offences might have been overlooked*, had not your pride been hurt by my honest confession of the feelings that had long prevented my forming any serious arrangement. These bitter accusations might have been suppressed had I, with greater effort, hidden my feelings and flattered you into the belief of my being motivated by true inclination*; by reason, by reflection, by everything. But I hate lies of every sort. Nor am I ashamed of the feelings I expressed. They were natural and fair. Could you expect me to be happy about the inferiority of your connections? – to congratulate myself on the hope of relations, whose condition in life is so surely beneath my own?’

Elizabeth felt herself growing more angry every moment; yet she tried her best to speak calmly when she said: ‘You are mistaken, Mr. Darcy, if you suppose that your tone affected me in any other way than as it saved me the concern which I might have felt in refusing you, had you behaved in a more gentlemanlike* manner.’

She saw Mr. Darcy was about to speak, but he said nothing, and she continued:

‘You could not have made the offer of your hand in any possible way that would have made me accept it.’

Again his astonishment was obvious; and he looked at her with a mixed expression of not believing and being deeply embarrassed. She went on:

‘From the very beginning – from the first moment, I may almost say – of my acquaintance* with you, your manners, impressing me with the fullest belief of your arrogance and your selfish lack of respect for the feelings of others, were such as to form the foundation* of dislike which events afterwards have built so strong; and I had not known you a month before I felt that you were the last man in the world whom I could ever be persuaded to marry.’

‘You have said quite enough, madam. I perfectly understand your feelings and have now only to be ashamed of what my own have been. Forgive me for having taken up so much of your time, and accept my best wishes for your health and happiness.’

Glossary

overlook (v): ignore, not notice something

inclination (n): the feeling of wanting to do something

gentlemanlike (adj): very good, polite behaviour

acquaintance (n): knowing somebody

foundation (n): the beginning of something



Section 6

- 1 Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. What do you think Elizabeth and Darcy are talking about?

The story so far ...

After being rejected by Elizabeth, Mr Darcy gives her a letter, explaining his actions. He says that he only stopped Jane and Mr Bingley because he thought Jane did not love Bingley as strongly as he loved her. He also explains that, after his father's death, late Mr Darcy did allow Wickham part of the inheritance, but they fought after Wickham tried to secretly marry Mr Darcy's sister to steal the family money. Elizabeth feels embarrassed for believing Mr Wickham so easily and questions her feelings for Mr Darcy. After some time, Elizabeth travels with her aunt and uncle to the Darcy estate, as she hears that he would not be present. While taking a tour of the mansion, the housekeeper tells the family of how Darcy was the 'sweetest, most generous boy', and Elizabeth is surprised to see this new side of him. When Darcy suddenly appears, Elizabeth apologizes, as she only came to the estate believing he would not be there. He then introduces her to his sister. When she went back to her inn*, Elizabeth found two letters from Jane, saying their sister Lydia had run away to marry Mr Wickham. If the two do not marry, it would destroy the Bennet name, as an unmarried woman running away with a man would not look good for the family. Mr Bennet tried and failed to find them, and when Mr Bennet's brother finally found the couple, Mr Wickham agreed to marry Lydia for a small amount of money. Elizabeth finds out, when the couple visits, that Darcy had attended the wedding and even paid the money to Wickham. Elizabeth receives a sudden visit from Darcy's aunt, Lady Catherine, who is a woman of great fortune. She tells Elizabeth that Mr Darcy is sure to ask her to marry him again, but she found the idea ridiculous due to her poor connections. Elizabeth defends her family and says that she could not promise to say no to his proposal. The Bennets invite Mr Darcy and Mr Bingley to dinner, as he had returned from London. Bingley asks Mr Bennet for Jane's hand in marriage. A week after the engagement, the couple take a walk along with Elizabeth and Mr Darcy. The two walk slowly behind, finally alone. Elizabeth thanks him for all he has done and admits she has started to see him differently.



Elizabeth falls in love with Mr Darcy.

- 2 Now do Exercises A to E on pages 178–179 in the Activity Book.



‘You are too generous to play with me. If your feelings are still what they were last April, tell me so at once. My love and wishes are still the same, but one word from you will silence me on this subject for ever,’ said Mr. Darcy.

Elizabeth, feeling all the more than common embarrassment* of his situation, now forced herself to speak; and immediately, though not very fluently, gave him to understand that her feelings had gone through such a change, since the period to which he mentioned, as to make her receive with gratitude* and pleasure his present assurances*.

The happiness which this reply produced was such as he had probably never felt before; and he expressed himself on the occasion as warmly as a man deeply in love can be expected to do. Had Elizabeth been able to look him in the eye, she might have seen how well the expression of happiness showed on his face. But, as she could not look, she could listen, and he told her of feelings which, proving how important she was to him, made his love every moment more valuable.

They walked on, without knowing in what direction. There was too much to be thought, and felt and said, for attention to anything else. She soon learnt that they owed their present good understanding to the efforts of his aunt, who called on him on her return through London. She told him of her journey to Longbourn, its purpose, and the content of her conversation with Elizabeth; going over every detail of the latter* which, in her ladyship’s opinion, peculiarly showed her assurance; in the belief that such a relation must help her get that promise from her nephew, which she had refused to give. But, unluckily for her ladyship, its effect had been exactly the opposite.

‘It taught me to hope,’ said he, ‘as I had barely ever allowed myself to hope before. I knew enough of your feelings to be certain that, had you been absolutely decided against me, you would have acknowledged it to Lady Catherine, sincerely and openly.’

Elizabeth blushed and laughed as she replied, ‘Yes, you know enough how honest I am to believe me capable of that. After being so rude to your face, I could have no issues with abusing* you to all your relations.’

‘What did you say of me that I did not deserve? For, though your accusations* were formed on mistaken beliefs, my behaviour to you at the time had deserved the strongest disapproval*. I cannot think of it without hating myself.’

‘We will not argue for the biggest share of blame about that evening,’ said Elizabeth. ‘The behaviour of neither, if examined carefully, was correct; but since then, we have both, I hope, improved.’

‘I cannot so easily forgive myself. The memory of what I then said, of my behaviour, my manners, my expressions during the whole of it, is now, and has been many months, very painful to me,’ said Mr. Darcy.

Glossary

inn (n): a country pub that provides accomodation

embarrassment (n): feeling shy, guilty

gratitude (n): wanting to tell or express your thanks to someone

assurance (n): something that someone is sure of

latter (adj): the last one

abusing (v): to hurt someone or something a lot

accusations (n): say someone did something with no proof

disapproval (n): not liking someone or someone’s behaviour and thinking they are not good enough for someone

As You Like It

1 Match the headings below with the texts.

- a The story
- b About the author
- c Importance of the play

1

Considered by many the greatest playwright* of all times, William Shakespeare wrote many world-famous works, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *The Merchant of Venice*. William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, in the centre of England. As a young man, Shakespeare worked as an actor before becoming the most popular playwright of his time, having written at least 37 plays, 154 sonnets* and two narrative poems. Nowadays, his plays are performed around the world in many languages, and his poetry has been widely translated, too. It is believed that Shakespeare was born and died on the exact same day, 23 April, 52 years apart.



2

As You Like It was written between 1598 and 1600. It is believed to have been first performed in 1599 as the opening play for the new Globe Theatre* in London. It was published in a collection of Shakespeare's plays in 1623, and the play was heavily inspired* by the story of *Rosalynde*, a 1590 romance* by Thomas Lodge. He also took inspiration from the medieval* poem *The Tale* of Gamelyn*. While not as well known as other Shakespearean plays, *As You Like It* has been adapted* to TV, musical theatre and films, including performances as Orlando by Laurence Olivier in 1936 and David Oyelowo in 2006.

3

As You Like It follows the story of Orlando, the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Boys. After his father's death, he is forced to live in poverty by his older brother, Oliver. As a chance to prove himself and rebel* against Oliver, Orlando decided to fight the court wrestler, Charles. Meanwhile, Duke Senior has been replaced by his own brother, Duke Frederick, in the royal court. While this means Senior is forbidden* from court, Frederick allows his brother's daughter Rosalind to remain, as she is close friends with his daughter Celia. Rosalind and Orlando meet at the wrestling match and fall in love at first sight. Since this means Rosalind becomes a threat* to his rule, Frederick banishes her to the forest of Arden. Celia follows her cousin into exile* without her father's knowledge. Orlando, who discovers his brother's plot to kill him, flees* into the same forest. What follows is an exciting adventure, filled with romance, comedy and many misunderstandings.



Glossary

playwright (n): someone who writes plays

sonnet (n): a poem of 14 lines, in English typically having ten syllables per line

Globe Theatre (n): Shakespeare's theatre in London

inspired (by) (n): used another work for ideas

romance (n): a genre fiction novel on the theme of romantic love

medieval (n): from the Middle Ages (1000–1450 CE)

tale (n): a story

adapted (v): made into

rebel (v): to go against someone

forbidden (n): not allowed to do something

threat (n): a possible danger

exile (n): sent away to live on their own

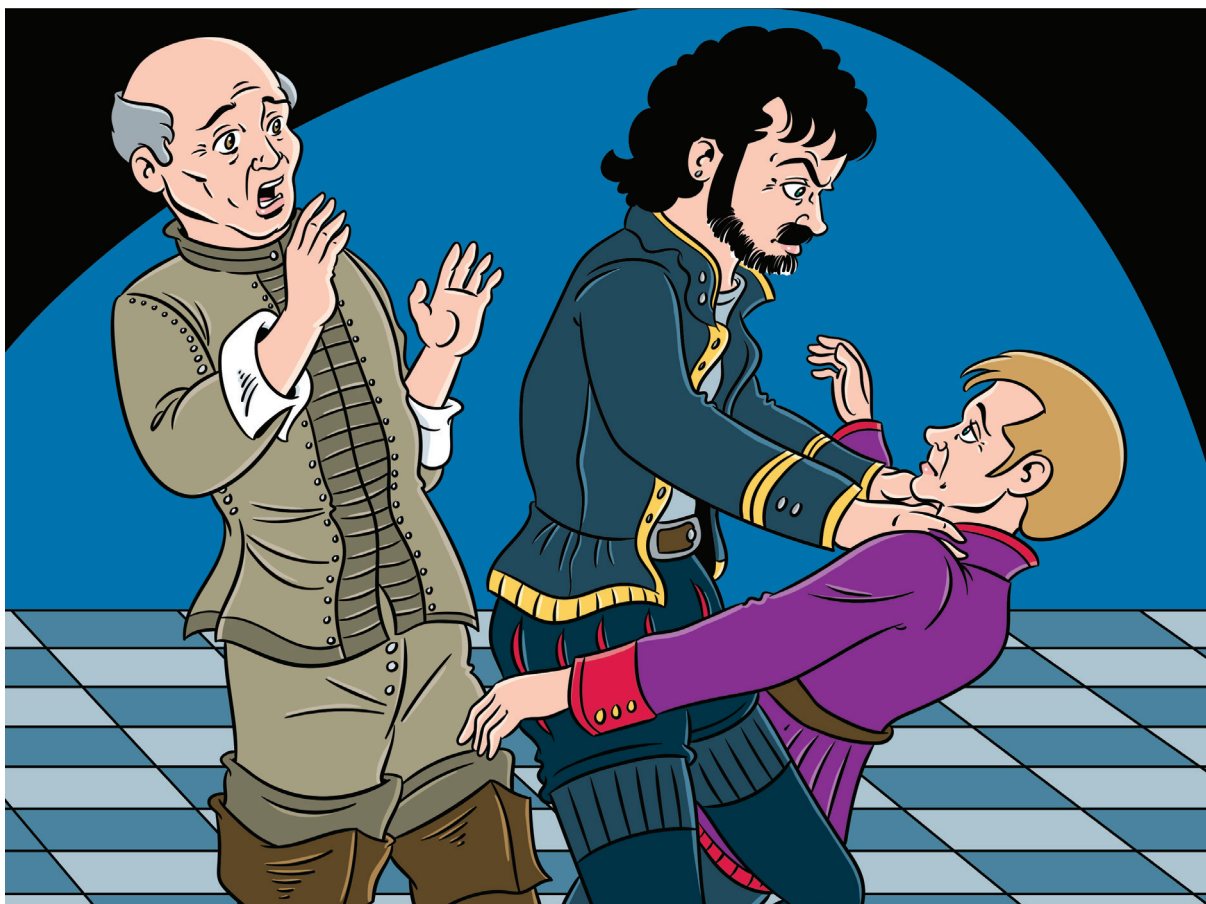
flees (v): to leave somewhere quickly

Section 1

- 1 Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. What do you think is going to happen next?

The story so far ...

Sir Rowland de Boys has died and left behind two sons, Orlando and Oliver. As the eldest, Oliver receives most of his father's belongings and estate, leaving Orlando with a small amount of money after their father's passing*. Sir Rowland wishes for Orlando to pursue* an education, but Oliver refuses to obey* their father's last wishes, and while he sends their other brother, Jaques, to school, he does not allow Orlando to do the same. Orlando complains to a servant about his situation, swearing* he will no longer take this treatment from his older brother. Oliver, hearing all this, enters the room and starts a fight with his younger brother, which becomes physical very quickly as Orlando grabs* Oliver by the throat.



Oliver starts a fight with Orlando.

- 2 Now do Exercises A to E on pages 180–181 in the Activity Book.



Act 1, Scene 1

Original

Oliver:

Wilt thou lay hands on me, villain?

Orlando:

I am no villain. I am the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Boys. He was my father, and he is thrice a villain that says such a father begot villains. Wert thou not my brother, I would not take this hand from thy throat till this other had pulled out thy tongue for saying so.

Modern English

Oliver:

Are you going to put your hands on me, you villain*?

Orlando:

I'm no villain. I'm the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Boys. He was my father, and if anyone calls his sons villains, they are themselves three times a villain. If you weren't my brother, I wouldn't let go of your throat until I pulled your tongue out for saying this.

Orlando makes Oliver promise to give him enough money to pursue an education. After being dismissed, Oliver calls for Charles, the court wrestler. He gives Oliver news that the Duke Senior was replaced by his younger brother, Duke Frederick, and Duke Senior fled to the forest with other noblemen who rebelled. Senior's daughter, Rosalind, is allowed to remain at court, as she is good friends with Frederick's daughter, Celia. Charles then reveals that Orlando plans to fight him in the upcoming wrestling match, and he is afraid of hurting him. Oliver gives him full permission to do so, and after Charles leaves, he goes over his plan to get rid of Orlando.

Original

Oliver:

Now will I stir this gamester. I hope I shall see an end of him, for my soul—yet I know not why—hates nothing more than he. Yet he's gentle, never schooled and yet learned, full of noble device, of all sorts enchantingly beloved, and indeed so much in the heart of the world and especially of my own people, who best know him, that I am altogether misprized. But it shall not be so long; this wrestler shall clear all. Nothing remains but that I kindle the boy thither, which now I'll go about.

Modern English

Oliver:

Now I will cause trouble for my silly brother. I hope this will be the end of him. Even though I don't know why, my soul* hates him more than anything. He is a nice man. Even though he never went to school, he is very smart, and he is very noble*. And everyone loves him, even my own people, who know him very well, love him and hate me. But not for long; this wrestler will end him for me. All I have to do is to convince my brother to fight, which I will do now.

Glossary

passing (n): someone's death

pursue (v): to do something or go after something

obey (v): to do what someone tells you to

swear (v): to promise to do something

grab (v): to take hold of someone in a violent manner

villain (adj): someone evil

soul (n): one's spirit

noble (adj): of honourable and honest nature

Section 2

- 1** Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. What do you think the two men are doing in the forest?

The story so far ...

Orlando wins his fight against Charles. Rosalind and Celia, who had been watching the fight, decide to talk to the champion. Orlando and Rosalind fall in love at first sight, and Rosalind confesses this to Celia. After returning home, Orlando is told by his servant that Oliver has plans to kill him. Orlando decides that the best thing to do is to leave and hide in the forest of Arden. Duke Frederick, who now sees Rosalind as a danger to his position in court because of her father, decides to send her away from court. Celia, who cannot live without her cousin, follows her to the forest, and the court clown, Touchstone, decides to join them. Rosalind decides that, for their safety, she and Celia must disguise themselves. She dresses up as a man by the name of Ganymede, and Celia becomes a woman named Aliena. Duke Frederick finds out about his daughter's disappearance and asks his men what happened.



Rosalind and Celia hide in the forest of Arden.

- 2** Read the extracts on the following page and check if you were right.
- 3** Now do Exercises A to E on pages 182–183 in the Activity Book.



Act 2, Scene 2

Original

Second lord:

*My lord, the roinish clown at whom so oft
Your Grace was wont to laugh is also
missing.*

*Hisperia, the Princess' gentlewoman,
Confesses that she secretly o'erheard
Your daughter and her cousin much
commend*

*The parts and graces of the wrestler
That did but lately foil the sinewy Charles,
And she believes wherever they are gone
That youth is surely in their company.*

Modern English

Second lord:

My lord, the court clown, the one you laughed at so often, is also missing. And Hisperia, the Princess' servant, told us that she secretly overheard* your daughter and her cousin talking about the good looks* and manners of the fighter who recently won a fight with the muscular Charles. She believes that, wherever* they are, he is surely with them.

Frederick orders Oliver to search for his brother in the forest, telling him that if he fails, he will take his land and his belongings. Rosalind, Celia (both still dressed as Ganymede and Aliena), along with Touchstone, find two young men talking while exploring the forest and decide to listen to their conversation. One of them, a shepherd* named Silvius, talks about his love for a woman named Phoebe. His partner, Corin, tells him that he has loved before and tries to give him advice.

Act 2, Scene 4

Original

Silvius:

*O, thou didst then never love so heartily.
If thou rememb'rest not the slightest folly
That ever love did make thee run into,
Thou hast not loved.*

*Or if thou hast not sat as I do now,
Wearing thy hearer in thy mistress' praise,
Thou hast not loved.*

*Or if thou hast not broke from company
Abruptly, as my passion now makes me,
Thou hast not loved.*

O Phoebe, Phoebe, Phoebe!

Modern English

Silvius:

Oh, then you haven't really loved as much as I have. If you can't remember even the smallest stupid thing love has ever made you do, then you haven't loved. Or, if you haven't sat like I am now, boring your listener with compliments of your beloved*, then you haven't loved. Or, if you haven't left the company of others to be alone, as my passion now makes me do, then you haven't loved. Oh, Phoebe, Phoebe, Phoebe!

Rosalind, moved by the shepherd's story, says that his broken heart reminded her of her own.

Glossary

overheard (v): to hear something you are not supposed to

good looks (n): someone's beauty, good appearance

wherever (conj): anywhere

shepherd (n): someone who takes care of sheep

beloved (adj): someone who is loved very much

Section 3

- 1 Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. What do you think Rosalind and Orlando are talking about?

The story so far ...

Orlando and his servant, Adam, arrive in the forest. Adam is weak and very hungry, and Orlando promises to find food for the both of them. He finds a group of men drinking and eating. It is Duke Senior and his men who invite both Adam and Orlando to join the group for a meal. Oliver tells Sir Frederick he couldn't find Orlando. Sir Frederick gives him a year, and he will keep his lands and belongings until Orlando is finally found. Meanwhile, Orlando, who is unable to forget Rosalind (Ganymede), runs through the forest of Arden hanging poems he wrote about her on every tree.



Orlando meets Rosalind disguised as Ganymede.

- 2 Read the extracts on the following page and check if you were right.
- 3 Now do Exercises A to E on pages 184–185 in the Activity Book.

Act 3, Scene 2

Original

Orlando:

*O Rosalind, these trees shall be my books,
And in their barks my thoughts I'll character,
That every eye which in this forest looks
Shall see thy virtue witnessed everywhere.
Run, run, Orlando, carve on every tree
The fair, the chaste, and unexpressive she.*

Modern English

Orlando:

Oh, Rosalind, these trees will be my books, and I will write my thoughts in their bark. This way, everyone who looks around this forest will see your beauty described everywhere. Run, run Orlando, write in every tree verses* about the beautiful, the pure, the indescribable* Rosalind.

Rosalind and Celia eventually find the poems, and Celia tells her she had seen Orlando hanging them on the trees. She asks many questions about love until Orlando enters. Rosalind decides to talk to him in person, disguised as Ganymede. She talks about the poet who wrote of a girl named Rosalind, to which Orlando tells her that he is sick with love and wants help.

Original

Rosalind, as Ganymede:

*I would cure you if you would but call me
Rosalind and come every day to my cote
and woo me.*

Orlando:

*Now, by the faith of my love, I will. Tell me
where it is.*

Rosalind, as Ganymede:

*Go with me to it, and I'll show it you; and
by the way you shall tell me where in the
forest you live. Will you go?*

Orlando:

With all my heart, good youth.

Modern English

Rosalind, as Ganymede:

I could help you, but only if you would call me Rosalind and come to my cottage every day and pretend to court* me.

Orlando:

My love is so strong that I will do so. Tell me where the cottage is.

Rosalind, as Ganymede:

Come with me, I'll show you. On the way, you can tell me where in the forest you live. Will you come with me?

Orlando:

With all my heart, good man.

Glossary

verse (n): lines from a poem

indescribable (adj): something or someone that can't be described by any words

court (v): try to please someone to get their support, approval or affection

Section 4

- 1 Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. What do you think is happening?

The story so far ...

Touchstone falls in love with a woman named Audrey, and they become engaged. Orlando failed to keep his promise to Ganymede, and Rosalind cries to Celia. Corin enters, announcing that his friend, Silvius, will try to win Phoebe's heart, and he asks the two of them to watch. Silvius confesses* to Phoebe and asks her to not reject him. He says that by being so cruel, she is worse than an executioner. Phoebe is not pleased with his comment.



Silvius confesses to Phoebe.

- 2 Now do Exercises A to E on pages 186–187 in the Activity Book.



Act 3, Scene 5

Original

Phoebe:

I would not be thy executioner.

I fly thee, for I would not injure thee.

Thou tell'st me there is murder in mine eye.

'Tis pretty, sure, and very probable

That eyes, that are the frail'st and softest things,

*Who shut their coward gates on atomies,
Should be called tyrants, butchers, murderers.*

*Now I do frown on thee with all my heart,
And if mine eyes can wound, now let them kill thee.*

Modern English

Phoebe:

I don't want to be your executioner*! I run away from you so that you won't get hurt. You tell me there's murder in my eyes. It's a nice thing to say and, surely, eyes, which are the most fragile things, that even shut cowardly* to dust, are very likely to be tyrants, butchers or murderers*. Now, I'm frowning* at you as hard as I can. If my eyes can really hurt anyone, then let them kill you.

Rosalind, watching all of this, decides to step in as Ganymede and defend Silvius. She says that Phoebe is not beautiful enough to reject* Silvius' love and that she is lucky. To Rosalind's surprise, Phoebe falls in love with Ganymede. She says that no man has treated her like this before, and that this was enough to win her love. Rosalind tries to put an end to this.

Original

Rosalind, as Ganymede:

I pray you, do not fall in love with me,

For I am falser than vows made in wine.

Besides, I like you not. If you will know my house,

'Tis at the tuft of olives, here hard by.

—Will you go, sister?—Shepherd, ply her hard.

—Come, sister.—Shepherdess, look on him better,

And be not proud. Though all the world could see,

None could be so abused in sight as he.

Modern English

Rosalind, as Ganymede:

Please, don't fall in love with me. I am more fake* than a promise from a drunk. Besides, I don't like you. If you want to know where I live, it's near that olive bush*, nearby*.

[To Celia] Do you want to leave, sister?

[To Silvius] Shepherd, keep trying with her.

[To Celia] Come on sister.

[To Phoebe] Shepherdess, think better of him, and stop being so proud. Even if everyone in the world could see you for who you are, no one would be as blind as he is.

Phoebe tells Silvius that she fell in love with Ganymede at first sight, much like he did with her.

Glossary

confess (v): to tell someone a secret, in this case, a secret love

executioner (n): someone who sentences people to death

cowardly (adv): showing a lack of courage

tyrants, butchers or murderers (n): criminals, killers, meaning Phoebe's eyes could kill Silvius with their cruel stare

frowning (v): an expression made when someone is sad or angry

reject (v): saying no to something or someone

fake (adj): someone who is not real or truthful

bush (n): a type of plant

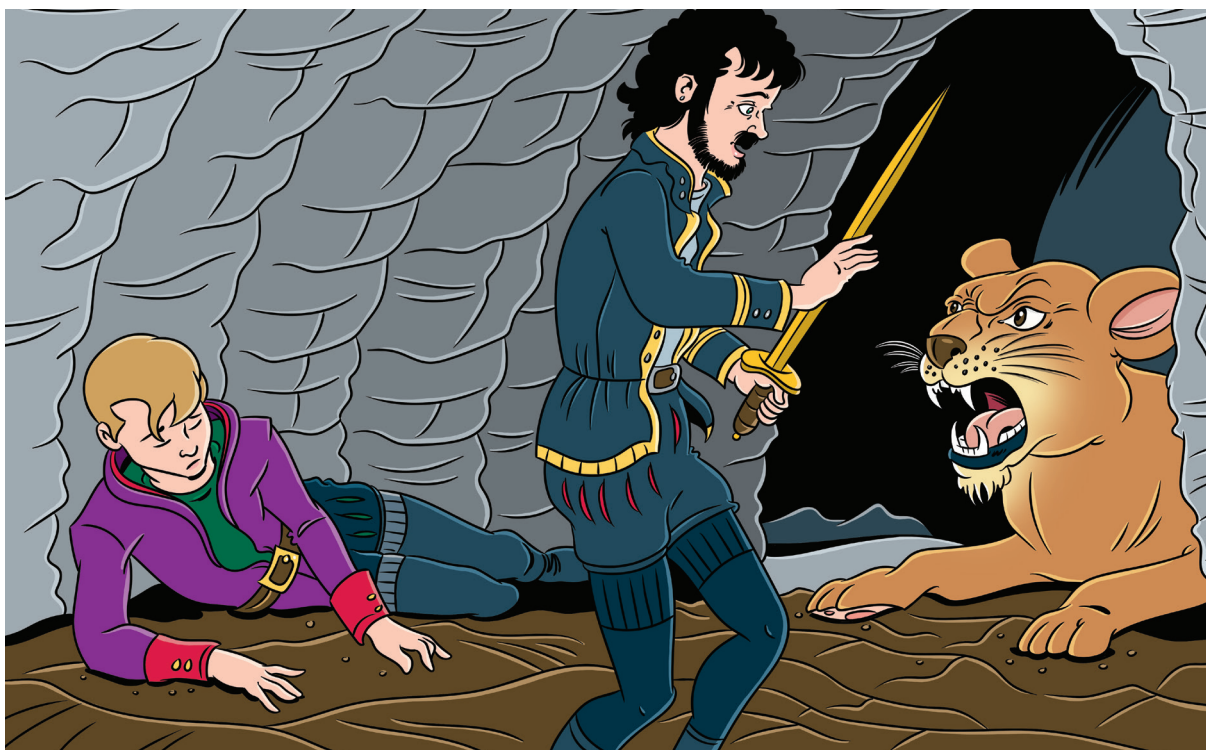
nearby (adj): close

Section 5

- 1 Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. Who do you think the men are, and what is happening?

The story so far ...

Orlando visits Ganymede for his lessons in love. As Orlando courts Ganymede as if she were Rosalind, Rosalind realizes she is more in love with him than she thought. He leaves for dinner with the Duke Senior, promising to return two hours later. While Celia and Rosalind complain that Orlando is late, Silvius arrives with a letter for Ganymede from Phoebe, warning* Rosalind that the letter might be hurtful as she looked angry while writing it. Rosalind reads it to find another love confession. She asks Silvius to tell Phoebe that Ganymede will never love her, unless she loves Silvius. He exits. Suddenly, Oliver arrives, asking the pair if they are Ganymede and Aliena. When Rosalind confirms it, Oliver hands her a bloody handkerchief*, saying it belonged to Orlando. Rosalind asks what happened. Oliver tells the story – after leaving Ganymede, Orlando found a man asleep in the forest. He noticed that the man was being watched by a snake, but after scaring* the animal away, he found a hungry lioness ready to attack the man he soon discovered to be his brother, Oliver.



Orlando defeats the lioness.

- 2 Now do Exercises A to E on pages 188–189 in the Activity Book.

Act 4, Scene 3

Original

Oliver:

*Twice did he turn his back and purposed so,
But kindness, nobler ever than revenge,
And nature, stronger than his just occasion,
Made him give battle to the lioness,
Who quickly fell before him; in which
hurtling,
From miserable slumber I awaked.*

Modern English

Oliver:

He turned his back twice, thinking of leaving me there. But his kindness was stronger than his desire for revenge*, and his good heart couldn't keep him from leaving his brother behind. He fought with the lioness, who quickly died, and the noise from their fight woke me from my sleep.

Oliver says that once Orlando saved his life, he became a new man, and they became friends. They decided to go to Duke Senior together.

Original

Oliver:

*When from the first to last betwixt us two
Tears our recountments had most kindly
bathed—
As how I came into that desert place—
In brief, he led me to the gentle duke,
Who gave me fresh array and entertainment,
Committing me unto my brother's love,
Who led me instantly unto his cave,
There stripped himself, and here upon his
arm
The lioness had torn some flesh away,
Which all this while had bled. And now he
fainted,
And cried in fainting upon Rosalind.*

Modern English

Oliver:

When we saw each other again and told our stories while crying – for me, how I had come to that deserted* place – he took me to the noble duke, who gave me fresh clothes, food and drink and left me to my brother's care*. Orlando then took me to his cave*, where he took off his clothes and saw that he had a wound* on his arm, where the lioness had bitten him. This wound had been bleeding* the whole time. Orlando fainted while crying out for 'Rosalind'.

Orlando then asked Oliver to apologize to a man named Ganymede, who he called by the name Rosalind, and to give him his bloody handkerchief. Hearing this story, Rosalind fainted. Celia and Oliver help her wake up, and Oliver comments how Ganymede did not have a man's heart if he fainted so easily. Rosalind lies and says that she was only acting and to tell Orlando how good of a teacher Ganymede was. But Oliver was not convinced.

Glossary

warning (v): let someone know of something before it happens

handkerchief (n): a piece of fabric or paper kept in your pocket used for personal hygiene or decoration

scaring (v): to make someone or something frightened

revenge (n): to hurt someone who hurt you

deserted (adj): somewhere with no people

care (n): to help and look after someone

cave (n): a large hole under the ground or in the side of a hill

wound (n): an injury

bleeding (v): losing blood

Section 6

- 1** Read *The story so far* box and look at the picture. What do you think is happening? What are the celebrations for?

The story so far ...

Oliver meets Orlando, telling him that he is in love with Aliena (who is actually Celia), Ganymede's sister. He tells him that he plans to marry her, and that once he does, he will give back their father's estate and belongings to Orlando. While Orlando is happy for his brother, he admits to Ganymede that he misses Rosalind. Hearing this, Ganymede promises him that he will marry Rosalind as soon as Oliver marries Aliena. Phoebe enters with Silvius and accuses Ganymede of being cruel. Rosalind tries to encourage her to marry Silvius once again but, in the end, promises Phoebe that if Ganymede ever marries a woman, she would be the bride the very next day. They all agree to meet at Oliver's wedding. The following day, Ganymede enters the ceremony. He says that, as promised, Orlando was to marry Rosalind and that her father, Duke Senior, would allow it. Phoebe would marry Ganymede; if not, she would marry Silvius. Once everyone agrees, he leaves once again with Celia. Duke Senior comments that Ganymede reminded him of his daughter.



Everybody enjoys the celebrations.

- 2** Now do Exercises A to E on pages 190–191 in the Activity Book.

Act 5, Scene 4

Rosalind returns from the forest, now without her disguise, along with Celia. With them is Hymen, the god of marriage.

Original

Hymen:
*Peace, ho! I bar confusion.
'Tis I must make conclusion
Of these most strange events.
Here's eight that must take hands
To join in Hymen's bands,
If truth holds true contents.*
[To Rosalind and Orlando]
You and you no cross shall part.
[To Celia and Oliver]
You and you are heart in heart.
[To Phoebe]
*You to his love must accord.
Or have a woman to your lord.*
[To Audrey and Touchstone]
*You and you are sure together
As the winter to foul weather.*

Modern English

Hymen:
Quiet, now! I will clear up any confusion. I'm the one who will bring the ending to these strange events. Here before me are eight people, who must join hands and be married, if what I tell them is what they feel.
[To Rosalind and Orlando]
No fight will ever break you apart.
[To Celia and Oliver]
Your hearts are together as one.
[To Phoebe]
You must accept his love.
[To Audrey and Touchstone]
You two belong together, like winter and bad weather.

Phoebe agrees to marry Silvius. Duke Senior, happy to see his daughter once again, allows her to marry Orlando. The happy couples dance and celebrate but are soon interrupted by Jacque de Boys, Oliver and Orlando's other brother.

Original

Jacque de Boys:
*Let me have audience for a word or two.
I am the second son of old Sir Rowland,
That bring these tidings to this fair assembly.
Duke Frederick, hearing how that every day
Men of great worth resorted to this forest,
Addressed a mighty power, which were on foot
In his own conduct, purposely to take
His brother here and put him to the sword;
And to the skirts of this wild wood he came,
Where, meeting with an old religious man,
After some question with him, was converted
Both from his enterprise and from the world,
His crown bequeathing to his banished brother,
And all their lands restored to them again
That were with him exiled. This to be true
I do engage my life.*

Modern English

Jacque de Boys:
Let me have your attention for a word or two. I am the second son of old Sir Rowland, and I bring news to this fine gathering. Duke Frederick, who heard that many noble men were coming to this forest every day, put together a powerful army to take this land and kill his brother. They arrived at the edge of the forest, and there they met with an old religious man. They talked for a while, and, in the end, the man helped Duke Frederick give up the war and this world to become a religious man himself. He now gives his crown to his brother and the lands back to his men. I swear on my life that this is all true.

All celebrate and decide to return to court together. Orlando becomes Duke Senior's heir, and Oliver's lands and belongings will once again return to him. Jacques, however, decides to join Sir Frederick in the monastery. The play ends.