

William Shakespeare

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

Level 3



Two friends Say Good-bye



Proteus tells Valentine, "You have been my best friend for my whole life."

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

You learned from your preview that Valentine was going

- ☐ a. to Verona.
- ☐ b. to Milan.
- ☐ c. to Italy.
- ☐ d. to court.

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

Now read the story.

Read to find out why Proteus does not go with his friend.

A Sad Day

"A letter from Proteus? What do you think he wants to tell me, Lucetta?"

"I'm not sure, Julia. Why don't you just read it?"

"No," answered Julia. "I don't want to. I don't know what Proteus has to say, but, he probably won't tell me anything I want to hear. He might have something awful to say."

"But, Julia, come to your senses. It may be something you *want* to hear. Proteus may tell you that he loves you, and that he wants you to talk with him. Here, take it and read it."

Julia shook her head. "No, Lucetta, somehow I just don't feel good about it. I won't read it. Anyway, I have been doing a lot of thinking. I don't think Proteus loves me."

Lucetta frowned and Julia took the letter from her hand. She looked at the letter for a second, then she tore it into pieces. Lucetta gasped as the pieces landed around the two of them.

"What have you done, Julia? Now you will never know what Proteus wanted to say to you." Lucetta got down on the floor and began to pick up the pieces of torn paper.

"Leave them, Lucetta." Julia stepped forth and began to grab some of the pieces herself. She pushed them into the top of her dress. Then, suddenly, Julia seemed to come to her senses. "Oh, my," she said. "What did I

do? What got into me?" She pulled out a few pieces and tried to read them. "Oh, it's no use. Now I'll never know how Proteus feels about me."

Lucetta shook her head from side to side. "Sometimes, it's as if I don't know you, Julia," she whispered, as she left the room.

When Lucetta was gone, Julia began a letter to Proteus to tell him how much she loved him.

* * *

Proteus' father, Antonio, was talking about his son with Panthino, his servant. "Valentine made a very wise move when he went to Milan. I don't know why my son didn't go with him. I don't know why he stayed here. He must grow up! He must see the world beyond Verona." He stopped talking for a minute, lost in thought. Then, suddenly, he said, "Servant, I've made up my mind. Go find Proteus and send him to me. He will go to Milan right away!"

Proteus was smiling and reading Julia's letter when Panthino came in. "Your father wants to see you right away."

"Thank you," said Proteus. "I'll go to him now."

Proteus frowned as his father told him about going away. "Father, I don't want to go to Milan. I want to stay here. I love Verona. I am very happy here."

"No, son," his father an-

swered. "You are in love with the idea of Julia being your girl. I am telling you that you *must* go to Milan. You must see beyond Verona. I'm doing this because I love you...not because I want you to be unhappy. A day will probably come when you will thank me for this. Now, go forth and get ready, Proteus."

"Yes, Father," answered Proteus in an angry voice.

Proteus went straight to his room. He grabbed a few things and then he ran to Julia's house. Lucetta was standing by the front door as he ran up.

"Julia, where is my Julia?" he said, as he gasped for air.

Lucetta went inside to get Julia. Julia came outside, smiling. "I am so happy that you are here Pro. . ." But one look at his face told her something was very wrong. "What is it Proteus?" she gasped. "Has something awful happened?"

Proteus told her what his father had said. "I love you, Julia, but I must go by my father's wishes. He has made up his mind, and he wants me to leave *now*." He reached into his pocket and pulled out a ring. "Here, Julia. Take this ring and keep me close to your heart. Somehow, we will be together. I mean that with all my heart."

Julia took the ring and began to cry. Proteus hugged her and cried a little, too.

Julia Goes to Milan

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

Preview Answer:

b. became angry

1. Proteus didn't want Silvia and Valentine to marry because,
 - ☐ a. he thought his friend was too young to marry.
 - ☐ b. he believed Silvia was too old for Valentine.
 - ☐ c. he was out to get his friend.
 - ☐ d. he wanted to marry Silvia himself.
2. Proteus planned to stop Valentine and Silvia from marrying by
 - ☐ a. breaking Silvia's window.
 - ☐ b. running off with the rope ladder.
 - ☐ c. telling the Duke their secret.
 - ☐ d. telling Valentine he was wanted back home right away.
3. The Duke thought Valentine
 - ☐ a. was not the man for his daughter.
 - ☐ b. would make trouble for his daughter.
 - ☐ c. would make his daughter happy.
 - ☐ d. was foolish to try and run away.
4. Valentine
 - ☐ a. did not know it was Proteus who gave away their secret.
 - ☐ b. knew Proteus had told the Duke about their secret.
 - ☐ c. thought Silvia told her father their secret.
 - ☐ d. thought the Duke had guessed their secret.
5. Julia's plan was to
 - ☐ a. dress up like a man and travel the world.
 - ☐ b. travel to Milan to see Proteus.
 - ☐ c. wait for Proteus to return home.
 - ☐ d. try to trick Proteus into coming home.
6. First, Julia came up with a plan to see Proteus. Then Lucetta helped her get ready for the trip. Next,
 - ☐ a. Julia found Proteus talking with another woman.
 - ☐ b. Julia headed for Milan.
 - ☐ c. Julia went to the Duke's court to find Proteus.
 - ☐ d. Julia met up with a robber.
7. Why did Julia disguise herself as a man?
 - ☐ a. To catch a robber
 - ☐ b. To fool Proteus
 - ☐ c. To trick her father
 - ☐ d. It was not safe for a woman to travel alone.
8. When Julia got to Milan, she went to the Duke's court where she found
 - ☐ a. Proteus talking with Silvia.
 - ☐ b. Valentine talking with Silvia.
 - ☐ c. Proteus talking with the Duke.
 - ☐ d. the Duke talking with Proteus.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - ☐ a. "Julia's Disguise."
 - ☐ b. "Proteus Moves Fast."
 - ☐ c. "Trouble for Valentine."
 - ☐ d. "Going Home."
10. This story is mainly about
 - ☐ a. a woman who disguises herself as a man.
 - ☐ b. why the Duke sent Valentine away.
 - ☐ c. why Julia, in disguise, went to Milan.
 - ☐ d. a woman who likes to travel.

Check your answers with the Key on page 67.

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