CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Foxe's Book of Martyrs

John Foxe · *1563 (this compilation to 1830) · an anonymous American abridgment and continuation of Foxe's Acts and Monuments, carrying the history to 1830 (John C. Winston Co.; Project Gutenberg #22400). Not Foxe's original 1563 English.*

This work is strictly what its title page imports, a COMPILATION. The hosted file is an anonymous American abridgment and continuation of Foxe's Acts and Monuments, down to 1830, not the 1563 book itself. It begins the narrative with St. Stephen. For grades 10–12. Gravity. Quote this compilation honestly. No spectacle of the deaths.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read a file named Foxe's Book of Martyrs when the hosted text is an 1830 American compilation, abridged and continued, and how should Stephen's death be taught as the first of a cloud of witnesses, without making martyrdom a spectacle?

"ST. STEPHEN suffered the next in order. His death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the gospel to the betrayers and murderers of Christ. To such a degree"

I. St. Stephen

The hosted file's own preface is frank: this is a compilation, based on Foxe, abridged, with the phraseology altered, information added, and the history carried to 1830. It is not Foxe's original 1563 English. Say so at once. The narrative, after that preface, comes to St. Stephen, who suffered the next in order, and was cast out of the city and stoned. Teach the martyrs with gravity and gratitude, for grades 10–12. No gore and no spectacle. The compilation's preface has a hard anti-Catholic tone in places; teach the witnesses, and do not make the map a reprint of that polemic. An editorial note records that one personal name has been replaced with a bracketed description; mention that honesty if you meet the bracket.

KEY CHARACTERS

The anonymous compiler
Who calls the work a compilation, abridges Foxe, and continues the history to 1830; do not invent a name

St. Stephen
The first martyr in this narrative, who suffered for faithful preaching; teach his death with gravity, not as a spectacle

The later martyrs of the compilation
Apostles, and many after them, including lives far later than Foxe's own century; label the span honestly

John Foxe
The sixteenth-century basis of the book, whose original English is not this file

A COMPILATION, AND A FIRST WITNESS

> *"ST. STEPHEN suffered the next in order. His death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the gospel to the betrayers and murderers of Christ. To such a degree"*
>
> I. St. Stephen

Grades 10–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Compilation, Not the 1563 Book

THE FILE AS A WHOLE

The source note and the preface agree: an anonymous American abridgment and continuation, to 1830, Winston Co., PG #22400. Liberty was taken to abridge, to alter antiquated phraseology, to add, and to correct. The original Foxe is the basis, not the verbatim text.

- Do not quote this file as if it were Foxe's Tudor English.
- For grades 10–12. Gravity.
- The compiler is not named; do not invent a name.
- An editorial note records a replaced personal name.

> *"This work is strictly what its title page imports, a COMPILATION. Fox's "Book of"*
>
> Preface of the compilation

02

St. Stephen, First in This Narrative

I. ST. STEPHEN

After a preface, and after a short reminder of the apostles' new confidence, the compilation turns to Stephen. He suffered the next in order, for the faithful manner in which he preached the gospel. They cast him out of the city and stoned him to death. The time is generally supposed, here, to have been the passover after the Lord's crucifixion, and the aera of his ascension, in the following spring.

- The sentences are exact. Keep "aera" as printed.
- Teach the death with gravity, not as a spectacle. The point is the faithful preaching, and the cost.
- Acts is the scriptural source; this compilation is a later retelling.
- 10–12.

> *"ST. STEPHEN suffered the next in order. His death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the gospel to the betrayers and murderers of Christ. To such a degree"*
>
> I. St. Stephen

03

A Cloud of Witnesses, Down to 1830

THE SCOPE

The compilation says it follows the course of events to the year 1830, including later persecutions far from Foxe's own century. Label that span honestly. Teach the earlier martyrs, and, if you assign the later pages, teach them as this compilation's continuation, not as Foxe's own book.

- James, the apostles, and the later names will follow Stephen; teach them with the same gravity.
- Do not pretend this map has taught every life in the volume.
- The French Revolution appears here as the compilation connects it with persecution; it is not Carlyle's history, already a different file.
- Gravity throughout.

> *"ST. STEPHEN suffered the next in order. His death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the gospel to the betrayers and murderers of Christ. To such a degree"*
>
> I. St. Stephen

04

Tone, and What a School Should Not Repeat as Its Own

THE PREFACE

The compiler writes against persecution, and also, in places, in a hard polemical voice against Rome. A Christian school can honor the martyrs without making that polemic the lesson of the map.

- Teach the witnesses. Do not reprint the harshest sentences as if they were the school's doctrine.
- Charity and gravity together.
- The object, the preface also says, is a brief history of persecution since the first introduction of Christianity. That object can be taught cleanly.
- 10–12.

> *"This work is strictly what its title page imports, a COMPILATION. Fox's "Book of"*
>
> Preface of the compilation

05

This Hosted English

THE EDITION

John C. Winston Co., Chicago, Philadelphia, Toronto, as the title-pages in the file have them. Quote this compilation's wording, including its capitals in "COMPILATION" and "ST. STEPHEN."

- Stephen's paragraph is the right first quotation of the narrative; the preface's "COMPILATION" is the right first honesty about the file.
- Not Foxe's 1563 book, and not a later film.
- Complete as hosted, to 1830.
- No spectacle.

> *"This work is strictly what its title page imports, a COMPILATION. Fox's "Book of"*
>
> Preface of the compilation

A Cloud of Witnesses · A Compilation, Honestly · Faithful Preaching · Gravity, Not Spectacle · Down to 1830

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 10–12

1. This hosted file is not Foxe's original 1563 English. It is an anonymous American abridgment and continuation of the Acts and Monuments, to 1830 (Winston; PG #22400). The preface says it is a COMPILATION, abridged, with phraseology altered. Say so. For grades 10–12.
2. The narrative comes to Stephen: "ST. STEPHEN suffered the next in order. His death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the gospel to the betrayers and murderers of Christ." Keep "aera" later in that paragraph. Gravity. No gore and no spectacle.
3. The compilation's preface has a hard anti-Catholic tone in places. Honor the martyrs; do not make the map a reprint of that polemic.
4. An editorial note records that one personal name has been replaced with a bracketed description.
5. The history in this file runs to 1830. Later lives are the compiler's continuation, not Foxe's own book. This is not Carlyle's French Revolution, a different file.

Quotations are verbatim from the an anonymous American abridgment and continuation of Foxe's Acts and Monuments, carrying the history to 1830 (John C. Winston Co.; Project Gutenberg #22400). Not Foxe's original 1563 English., Project Gutenberg #22400, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/foxe-book-of-martyrs/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.