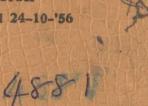
GRADED HOME READING BOOKS

SECOND SERIES

THE WINTER'S TALE

Approved, Vide D. P. I's Order No. L. Dis. 19995/56/A 13 dated 24-10-'56







F. I. EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS
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THE WINTER'S TALE

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A. SANKARA PILLAL, M. A., M. Ed.

Approved vide D. P. I' Order No. L. Dis 19995/56/A-13 dated 24-10-56.

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'The Winter's Tale' is the sixth of a series of six stories from Shakespeare written in simple English for the use of Standard IX pupils as home reading books. Only the words and sentence patterns used in the Detailed English Texts for Standards VI to VIII are introduced in this book. Whenever a new word is used its meaning is given at the foot of the page.

Self-administering tests are given at the end of every chapter and a final test covering the whole book, at the end. Teachers are requested to check up the library work of the pupils by making them write out the answers in their library note books.

'The Winter's Tale' is one of the last plays of Shakespeare. It is the story of a jealous king who thought that his faithful wife was not true to him and who also planned to kill his true friend. But in the end he understood his mistake and set matters right. The children of the two friends fall in love and get married. In this way old wrongs are forgotten while love and friendship grow from more to more.

Bright pupils may be encouraged to write out an appreciation of the play in their own words. The following points may be useful.

- 1. Name of toe play
- 2. Name of the dramatist
- 3. Nationality of the dramatist
- 4. Chief characters.
- 5. Chief incidents
- 6. Why they like the play.

THE WINTER'S TALE

1. LIONTES AND POLIXENES

To the south of Italy, in the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea, lies the beautiful island of Sicily. It is a lovely land of snow-covered hills and green valleys where fruit trees grow well.

In olden days there was a king in Sicily called Leontes. Outwardly he was a good man; but at heart he was very cruel and selfish. He had married Hermione, the beautiful daughter of the Emperor of Russia. She was a good and loving woman and they had a little son named Mamillius, a bright little boy.

Leontes had an old friend named Polixenes who was the king of Bohemia: They had lived together as little boys and when they grew up they were still the best of friends. Then Polixenes had to go back to Bohemia where he became king. For a long time the two friends could not meet again though they used to send letters very often. Then Leontes invited his friend to Sicily and Polixenes came and stayed with him for some time. When it was time for him to go back to Bohemia, Leontes became very sad and requested him to stay with him for some days more.

"Don't press me to stay, I beg you," said Polixenes, "I have to awaits me; so, farewell. ISLAM HIGH

As his friend would not agree to his request, Leontes turned to his good queen and asked her to try her best to make him stay for a week more.

"All's well in Bohemia," said Hermione, "so please stay with us for seven days more. Won't you?"

"I may not," said Polixenes.

"If you won't stay as my guest," said Hermione, "I will keep you as my prisoner. Now, tell me, whether you want to be my prisoner or my guest."

"Your guest, madam." said Polixenes.

"Then I'll be your hostess, not your jailor," said the queen.

Thus Hermione who was as clever as she was beautiful made Polixenes agree to stay on in Sicily. And from that moment, her troubles began.

When at the queen's request, his friend agreed to stay on, a great change came upon Leontes.

"At my request, he would not remain," said he to himself and he began to feel that Hermione and Polixenes loved each other more than they loved him. After this, everything they did filled him with evil thoughts and he began to hate them both. At

^{1.} hostess — one who receives a guest or visitor. (host, hostess)

last he became so mad with jealousy¹ that he made up his mind to kill his friend.

So the king called a nobleman named Camillo to his side and ordered him to poison² Polixenes. But Camillo was a good man who would do no evil to anyone. So when he got the king's order, he went to Polixenes and told him about Leonte's plans.

"Why does he want to murder me?" the king asked.

"Because he thinks you are in love with his queen," answered Camillo.

"I believe you," said Polixenes. "I knew from his face that he hated

^{1.} Jealousy—ill feeling at the good fortune of others.

^{2.} Poison-(v) kill by using poison.

me. My ships are ready to sail. I should have gone away two days ago."

Then he invited Camillo to go with him to Bohemia and as the nobleman was afraid that the king would kill him, if he stayed on in Sicily, he agreed to go with him. Together they got into the royal ship and sailed off northwards.

In this way they escaped from the hands of the cruel king of Sicily.

TEST.- Fill up the blanks choosing the correct words from those given in brackets.

- 1. Leontes was the king of (Bohemia, Sicily, Russia)
- 2. He had a friend called (Mamillius, Polixenes, Camillo) who was the king of Bohemia.
- 3. Polixenes paid his friend a visit and at the request of (Leontes, Hermione, Camillo) he agreed to stay for some days more.

- 4 Leontes thought (Camillo, Hermione, Mamillius) was not true to him and that she loved (him, his friend, the nobleman).
- 5. He told (Hermione, Camillo, Mamillius) to kill Polixenes; but he helped him to escape from Sicily.

2. HERMIONE AND PAULINA

When Leontes learned that Polixenes had escaped from Sicily, he grew wild with anger. As Polixenes was out of his reach, all his anger turned against poor Hermione.

At that time the good queen was sitting in her room playing with her little son. Her ladies sat by her side and the prince was telling them a story.

"I shall tell you the story of some evil spirits," said the little boy thinking he would frighten the ladies. "But I shall tell it so softly that even the mice shall not hear it."

Then he began the story. "Once there was a man," said he, "who lived near the churchyard."

Just then the door opened and Leontes who was mad with anger came in. He turned to Hermione and spoke cruelly to her. He said that she was unfaithful to him and loved Polixenes. He ordered his men to take her and shut her up in prison. The queen who was expecting another baby before long was carried off to prison.

Little Mamillius was filled with sorrow when he saw the cruel soldiers taking his mother away. He became very ill and would neither eat nor sleep. As the days went by he grew thinner and thinner and it was elear that he would die. Yet his cruel father would not send him to his mother or do anything to make him happy.

Meanwhile the king sent two of his noblemen to the temple of Appollo in Delphi. Delphi is a place in Greece and in olden days people believed that the priest of Appollo at Delphi, could look into the future and foretell everything. Leontes wanted him to say whether Hermione was a good wife who was true to her husband.

But before the two noblemen came back from Delphi, a little daughter was born to Hermione in prison. As she looked upon the sweet face of the little baby she was filled with joy.

"My poor little prisoner," she said to the baby, "I am as innocent as you are."

Hermione had a good friend called Paulina who was fearless and honest, though not very wise. She was the wife of a great nobleman called Antigonus. She knew that the queen was a true and faithful wife who had done no wrong to the king. When the baby was born, she made up her mind to do what she could to help the queen.

"I shall take the little baby to her father," said Paulina, "and when he sees her sweet face he will forget his anger and be good to his queen."

So she took the baby from her mother and carried her to the palace.

The king's servants would not allow her to enter the king's room; but she pushed her way into it and placed the baby at his feet.

"The good queen," she said, "has brought you forth a daughter. Here it is. She requests you to bless it."

But Paulina's words made the king more angry than ever. He spoke cruelly to the kind lady and drove her out of the room. The hard-hearted king turned away from the smiling baby at his feet and ordered Antgonus to take the little one away and put her to death.

"For," said he, "she is not my child. And if you don't kill her I'll put you to death."

Antigonus requested the king not to be so cruel, but Lèontes ordered him to take the baby to some far-off land and leave her where she would be eaten up by some wild animal or die of hunger and cold. Antigonus promised to do so and taking the little girl in his arms he left the room.

"It is better to kill her now," said he, "than let the wild animals eat her up." Yet he hoped that even wild animals would take pity on her and nurse her. Perhaps some kind man or woman would see the child and bring her up. So he got into a ship and sailed away to a far-off land where he could leave the little child to die. TEST: Fill up the blanks choosing the correct words from those given in brackets.

- 1. Leontes put the queen (in prison, to death)
- 2. Mamillius fell ill when his (sister, mother, friend) was taken away from him.
- 3. A little (boy, girl, son) was born to Hermione in prison.
- 4. Paulina took the baby to (Antigonus, Mamillius, Leontes) but he drove her away.
- 5. He ordered (Paulina, Antigonus, Mamillius) to put the baby to death).

3. THE DEATH OF MAMILLIUS

The hard-hearted king did not take pity on the queen, even after Antigonus had gone off with her little baby. He called the lords and noblemen of Sicily together and ordered them to try the queen. Hermonie was brought before the court of justice and was accused of being unfaithful to the king, her husband, and also of helping Polixenes and Camillo to escape from Sicily.

The poor queen who was very weak and ill begged the king to take pity on her and be kind to her.

"God who sees everything knows that I have done no wrong," she said, "you best know my past life and how pure and true I am."

She told him that she had never been false to him and was ready to die if she had done any wrong. She added that she was unhappy because her little baby had been taken away from

to try—ന്യയവിസ്താരം ചെയ്യുക. accuse—blame, കാറം ചുമത്തുക

her and put to death. She was not even allowed to see' her beloved son Mamillius, who was very ill and might die. But the cruel king would not take pity upon her and spoke to her more cruelly than before. Then Hermione said that she would like to hear what the priest of Apollo had to say about her.

So the two noblemen who had returned from Delphi with a sealed letter from the priest of Apollo, were called in. They gave the letter to the officer who broke the seal and began to read.

'Hermione has done no wrong. Polixenes and Camillo are true and honest and the innocent babe is truly the king's own. But Leontes is a cruel and jealous man and he shall have no

child, if that which is lost is not found."

Hermione was happy when she heard the words of the priest. But the king would not believe the message.

"There is no truth at all in this," he cried, "Go on with the trial and punish the queen."

At this moment a man came running into the hall. "My lord the king," he cried, "the prince, your son, is gone."

"How! gone?" asked the king.

"He is dead," said the man.

The little prince who was ill had heard that the king might put his mother to death. It broke his heart and he died.

Everybody felt that the gods were

angry with the cruel king for the wicked things he had done. Even Leontes began to feel that he was wrong.

"Apollo is angry," he said, "and the gods punish me."

When Hermione heard that her beloved son was dead, she fell down and lay as if dead.

"The queen is dead," cried Paulina who was standing by her side. "The news of her son's death has killed her."

Leontes now felt sorry for all he had done and made up his mind to set matters right. But nothing that he could do, would bring his dear little son back to life. He was gone for ever.

He told Paulina to take the queen away to her room.

"Her heart is broken," said he, "but she will come back to life. Take good care of her."

Then he fell on his knees and prayed to Apollo to forgive him.

"Pardon me, O Apollo," he cried,
"I will ask the queen to forgive me.
I will recall Camillo and beg Polixenes
to be my friend again."

Meanwhile Paulina who had carried away the queen came back.

"The queen is dead," said she. "The sweetest, dearest lady is dead."

Then, she told him how his wickedness and blind jealously had brought all those sufferings on himself

and on all those who loved him. It was only right that he should be punished for the wrongs he had done.

"Go on, go on," said the unhappy king. "You cannot say too much, for I know that I am the most wicked man in the world."

From that day Leontes was a changed man. He shut himself up in his room, sorrowing for the wife and son whom he had killed by his unkindness. Every day he would go to the place where they were buried and sit weeping by the grave.

Test.- Fill up the blanks choosing the correct words from those given in brackets.

1. Leontes had the queen tried by the (lords, judges, priests).

2. The priest of the temple of Apollo at (Sicily, Delphi, Rome) wrote that the queen was innocent; but the king (would, would not) believe it.

- 3. Mamillius died when he heard that (Antigonus, Paulina, Hermione) would be put to death.
- 4. The queen heard the news of her son's death and (died, swooned, killed, herself)
- 5. After this (Leontes, Paulina, Apollo) felt sorry for the wrongs he had done.

4. PERDITA

Many days passed; yet Antigonus who had set sail with the little baby did not return home. He crossed the sea and came to a far-off place on the coast of Bohemia. It was a rocky shore where many wild animals lived; but before he could land a fierce storm arose. The wind blew fiercely and the waves rose up like mountains. The captain told Antigonus, that if he wished to land and leave the baby there, he should do so quickly.

"It is going to be a fierce storm," said he, "and there are many wild animals in this place. Leave the baby on the rock and come back quickly."

So Antigonus landed on the rocky shore with the baby in his arms. Slowly and sadly he went ashore and left her among the rocks. He named the girl Perdita. He wrote the name on a piece of paper and pinned it on to her frock. By her side he placed a box in which were gold and other costly things.

"Sweet flower," said he, "may God save you."

Then he turned away from there with the hope that some kind man would save her from the wild animals

and bring her up as his own daughter.

But before Antigonus could get back to the ship, a fierce bear saw him and ran up to kill him. The man ran as fast as he could; but the bear overtook him and tore him to pieces.

That was why Antigonus did not return home after leaving the child on the rocky shore.

Meanwhile little Perdita who lay helpless on the rock cried aloud. But the wind was so strong that even the wild animals that lived nearby could not hear her. Then an old shepherd who was looking for lost sheep came that way. He heard the cry and came up to see what it was.

"Good luck," cried he, "what

tear-tore-torn.

have we here? A child; a beautiful child."

Then he called out to his son and a boy came running up.

"If you want to see a wonderful sight," said the old man, "look here."

But the boy was so frightened that he did not hear his father's words.

"I have seen two fearful sights, by sea and land," said the boy. "On the sea, I saw a ship driven here and there in the storm. Sometimes it rose up so high on the waves that it seemed to touch the moon. At other times, it sank so low that the waves seemed to cover it up. The poor sailors cried out for help. But the cruel sea laughed

at them. In a few minutes the ship was broken to pieces and all of them were drowned."1

"And on land," he added, "I saw a fierce bear tearing a man to pieces. He called out to me for help and said that he was a nobleman from Sicily and his name was Antigonus."

"You speak to me of things dying," said the old shepherd. "Here, I have something new born. Look at its beautiful clothes. There is a box by its side. Take it, Open it and see what is inside."

The boy opened the box and they saw that it was filled with gold and other costly things.

"This is fairy gold," cried the

^{1.} died in the water.

old man. "The fairies have made us rich. Let us take the things home and tell nobody about it."

The good shepherd took the little princess home and gave her to his wife who brought her up as her own daughter. Before long he sold everything he had and went away to a far-off place where he lived like a rich shepherd. Nodody knew how he had got his riches and everybody thought that the little girl was his daughter. Perdita believed that he was her father and loved him dearly. Yet her face and ways showed that she was born in a noble family.

TEST. Fill up the blanks choosing the correct words from those given in brackets.

1. Antigonus reached a rocky shore in the country of (Sicily, Greece, Bohemia)

- 2. The ship in which he came was (broken to pieces, taken by robbers, sold to a merchants)
- 3. Antigonus named the little baby (Paulina, Perdita, Hermione).
- 4. Antigonus was killed by a (shepherd, boy, bear).
- 5. Perdita was saved by (the captain, Antigonus, a shepherd).
- 6. Everydody thought that she was the (king's Antigonus', shepherd's) daughter

5. THE LOVERS

Sixteen years went by and Perdita grew up into a beautiful girl. She was the loveliest girl in all the country. When she was sixteen years old a handsome young man happened to see her. He was dressed like a hunter and he called himself Doricles. But really he was prince Florizel whose father was none other than Polixenes, king of Bohemia, who had escaped from Sicily with the help of Camillo. Even at first sight Florizel fell in love with Perdita and she loved him in return.

As days passed by, Florizel fell more deeply in love with her. Often he came to see her and stayed long with her. They were so happy together that the prince absented himself from court very often. His father, the king, found it out. He asked his old friend Camillo to find out where the prince was going so often. Soon Camillo discovered the truth and told the king about the beautiful shepherdess with whom the prince had fallen in love.

"Let us change our clothes so that

no one may know who we are," said Camillo to the king. "Then we shall go to the house of the shepherdess and see everything for ourselves."

Polixenes agreed to this. So they disguised themselves and went to the house where Perdita lived. It was the time when shepherds cut the wool from their sheep. It is called sheep-shearing and the shepherd who was a rich man was giving a feast to the sheep-shearers. The feast was going on when the king came to the place with Camillo. The shepherd saw them and invited them to come in and take part in the feast.

Prince Florizel who called himself Doricles was already there, and he sat apart talking with the beautiful Camillo came in, they saw the prince and Perdita and it was elear to them that Florizel had fallen deeply in love with the girl. "I bless the time when first I came this way and happened to see you," said Florizel. "But I am afraid," said Perdita, "that your father too may come this way. How angry he will be when he sees you with me!"

"Fear not," said the prince. "I will be yours, my beautiful Perdita. For I cannot be mine own if I am not yours."

It was at this moment that the king came in.

"Come," said the shepherd to Perdita, "and welcome these gentleman. When my old wife was alive she used to do everything herself. She would cook, wait upon the guests, sing and dance till her face became red like fire. But you sit apart and people will think that you are not my daughter."

On hearing this Perdita came forward to welcome the king and his friend. She presented each of them with a bunch of flowers and welcomed them warmly.

All that she said and all that she did was so lovely that even the king was pleased with her.

"This is the most beautiful shepherdess I have ever seen," said he to Camillo. "Everything she says or does is noble for its place."

"Truly," said Camillo, "she is queen of shepherdesses."

Soon the dance began. Perdita danced with the prince and it was so beautiful that they began to like her more and more.

"How well she dances!" said the king to the shepherd. "She does everything well," said the shepherd proudly. "When young Doricles marries her, he will be lucky. For she will bring him more riches and han he dreams of."

The shepherd meant that he would give the gold and other costly things which he had found in the box to the man who married Perdita.

The king then spoke to Florizel. And the prince who did not know to whom he was talking told his father how dearly he loved Perdita.

"Come, Perdita," said he, "Give me your hand and let these good gentlemen know that I am going to marry you. For I love you more than all the world."

On hearing this, the king turned to his son and asked, "Have you not a father?"

"I have," answered the prince.

"Does he know of this?" asked the king.

"He neither knows, nor shall he know," said the prince.

"It is unkind and wrong not to tell him," said the king.

"Yet there are very good reasons why he should not know of it."

At this, the king threw off the disguise that he had worn and the prince saw his own father standing before him!

"If you see this girl again," cried the angry king, "you shall never become king of Bohemia."

"And if you let my son look upon you again," he added turning to Perdita, "I will put you and your father to death."

So saying he left the place in great anger.

The old shepherd was filled with fear when he heard the king's words but Perdita was brave and fearless.

"I was not much afraid of him," said she. "Once or twice I was about

to tell him that the sun that shines upon his court does not hide his face from our poor hut but looks on both alike."

But she did not want Florizel to quarrel with his father.

"Please go away," said she to the prince. "I will not dream again of becoming queen, but will remain a shepherdess milking my cows and sheep."

Camillo who had stayed behind saw how deeply they loved each other and made up his mind to help them. He told them that he would take them to Sicily where Leontes would welcome them gladly. They could stay there till Polixenes forgave them and called them back to Bohemia. Florizel and Perdita gladly agreed to this. At once they set sail to Sicily where Leontes received them gladly. He was pleased with Perdita who was very much like Hermione whose untimely death filled him with sorrow.

When the old shepherd came to know of this, he began to think that Perdita might be the daughter of Leontes and Hermione. So he told them how he had found her on the rocky shore, showed them the rich clothes and the box which had been left by her side. When the king saw the piece of paper on which Perdita's name was written, he knew the handwriting was that of Antigonus. It was now clear that Perdita was none other than his own dear daughter whom he had thrown away sixteen years ago.

The king was filled with joy when he got back the daughter whom he had lost.

TEST:- Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

- The prince who fell in love with Perdita was (Florizel, Camillo, Polixenes)
- 2. The king came to Perdita's house with (Florizel, Camillo, Leontes)
- 3. Camillo helped the lovers to escape to (Bohemia, Greece, Sicily)
- 4. Leontes learned that Perdita was his own (sister, daughter, queen)

6. HERMIONE

Meanwhile the king of Bohemia came to Sicily to take his son home. At first he was very angry; but when he learned that Perdita was the

daughter of his old friend, the king of Sicily, he was filled with joy and allowed his son to marry her.

Leontes was very happy when his daughter came back to him. But he was filled with sorrow, for Perdita recalled to his mind the good Hermione whom he had treated so unkindly and lost for ever.

"Oh your mother, your mother," cried he when he looked at Perdita who was exactly like her mother.

When Paulina heard this, she took pity on the poor king and said that she had made a beautiful statue of Hermione which was exactly like her. Those who saw it would think

I. statue-figure of a person carved on stone or marble.

that it was Hermione come back to life.

As the two kings wished to see the wonderful statue, Paulina took them to the chapel where it was kept. Pardita, Florizel and Camillo also went with them to see it. Then Paulina stepped forward and removed the cloth that covered the statue. What they saw was so exactly like Hermione that all of then were filled with wonder.

Leon. Her natural posture!

Chide me dear stone, that I may say indeed

Thou art Hermione; or rather, thou art she

In thy not chiding, for she was as tender

As infancy and grace. But yet Paulina,

chapel-place of Christian worship.
 (esp, attached to house or institution)

Hermione was not so much wrinkled, nothing

So aged as this seems.

"That is because of the cleverness of the man who made it," said Paulina. "He has made her look sixteen years older than she was when we saw her last."

Leon. O thus she stood

Even with such life of majesty, warm life,

As now it coldly stands, when first I woo'd her!

I am ashamed: does not the stone rebuke me

For being more stone than it? O royal piece,

There's magic in thy majesty, which has

My evils conjured to remembrance and

From thy admiring daughter took the spirits,

Standing like stone with thee.

Leontes liked it so much that he stepped forward to kiss its hand and Perdita wanted to kneel before it and then implore her blessing. But Paulina stopped them. "The colour is still wet," she said. "Shall I cover it up now?"

"Don't cover it up," cried the king. "I could look on it for twenty years. It looks as if she is breathing."

"My lord," said Paulina, "If you want I can make the statue move. It will come down from its stand and take you by the hand."

"Make her do whatever you can, I am glad to look on," said he. "If you wish to see her move, stand still," said Paulina.

Then she ordered music to be played. At the sound of music the statue began to move. "It is time," cried Paulina. "Come down. Be stone no more."

Then a wonderful thing happened. The statue began to move. It came down and put its arms round the king's neck.

"Oh, she is warm," cried Leontes kissing her.

Then Camillo requested Paulina to make her speak. Thereupon she told Perdita to come forward and kneel before it. "Turn, good lady," said Paulina to the statue, "Our Perdita is found."

When Perdita knelt down before the statue, it began to speak.

"O gods, look down," said she, "and pour your blessings on my daughter's head."

It was now clear to everyone that it was not a statue but Hermione herself. It was the hope that her daughter Perdita was alive and might be found that had kept the queen alive all those years.

Everyone was now happy. Old sorrows were forgotten. Friends who had turned enemies became friends again. Their friendship grew more when the daughter of the one married the son of the other. Even Paulina, who had lost her husband, found a new lord when the good Camillo took her as his wife and was happy. But

happiest of all was King Leontes who got back his beloved wife and his beautiful daughter.

TEST.- Fill up the blanks choosing the correct words from those given in brackets.

- 1. Polizen es allowed his son to marry Perdita when he learned that she was the daughter of (Antigonus, the shepherd, Leontes)
- 2. Hermione was not dead, but alive and she was living in the house of (Polixenes, Paulina, Perdita)
- 3. Paulina showed the king the statue, which was really (the statue, Hermione, an idol).
- 4. Paulina became the wife of (Polixenes, Camillo, the shepherd)

FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given in barckets.

- 1. 'The Winter's Tale' is a (novel, play, poem) by William Shakespeare
- 2. It is the story of Leontes, king of (Sicily, Bohemia) and his wife, (Hermione, Paulina).

- 3. The king thought that the queen was false to him and loved his friend, (Antigonus, Polixenes, Camillo).
- 4. He planned to kill his friend, but he escaped with the help of Paulina, Hermione, Camillo).
- 5. Leontes put his wife in prison and had her (baby, son, daughter) cast away on a lonely shore.
- 6. He brought the queen to trial, but the priest of Apollo at (Sicily, Delphi, Rome) found her (innocent, guilty.)
- 7. The king did not believe it; then his son, (Perdita, Mamillius, Florizel) died.
- 8. It was believed that (Polixenes, Hermione, Camillo) was also dead; and the king felt sorry for the wrongs he had done.
- 9. Perdita was saved by (Antigonus, Florizel, the shepherd,) and she grew up as his (sister, daughter).
- 10. Prince (Mamillius, Florizel) fell in love with Perdita, and they ran off to (Bohemia, Sicily) to escape from his father.
- 11. Leontes learned that (Perdita, Paulina) was his own daughter and Polixenes allowed his son to marry her.
- 12. Leontes got back his wife and Paulina married (Polixenes, Camillo).







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