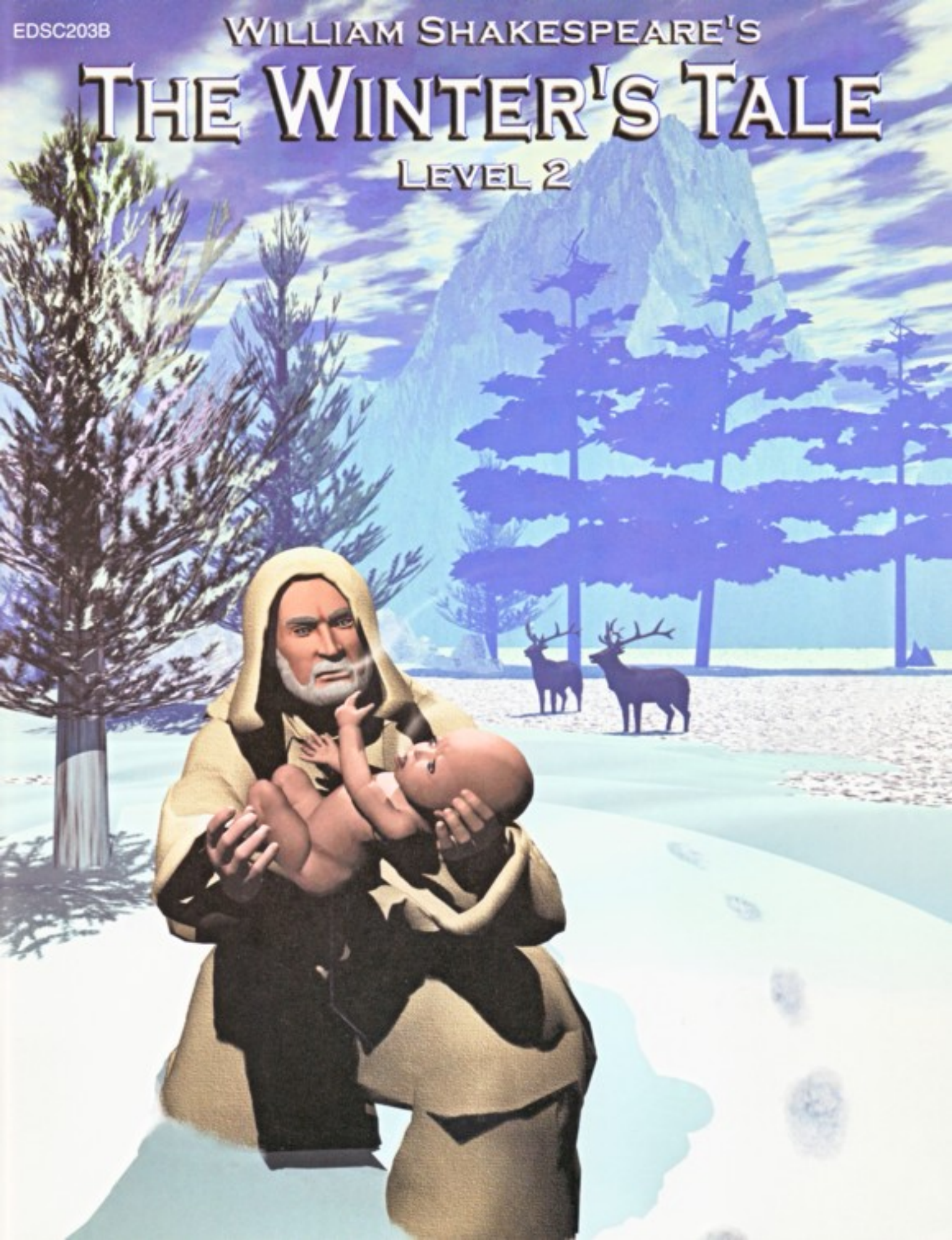


EDSC203B

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

THE WINTER'S TALE

LEVEL 2



Old Friends Visit



King Leontes asks his friend Polixenes to stay a little longer.

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

You learned from your preview that King Leontes and King Polixenes

- a. had been good friends for a long time.
- b. did not get along.
- c. were not important people.
- d. did not hear from each other for many years.

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

Now read the story.

Read to find out why Leontes turned against his good friend.

The Queen's Baby

King Leontes had too much to think about. "Day or night," he shouted to Antigonus, "I cannot sleep! I cannot believe that I had to lock up my queen! And our son, Mamilius, is not doing well. It is all because of worry over his mother! And my good lord, Camillo has run away with Polixenes! They must be laughing at me! I believed I could trust the two of them."

At this time, Paulina was trying to push her way through the door. "No, no, Paulina," said her husband, Antigonus. "You cannot come in. You must leave the King alone." But Antigonus could not hold her back. No one could tell Paulina what to do.

"The King has not had any sleep," said Antigonus. "So no one should see him."

But Paulina did not listen. With a big push, she was through the door. She was holding a basket in her hands. The King called for his other lords. "Take this woman away," said the King. "I said no one should come near me." But the lords could not get Paulina to go.

"I told her not to come in," said Antigonus to the King.

"What?" asked Leontes. "Can't you make her listen to you? Can't you rule her?"

"You can lock me up if you

like," said Paulina, "but my husband will not rule me. I come from your good queen."

"Good queen?" shouted Leontes.

"Yes, good queen, my lord," Paulina answered. "I say good queen."

"Someone take this woman away!" shouted Leontes again.

"I came to tell you something," Paulina said. "Then I'll go. Your queen has a princess for you." Paulina put her hands into the basket. She picked up the child. She put the child at the King's feet.

"She is *not* my child and I am *not* her father. She is a *nobody*. Antigonus! Take this woman out, and the child too!" shouted the King.

"How can you call your child a *nobody*!" shouted Paulina.

"She is not my child. Put her in the fire. *Polixenes* is the father of this *nobody*."

"You are so jealous that you cannot think right," said Paulina. "Don't you see how much the baby looks like you?"

The King became angry. He looked at Antigonus. "You, Antigonus, should hang because you cannot stop Paulina's talk."

"If you hang all husbands for this," Antigonus said, "you will have no lords at all."

The lords in the room began to laugh.

"Out! out! Away with her!" shouted Leontes.

Paulina picked up the baby. She put the child back in the basket. "I'll go now. You need not push me out," she said, as she went through the door.

When Paulina was gone, the King looked at Antigonus. "Antigonus, why can't you rule your woman?" he began. "Go get the child and put her in the fire. Then bring me word that it is done. I do not want this *nobody* to grow up calling me *Father*."

When the King's lords heard this, they were not happy. "You have always trusted us," said one of the lords. "So now we ask you to save the child."

The King listened. He walked up and down the room. After some time, he looked at his lords. "All right," said Leontes. "Antigonus, will you do something to save this little *nobody*?"

"Yes, my lord," said Antigonus.

"Then take the child to a far-away place and leave it. Someone may find it and care for it," said Leontes.

So Antigonus took the child and went away in a big boat.

More Trouble for Florizel

VOCABULARY CHECK

brought	dear	left	most	shall	wonder
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I. Sentences to Finish

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

- I locked my keys in the car. What _____ I do?
- Leslie picked a lot of apples, but Edith picked the _____.
- Richard _____ a frog to school and got into trouble.
- "I _____ when the circus is coming to town," said Billy.
- Mrs. Nolan's kittens are very _____ to her.
- The winter storm _____ a lot of snow on the ground.

II. Matching

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

Column A

1. dear
2. left
3. wonder
4. most
5. brought
6. shall

Column B

- a. to think about, but not know; wish to know
- b. to have come with some thing or person from another place
- c. much loved; very special; precious
- d. should; will
- e. the greatest in amount
- f. to have gone away from; had let stay behind

Check your answers with the Key on page 71.

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