SOUTHWEST Shakespeare

proudly presents

PERICLES
Prince of Tyre

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Student Guide

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with any questions, concerns, or more fascinating Shakespeare trivia
PERICLES PRINCE OF TYRE

quick facts.

MOST COMMON
NOUNS- gods, daughter, sea
VERBS- come, like, give
ADJECTIVES- fair, noble, poor

are you ready for a...
ROMANCE?!

Words change meaning over time. Romance is one of those words. In Elizabethan England, the word 'romance' was used to describe a story that is strange or mysterious; akin to a fairytale. Shakespearean Romances all have a few things in common: long journeys, fathers and daughters, happy endings, elements of magic, adventure, and an emphasis on time and the life cycle. And did I mention shipwrecks? Lots of shipwrecks. PERICLES alone has two. See if you notice the similarities by reading one of Shakespeare's other romances: THE TEMPEST, THE WINTER'S TALE, or CYMBELINE.

Though PERICLES isn't as well known a name today, like HAMLET or ROMEO AND JULIET, back in the 17th century PERICLES was all the rage. This title was published at least 5 times in roughly a 30 year span. This doesn't seem like a big deal today, but consider the cost and printing technology back then.

PERICLES is based on the story Apollonius of Tyre; a Greek romance that dates all the way back to the 3rd century. This story is 18 CENTURIES old!

RHYMING RIVAL
ODE (TO HIMSELF) threw this excerpt from "No doubt some mouldy tale, this 1629 poem Like Pericles; and stale
As the Shrieve's crusts, and nasty as his fish—"

A SCHOLARLY DEBATE
PERICLES is considered to be a collaborative piece amongst literary scholars and editors (though the editors over in Cambridge think this is all a bunch of blather). It is generally accepted that Shakespeare is responsible for Acts 3-5 while Acts 1-2 are attributed to George Wilkins. Do you notice a difference in the writing or storytelling once Marina is born?
PERICLES is the first of Shakespeare's Late Period of writing; the era during which he became all about romance. Thanks to performance records listing a public performance of PERICLES on 20 May 1608, we know that the play was written between 1606-1608. It was published in a Quarto the following year, but was not included in the 1623 First Folio publication because of its question of authorship. However, by 1664, it appeared in the third publication of the Folio. The tell-tale sign of a romance is some sort of magic or miracle. In the show summary below, miraculous moments will be noted in ALL CAPS.

1 We begin in Antioch where our hero, Pericles solves a deadly riddle in order to win the hand of King Antiochus' daughter. Because the riddle reveals a deadly secret about the King, Pericles flees to his home of Tyre. After explaining the situation to his friend, Helicanus, he is advised to travel abroad to escape certain death. Pericles travels to Tarsus just out of the assassin, Thaliard's reach. Pericles arrives in Tarsus where he solves a famine crisis and befriends Cleon, the Governor of Tarsus and his wife, Dionyza.

2 Pericles sails from Tarsus and is shipwrecked on Pentapolis where he joins a royal tournament in disguise, is victorious, and subsequently wins the hand of King Simonides' daughter, Thaisa. Back in Tyre, the lords invite Helicanus to be their ruler because Pericles has vanished, but his ever faithful friend proposes Pericles be given a year to return.

3 Pericles and Thaisa are now married, expecting a child and decide it's time to go home to Tyre. While en route, the ship is caught in a storm, causing Thaisa to go into labor and apparently die during childbirth. The sailors insist her casket be thrown overboard to calm the storm. Pericles then leads the ship back to Tarsus to put his new daughter, Marina, under the care of his friends Cleon and Dionyza. Meanwhile, Thasia's casket washes ashore in Ephesus and SHE IS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE by the doctor Cerimon.

4 14 years later, Marina has grown more beautiful than the daughter of her caretakers and Dionyza plots to murder her. Right before the dastardly deed, pirates swoop in and kidnap Marina. Reports reach Pericles that Marina has died; in his sorrow, he vows never to wash his face or cut his hair and sets sail. We learn that Marina is sold to a brothel in Mytilene.

5 Pericles' ship is blown off course and he ends up in Mytilene. Governor Lysimachus learns of Pericles' grief and sends Marina to sing to him. Eventually the two realize their familial connection and rejoice. THE GODDESS DIANA APPEARS TO PERICLES IN A VISION and advises him to go to her temple in Ephesus, where, unknown to him, Thasia has become a priestess. While there, Thasia hears the voice of her long lost husband, faints, and as she wakes and speaks, Pericles recognizes her voice, and the family is reunited!
Characters listed by location.

NOTE: there are ancillary characters not listed. And pirates. It's a surprise where they come in.

**Antioch**
(A deadly riddle is solved and the adventure begins!)
ANTIOCHUS- the King of Antioch not a good person
HIS DAUGHTER-the prize for solving the deadly riddle
THALIARD-bribed by the king to kill Pericles

**Pentapolis**
Where Pericles washes ashore, jousts and wins the hand of Thasia.
SIMONIDES-King of Pentapolis
THAISA-his daughter

**Tarsus**
Where Pericles fixes a famine and brings Marina to be looked after
CLEON-Governor of Tarsus
DIONYZA- Cleon’s wife.
Not a good person
MARINA-our hero’s daughter
LEONINE-hired by Dionyza to kill Mrina

**Tyre**
The home of our Hero
PERICLES-our seafaring hero
HELICANUS- Pericles' best friend. Takes care of Tyre while Pericles is away.

**Ephesus**
Where Thaisa washes ashore and becomes a priestess
CERMION- a Lord of Ephesus. Dabbles in magic
PHILEMON- servant to Cermion

Also various lords, ladies, servants, fishermen, knights, pirates, and the goddess Diana.

*Fun Fact*
That guy is John Gower. He is the narrator of PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE and also a real English poet and contemporary of Geoffery Chaucer. His work CONFESSIO AMANTIS (1393) follows the story of Apollonius of Tyre and is a primary source of PERICLES.
Shakespeare loved locations. If you were to look at a map today to try and chart the travels of Pericles, you would not have much luck. These ancient cities were all around during the Roman Empire. Compare these maps below:

Now check out this modern map with the ancient cities marked. Pericles was set in modern day North Africa, Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey!