

A WINTER'S TALE ~~MAD~~ BARD LIBS

BASED ON A SYNOPSIS BY RESIDENT
DRAMATURG PHILIPPA KELLY

WE DECIDED TO CREATE A MAD LIBS-STYLE PUZZLE FOR THIS PRODUCTION PROGRAM FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

- 1 They're fun.
- 2 They're easy to do with friends while picnicking before the show, or with your kids at intermission.

- 3 Besides being sisters and frequent creative collaborators, *A Winter's Tale* Director Patricia McGregor and Movement Director Paloma McGregor were roommates for a long time. They are also big Mad Libs fans: Patricia told us that when they disagree—even if they're not speaking to one another—they do Mad Libs together to break the ice.

It all begins in _____, kingdom of King Leontes. Various servants herald the entrance of
COUNTRY NAME 1

Leontes; his heavily _____ wife, Hermione; and his childhood _____, Polixenes, King
ADJECTIVE NOUN
of _____.
COUNTRY NAME 2

Leontes begs Polixenes to stay _____ longer; Polixenes says he can't. Leontes _____
AMOUNT OF TIME PRESENT-TENSE VERB
while Hermione presses his _____. Polixenes relents, agreeing to stay; and, out of nowhere, Leontes decides
PRESENT-TENSE VERB
that because he didn't _____ and his wife did, there has to be something going on between the two of them.
VERB

Leontes gives birth to this suspicion; his imagination does the rest. Leontes orders Polixenes gone; he sends Hermione to
_____, where she delivers a baby girl; Leontes sends the child away to be killed and asks an
PLACE
_____ to tell him the truth of what has gone on; the _____ confirms that Hermione
NOUN SAME NOUN
was true to her husband. But it's too late: Leontes' pre-teen _____ dies of grief and _____;
NOUN EMOTION
Hermione falls in a swoon and her servant reports that she, too, has died. Antigonus, charged with murdering the infant, leaves
her on the coast of _____ instead. A _____ chases and kills him. The baby is found by a
COUNTRY NAME 2 KIND OF ANIMAL
_____.
PROFESSION

Sixteen years later, the infant, Perdita, has been raised by the _____ in the forests of _____.
SAME PROFESSION COUNTRY NAME 2
One day King Polixenes' son, Florizel, sees her and falls in love with her. Polixenes and his servant Camillo (who was once Leontes'
servant) attend, in disguise, the _____ of Florizel and Perdita. Polixenes tears off his disguise and orders his son
EVENT
never to see this lowly _____ again. Florizel and Perdita escape to _____. Florizel is
NOUN COUNTRY NAME 1
embraced by the _____ Leontes, who has _____ his actions for the last 16 years. Florizel
ADJECTIVE PAST-TENSE VERB
soothes Leontes' _____ and remorse by telling him he's on a mission from his father to bury the
EMOTION
_____.
TOOL

Florizel's cover is blown when his _____ father arrives, along with Camillo, who longs to see his
ADJECTIVE
homeland again. The story unravels itself. We find that Perdita is in truth Leontes' long-lost _____ daughter; that
ADJECTIVE
Hermione is not dead, but safely maintained by her loyal servant Paulina all these years; and that Leontes can now have both wife
and daughter back again. Sometimes, just sometimes, life is indeed a _____.
NOUN

Read the synopsis online
at calshakes.org/articles.