

PHILEMON AND BAUCIS

Note: The transactional processes suggested in CISCE curriculum are highlighted in grey.

Learning Outcomes

- To get familiar with Greek mythology
- To recognise and list the good qualities of the main characters
- To note how Philemon and Baucis were different from others
- To organise the events in the story sequentially
- To infer that good deeds are rewarded

Pre-reading



This focusses on *assessment for learning*. Students learn that guests should be made welcome when they visit us.

A. Students are led into the idea that we generally serve special food for guests and that they are special.

Discuss with the class:

- what they have at other people's homes when they visit them.
- what they serve guests at home.

Let students do the task.

B. Students learn that there are certain *dos* and *don'ts* that need to be followed when guests come home.

Ask students:

How should we behave when guests are at home? How can we help our parents when we have guests?

Let students:

- tick their preferred options.
- say why they did not tick the other statements.

READING

Students read to comprehend, predict and analyse

Play the audio / Read the text and pause at relevant points to explain / check comprehension.

Encourage students to identify the qualities of Philemon and Baucis, with supporting details, during the course of the reading session. This will help students develop analytical skills.

- *Long ago, in a village...beggars standing there.*

Explain

- that the story is a tale from Greek mythology.
- what mythology is. (Mythology is a collection of stories about a specific person, culture, religion)

Ask students:

Who was visiting the village? How did the people prepare themselves for the Gods? Why did they ignore the beggars? Why did the old couple open the door, eagerly?

Analytical question:

Prompt-question	Words that describe Philemon and Baucis	Which part of the text tells you this?
How will you describe Philemon and Baucis?	Helpful	always ready to help anyone in need



Who did Philemon and Baucis expect to see at the door? (Philemon and Baucis expected to see Zeus and Hermes at the door.)

- We are hungry...served their guests.



Can you guess who the beggars could be? (Free response. Let students predict)

Ask students:

Why had Philemon and Baucis not eaten anything? How did they welcome the beggars?

Analytical question:

Prompt-question	Words that describe Philemon and Baucis	Which part of the text tells you this?
What did Philemon and Baucis do when they saw the beggars at their doorstep? How did they treat them?	kind-hearted, generous, hospitable	These men... help them; invited the beggars... best dishes

- That night...leafy shade.

Tell students about:

- the wish that was granted for their selfless behaviour.
- why they wished to be together. (They loved each other and did not want to be separated.)
- how they served the gods.
- what happened to Baucis and Philemon and how they continue to serve people, true to their nature.

What would you ask for? (Free response)

Analytical question:

Prompt-question	Words that describe Philemon and Baucis	Which part of the text supports your answer/ tells you this?
Where did they sleep? Why? What did they wish for? Where did they live for the rest of their lives? What did they do there?	selfless; caring; God-fearing/pious	gave their only bed... live and die together; served the gods for many years

Post-reading

Pair work:

Let students write a paragraph describing Philemon and Baucis with supporting details from the text.

GRAMMAR

Uncountable nouns

Write the following on the board:

an apple two cars ten children fifty pens

Let students help you underline the nouns.

Ask students, what the above list tells them about the nouns. Elicit from students that the list tells us how many of each are there.

Now write the following words on the board:

milk sand sugar luggage water

Discuss with the class, whether it is possible to count/measure the things listed above, by adding a number to it.

Ask students:

Can we say I drank one milk or I saw five waters?

Elicit/Tell students: We cannot! This is because there are some nouns that cannot be counted by adding a number before them.

Tell students:

Nouns that cannot be counted using numbers are called **uncountable nouns**. We must use other countable nouns to count/measure uncountable nouns.

Example: *Three glasses of milk / Two pieces of luggage / One teaspoon of sugar*

VOCABULARY

Feeling words

Ask students a few general questions on how they feel when:

- their friends do not include them in their games (*sad*)
- at home they are not allowed to play during play-time / watch their favourite cartoon show (*angry / upset*)
- they get gifts all of a sudden (*surprised and excited*)
- they break something accidentally (*worried*)
- they get good marks in their test (*happy*)

Write the target words on the board. Explain that these words talk about how we **feel** at certain times.

Guide them to do the exercise in the Reader.

SPEAKING

Polite requests

The speaking task focusses on *assessment as learning*. Students learn how to talk politely and respond to polite requests while they role-play the tasks with their partners.

Explain to the class that

- by being polite, we show that we are respectful and considerate of other people.
- we should show polite behaviour when we ask others for something.
- we should not forget to thank after the work is done.



Generate a discussion on why we should speak in a polite manner.

- we build good relationships with friends and classmates.
- people may readily do what we ask them to do.

Let students role-play the tasks.

Monitor the activity.

WRITING

Writing a tale with picture prompts

Explain that / Recap

- a story generally has a *beginning*, a *middle* and an *end*.
- the *beginning* introduces the characters /tells us who the characters are and where they are.
- the *middle* tells us more about what the characters are doing, their actions and reactions.
- the *ending* completes the story. It may generally end with a moral, teaching, a lesson to be learnt or even a message.

Generate a discussion on what the pictures are about.

Ask students:

- *Who do you see in the pictures?*
- *What is the man selling?*
- *Does the elephant like the bananas?*
- *Is the man kind or unkind?*
- *What happens in the end?*
- *Does the story have a message?*

Let students write the story.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

Philemon and Baucis

Pre-reading

A. Free response

B. a, d, e

Comprehension

- A.
1. gods
 2. hungry, tired
 3. gold
 4. floor, bed
 5. trees

- B.** 1. The two beggars wanted help. Everybody was busy because they were getting ready for the gods to arrive.
 2. Philemon and Baucis felt pity. So, they invited the beggars in and fed them the food that they had prepared for the gods.
 3. The strange things were that the dishes that the beggars touched turned to gold, the milk jug was always full and the loaf of bread stayed the same size.
 4. The faces of Zeus and Hermes were as bright as the sun.
 5. Zeus said these words because he was very pleased with the way Philemon and Baucis behaved.
- C.** 1. Zeus and Hermes visited the village dressed like beggars because they wanted to know which of the villagers was generous and kind.
Suggested answer. Accept any logical answer.
 2. This tells us that they were not greedy for things and they understood the importance of love.
Suggested answer. Accept any logical answer.
 3. *Free response*

Grammar

A. 2. C 3. UC 4. UC 5. UC 6. C 7. UC 8. C 9. UC 10. C

B. 2. tea 3. cream 4. rice 5. glue 6. butter

Vocabulary

1. cheerful 2. scared 3. angry 4. worried 5. grateful

Listening

Listening text

Listen to an old Greek story. As you listen, complete the passage.

Once upon a time, there was a man named Daedalus. He and his son, Icarus, had been put in prison by King Minos. Daedalus tried to think of ways to escape. One day, Daedalus saw birds flying above. It gave him an idea. Daedalus began to collect all the bird feathers he saw. He glued them together with wax. Soon two pairs of wings were ready for Icarus and himself. He warned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun or the wax would melt. Daedalus tied the wings to their arms. They flapped their wings and started flying. It was lovely! Icarus felt very happy. He flew higher and higher. He flew so high that the hot sun melted the wax on his wings. Icarus started to fall as the wings broke. Poor Icarus fell into the water and drowned.

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|---|--|-------------|
| 1. prison | 2. One day, Daedalus saw birds flying above. | 3. feathers |
| 4. Soon two pairs of wings were ready for Icarus and himself. | | 5. sun |
| 6. arms | 7. It was lovely | 8. water |

Writing

The Elephant and the Fruit-seller

One day, a big elephant stopped in front of a fruit shop. The elephant was hungry so he reached out and tried to take some fruits. The fruit-seller got angry. He beat the elephant

with a stick. The elephant went away to a dirty pond. He collected water in his trunk. He went back to the shop and emptied the dirty water on the fruit-seller.

Suggested answer. Accept any logical answer.

Dictionary Work

1. dish : a container in which food is served or eaten
2. feast: a large meal, usually to celebrate something special
3. grand: very large and special
4. guest: someone who comes to visit you in your home or to a party
5. house: a place where people live, usually as a family
6. shade: an area where there is no light from the sun and it is darker and not as hot
7. village: a place where people live, away from the city and smaller than a town

QUESTION BANK

Philemon and Baucis

A. Answer the questions.

1. What did the people do when they heard that Zeus and Hermes were visiting the village?

Ans: When the people heard that Zeus and Hermes were visiting their village, they cooked a grand feast and decorated their houses to make the gods happy.

2. Why were Philemon and Baucis surprised to see the beggars?

Ans: Philemon and Baucis were surprised to see the beggars because they were eagerly waiting for the gods and did not expect anyone else at the door.

B. Choose the right answer.

The people of the village did not help the beggars because they

- a. did not like beggars in their village.
- b. had no time for them.
- c. wanted Philemon and Baucis to feed them.

Ans: b

C. Read the lines and answer the questions.

We only want to live and die together.

- a. Who said these words?
- b. Who were they talking to?
- c. When did they say these words?

Ans: a. Philemon and Baucis said these words.

b. They were talking to Zeus, the king of gods.

c. They said these words when Zeus told them that he would grant them anything they wished for.

D. Think and answer.

What tells us that Philemon and Baucis were kind-hearted and generous people?

Ans: Even though Philemon and Baucis had not eaten, they readily gave the food to the beggars when they heard that they were hungry. They even let them sleep on their beds while they slept on the floor.