

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

PERICLES

LEVEL 2



Pericles, the New King of Tyre



Pericles has come to Antioch.

Preview:

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first five paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Pericles became unhappy

- ☐ a. when he left Tyre.
- ☐ b. when he got to Antioch.
- ☐ c. after his father died.
- ☐ d. after he saw the princess.

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

Now read the story.

Read to find out if Pericles makes the princess his wife.

Pericles on the Run

Pericles took to the high seas for the city of Tharsus. He went there to get away from King Antiochus. Pericles did not want to die. He wanted to go back to Tyre and be king. There he would live and have a wife and children some day.

Pericles thought Tharsus would be a good place to live for a time. He thought the mean king would not find him there.

The sun looked down at the sea where three boats were headed for Tharsus. All three were Pericles' boats. The boats were big and white. Big black letters were painted on the tail of each boat. The words were KING PERICLES.

One boat was for Pericles and his men. Another boat was for animals. There were lambs, pigs, ducks and a calf. The last of the three boats had much food on it. There was much corn to make bread.

At night the waters in the sea looked black, and the water was cold. But in the day, the waters were light blue and not as cold. The men looked out the windows every morning to see the sun come up.

It took four long days for the three boats to get to Tharsus. Pericles left his boat and headed to a village. There he found something that made him sad. The village, once a merry place to live in, was not that way now.

The city of Tharsus was a dark place. Most people did not have a penny in their pocket. They were very poor. They had little food to eat, for a famine had hit Tharsus. There were no eggs, milk or bread on any table. Pericles thought this to be very sad. *"People will die without food,"* thought Pericles.

There was no work for any of the people. There was no work for the men on their boats. Now they were poor people.

Not long after Pericles got off his boat, he met with the head of the City. His name was Cleon. Cleon was a tall man with brown hair. He had a wife named Dionyza. She was a pretty woman with long, black hair. They were so happy to meet Pericles.

Cleon and his wife told Pericles a sad, sad, story. Two years before, the city of Tharsus had been a wonderful place to live. There was much food for all to eat. Pockets were full of money. There was work for all the people in the villages. Tables had lots of food on them. Everyone was happy. But all that had been lost when the famine hit. Many people died from having no food. Cleon painted a picture that was not a pretty one. Living was bad in the city of Tharsus.

Pericles' boats had all the things the people needed to live

on. The boats were full of apples, eggs, lamb, corn, and bread. Pericles told Cleon he would give his food to the poor people of Tharsus.

The people of Tharsus had not seen such things in a very long time. At first the people thought the boats were full of bad people coming to take over their villages. But when they saw the boat full of food, they were merry again. They would no longer be without food. The City was back on its feet again. Life would be good.

Cleon thanked Pericles for bringing so much to his people. Life would be so much better, now that they got some help.

Pericles saw the happy faces of the people getting food. He wished he could be as happy. But that was not to be.

Word came from Tyre that King Antiochus wanted Pericles to die right away. His men were not far behind. Tharsus was no longer a good place for Pericles to live. So once again, Pericles ran to his boats. He did not look back.

Pericles took to the sea again. Once more, he was on the run. But this time, he only had one boat. His other two boats stayed behind to help the people of Tharsus.

Marina Grows Up

VOCABULARY CHECK

beside	clever	cross	grew	herself	nice
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I. Sentences to Finish

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

- Michelle was pleased with _____ for getting all the answers right!
- Don came up with a _____ idea to get his children to go to sleep.
- Lisa's puppy _____ to be a big dog.
- We have an apple tree growing _____ our house.
- Kelly is a _____ young girl with a pretty smile, and big, green eyes.
- "Don't _____ me, if you know what's good for you," said one pirate to another.

II. Crossword

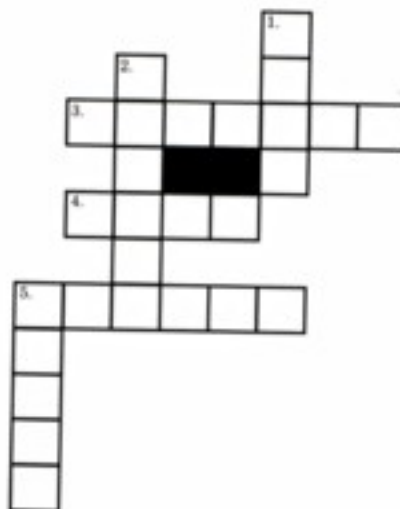
Use the words from the box above to fill in the puzzle. Use the meanings below to help you choose the right answer.

Down

- to have become older; past tense of grow
- near; at or by the side of; next to
- to go against someone; to act against

Across

- a form of the word *she* or *her*
- kind; good
- smart; bright



Check your answers with the Key on page 71.

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