

LESSON 17

1. Discovering Meanings

1. The soldiers took over the area and started to *pillage* the countryside.
 - a) burn
 - b) take the goods of people, especially in war
2. Time *ravages* all.
 - a) passes for
 - b) cruelly destroys
3. Don't start *rummaging through* my drawers!
 - a) repairing
 - b) messily looking through
4. The last time we went camping in the woods my grandfather taught me how to *forage*.
 - a) find food in the wild
 - b) hunt animals
5. His request was *granted*.
 - a) given
 - b) denied
6. He made a very *feeble* effort to improve his manners.
 - a) weak
 - b) large
7. We made a swing on the *linden*.
 - a) a gazebo
 - b) a kind of tree that grows in Europe

2. Phonics and Spelling

Memorize the spelling of the words in the following two lists.

PHONICS WORDS

age words: savage, pillage, ravage, village, manage, marriage, voyage, forage, passage, rummage, courage, image

SPELLING WORDS

beggar, herbs, travelers, guests, linden, horse, prison, field, pleasant, voice, wisdom, speech

3. Reading Selections

The Myth of Philemon and Baucis

Retold by Flora J. Cooke

Long ago, on a high hill in Greece, Philemon and Baucis lived. They were poor, but they were never unhappy. They had many hives of bees from which they got honey and many vines from which they gathered grapes. One old cow gave them all the milk that they could use, and they had a little field in which grain was raised.

The old couple had as much as they needed and were always ready to share whatever they had with any one in want. No stranger was ever turned from their door.

At the foot of the hill lay a beautiful village, with pleasant roads and rich pasture lands all around. But it was full of wicked, selfish, people, who had no love in their hearts and thought only of themselves.

At the time of this story, the people in the village were very busy. Zeus, who they believed ruled the world, had

sent word that he was about to visit them. They were preparing a great feast and making everything beautiful for his coming.

One evening, just at dark, two beggars came into the valley. They stopped at every house and asked for food and a place to sleep, but the people were too busy or too tired to attend to their needs. They were thinking only of the coming of Zeus.

Footsore and weary, the two beggars at last climbed the hill to the hut of Philemon and Baucis. These good people had eaten very little, for they were saving their best food for Zeus.

When they saw the beggars, Philemon said, "Surely these men need food more than Zeus. They look almost starved."

"Indeed, they do!" said Baucis, and she ran quickly to prepare supper for the strangers.

She spread her best white cloth upon the table, and brought out bacon, herbs, honey, grapes, bread, and milk. She set these upon the table in all the best dishes she had and called the strangers in.

Then what do you suppose happened? The dishes that the strangers touched turned to gold. The pitcher was never empty, although they drank glass after glass of milk. The loaf of bread stayed always the same size, although the strangers cut slice after slice.

"These are strange travelers," whispered the old couple to each other. "They do wonderful things."

That night Philemon and Baucis slept upon the floor that the strangers might have their one bed. In the morning they went with the travelers to the foot of the hill to see them safely started on their way.

“Now, good people,” said one of the strangers, “we thank you, and whatever you wish shall be yours.”

As he said this, his face became like that of the sun. Then Philemon and Baucis knew that Zeus had spoken to them.

“Grant, O Zeus, that one of us may not outlive the other,” they cried in one voice.

“Your wish is granted,” said Zeus. “Yes, and more. Return to your home and be happy.”

Philemon and Baucis turned homeward, and, lo! their hut was changed to a beautiful castle.

The old people turned around to thank their guests, but they had disappeared.

In this castle Philemon and Baucis lived many years. They still did all they could for others, and were always so happy that they never thought of wishing anything for themselves.

As the years passed, the couple grew very old and feeble. One day Baucis said to Philemon, “I wish we might never die, but could always live together.”

“Ah, that is my wish, too!” sighed old Philemon.

The next morning the marble palace was gone. Baucis and Philemon were gone. But there on the hilltop stood two beautiful trees, an oak and a linden.

No one knew what became of the good people. After many years, however, a traveler lying under the trees heard them whispering to each other.

“Baucis,” whispered the oak.

“Philemon,” replied the linden.

There the trees stood through sun and rain, always ready to spread their leafy shade over every tired stranger who passed that way.

Reading Questions A

1. Which of the following describes Philemon and Baucis BEST?
 - a) village people who are unwilling to share what they had, except with the gods
 - b) country people who are generous, hospitable and content with the few things that they had
 - c) village people who prepare for and are ready for the coming of Zeus
 - d) country people who live in abundance
2. Which of the following does NOT describe what happens when Philemon and Baucis prepare a supper for the strangers?
 - a) The table setting changes and the food becomes inexhaustible.
 - b) Philemon and Baucis realize that their guests are very different.
 - c) The travelers reward Philemon and Baucis for their hospitality.

- d) Philemon and Baucis regret having the strangers as guests.
3. Who really are the travelers or strangers that Philemon and Baucis become guests at their home?
- a) wicked people from the village
 - b) relatives of Philemon and Baucis
 - c) friends and helpers of Zeus
 - d) Zeus in disguise
4. What does the wish of Philemon and Baucis at the conclusion of the story show about them?
- a) They want to be immortal.
 - b) They are clever, as they know they are talking to a god.
 - c) They love each other.
 - d) They want the good things in life, such as a castle to live in.
5. What does NOT happen at the end of the story?
- a) Philemon and Baucis live forever in the marble palace that has been transformed from a hut.
 - b) Philemon and Baucis's wish becomes true.
 - c) Zeus makes it so that Philemon and Baucis live forever.
 - d) Philemon and Baucis are transformed.

A Silent Witness: an Arabian Tale¹

Anonymous

One day at noontime a poor man was riding along a road. He was tired and hungry and wished to stop and rest. Finding a tree with low branches, he tied his horse to one of them. Then he sat down to eat his dinner.

Soon a rich man came along and started to tie his horse to the same tree.

“Do not fasten your horse to that tree,” the poor man said. “My horse is savage and he may kill yours. Fasten him to another tree.”

“I will tie my horse where I want to,” the rich man replied, and he tied his horse to the same tree. Then he, too, sat down to eat.

Very soon the men heard a great noise. They looked up and saw that their horses were kicking and fighting. Both men rushed to stop them, but it was too late: the rich man’s horse was dead.

“See what your horse has done!” the rich man cried in an angry voice. “But you’ll pay for it!” Then he dragged the man before a judge.

“Oh, wise judge,” he cried, “I have come to you for justice. I had a beautiful, kind, gentle horse which has been killed by this man’s savage horse. Make the man pay for the horse or send him to prison.”

“Not so fast, my friend,” the judge said. “There are two sides to every case.”

¹ Edited by William Walter

He turned to the poor man. "Did your horse kill this man's horse?" he asked.

The poor man made no reply.

The judge asked in surprise, "Why are you silent? Can you not talk?"

But no word came from the poor man's lips.

Then the judge turned to the rich man.

"What more can I do?" he asked. "You see for yourself this poor man cannot speak."

"Oh, but he can," cried the rich man. "He spoke to me."

"Indeed!" said the judge. "When?"

"He spoke to me when I tied my horse to the tree."

"What did he say?" asked the judge.

"He said, 'Do not fasten your horse to that tree. My horse is savage and may kill yours.'"

"O ho!" said the judge. "This poor man warned you that his horse was savage and you tied your horse near his after the warning. This puts a new light on the matter. You are to blame, not he."

The judge turned to the poor man and said, "My man, why did you not answer my questions?"

"Oh, wise judge," said the poor man, "if I had told you that I warned him not to tie his horse near mine, he would have denied it. Then how could you have told which one of us to believe? I let him tell his own story and you have learned the truth."

This speech pleased the judge. He praised the poor man for his wisdom and sent the rich man away without a penny.

Reading Questions B

1. Which of the following BEST describes what the poor man says to the rich man when he comes to tie his horse to the same tree?
 - a) warning
 - b) scolding
 - c) false
 - d) angry and unwelcoming
2. Which of the following BEST describes what the rich man says to the poor man after his horse has died?
 - a) ridicule
 - b) an unjustified complaint
 - c) an expression of sorrow
 - d) an expression of regret
3. Why does the judge say to the rich man “Not so fast”?
 - a) He wants to condemn the rich man.
 - b) He prefers poor people and has already decided the case.
 - c) He has not yet heard the poor man speak.
 - d) The rich man has spoken too quickly.
4. Which of the following is not true regarding why the poor man does not speak?
 - a) The poor man acts unwisely.

- b) The judge would not be able to tell which man to believe.
 - c) The poor man allows the rich man to condemn himself.
 - d) The poor man is nervous and does not know what to say.
5. Which of the following BEST describes the conclusion of the story?
- a) The judge behaves unfairly.
 - b) Both men receive justice.
 - c) The rich man returns home more wealthy.
 - d) The poor man suffers from injustice.

4. Literary Words: Poetic Justice

Justice involves what is fair and right. If a thief steals something from someone and is apprehended, we say that he is brought to *justice*. In other words, he pays for his crime—either he is punished and/or restores the money to the person he had stolen from. Readers often like to read stories with endings in which the injured character in some way receives justice, especially when the punishment of the wrong doer fits his crime. When a short story, novel, play or other work has such an ending, we say that there is *poetic justice*. Poetic justice is almost always a feature of fairy tales, as in the end the bad are punished and the good are rewarded, living happily ever after. Can you see the poetic justice in the the story “A Silent Witness”?

5. Writing Response

Choose one of the following sets of assignments.

Composition 1

1. Write a three- to five-sentence summary of “The Myth of Philemon and Baucis.” Be sure to include only information important to the main idea and write the summary in the present tense.
2. Consider why Philemon and Baucis were rewarded and write a definition essay on true hospitality. What is genuine hospitality and how does one show it?
 - Write one sentence as your introduction. You might think about how genuine hospitality is different from superficial entertaining, especially of important people.
 - Write a definition of genuine hospitality, which is *helping those in need, which may involve sacrificing your own comforts of home*.
 - Explain your definition using an example from your own personal experience, someone else’s experience, or from your reading of history.
 - Write a concluding sentence.

Composition 2

1. Write a ten- to fifteen-sentence summary of “The Silent Witness.” Be sure to include only information important to the main idea and write the summary in the present tense.
2. Write a tale of your own in which justice prevails.