CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Lysistrata and Other Plays

Aristophanes · *411 BC (Lysistrata) · this file unites three public-domain English versions: Lysistrata (the text associated with Norman Lindsay's illustrations, Project Gutenberg #7700); The Clouds, trans. William James Hickie (PG #2562); and The Acharnians (PG #3012)*

If they were trysting for a Bacchanal, a feast of Pan or Colias or Genetyllis, the tambourines would block the rowdy streets; but now, Lysistrata says, there is not a woman to be seen. The hosted file is three plays, not one: Lysistrata, The Clouds (William James Hickie), and The Acharnians. For grades 11–12. Tact; no prurience on the map. Quote the plays, not the modern foreword.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What do these three comedies ask of a city at war or a city in love with new teaching, and how should a school read Lysistrata's plan as a comedy about peace without making the play's frankness a spectacle?

"If they were trysting for a Bacchanal, A feast of Pan or Colias or Genetyllis, The tambourines would block the rowdy streets, But now"

Lysistrata, the opening

This file is three plays. It opens with Lysistrata, alone before the Propylaea, waiting for women who have not come. Her plan is a strike against a long war; the play is frank. Teach it as a comedy about peace, with tact and gravity about war, for grades 11–12. No prurience on the map. The Clouds (Hickie) and The Acharnians follow in this same file; name them. A literal Athenian Society Lysistrata also stands in The Eleven Comedies; these are not the same English. Quote this file's opening, not the foreword that calls Lysistrata the greatest work by Aristophanes.

KEY CHARACTERS

Lysistrata
Who waits alone at the Propylaea, and who will summon the women to a plan for peace

Calonice
The neighbour who arrives first, and who greets her

The women of Athens and of Sparta, later
Allies in a comedy about ending a war; teach with tact

The people of The Clouds and of The Acharnians
The other two plays in this file, each with its own city-argument

A WOMAN WAITING AT THE PROPYLAEA

> *"If they were trysting for a Bacchanal, A feast of Pan or Colias or Genetyllis, The tambourines would block the rowdy streets, But now"*
>
> Lysistrata, the opening

Grades 11–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Three Plays, Not One

THE FILE AS A WHOLE

The coverage of this hosted file is Lysistrata (PG #7700), The Clouds in William James Hickie's English (PG #2562), and The Acharnians (PG #3012). A school should name all three.

- Do not treat the volume as Lysistrata only.
- The Clouds and The Acharnians are complete plays in this file, in other English versions than the Athenian Society eleven.
- For grades 11–12.
- A modern foreword stands first; quote the plays.

> *"If they were trysting for a Bacchanal, A feast of Pan or Colias or Genetyllis, The tambourines would block the rowdy streets, But now"*
>
> Lysistrata, the opening

02

Waiting at the Propylaea

LYSISTRATA, THE OPENING

Lysistrata stands alone with the Propylaea at her back. If the errand had been a feast, the streets would be blocked with tambourines; for this meeting, no woman is to be seen, except one neighbour, Calonice.

- The first lines are exact, including "Colias or Genetyllis."
- Keep the place: the Propylaea.
- Good day is exchanged with Calonice before the plan is named.
- Quote this English, not the Athenian Society version, if this is the file you are in.

> *"If they were trysting for a Bacchanal, A feast of Pan or Colias or Genetyllis, The tambourines would block the rowdy streets, But now"*
>
> Lysistrata, the opening

03

A Plan against a War

LYSISTRATA

The women are summoned on tremendous business, and they snuggle in bed. The plan that follows is a strike meant to force a peace. Teach the war as a real grief, and the comedy as a comedy, with tact.

- Tact. No prurience on the map. Adult/Advanced, 11–12.
- The play is about ending a war, not about providing a spectacle.
- Do not linger on the frankness as if it were the lesson's content.
- Gravity about the cost of the war.

> *"If they were trysting for a Bacchanal, A feast of Pan or Colias or Genetyllis, The tambourines would block the rowdy streets, But now"*
>
> Lysistrata, the opening

04

The Clouds, and The Acharnians

THE OTHER TWO PLAYS

Hickie's Clouds, and The Acharnians, complete the file. Intellectual fashion and a long war are again the city's business. Teach each play as itself.

- Name the translators as this file does: Hickie for The Clouds.
- Do not mix speeches from The Eleven Comedies into these versions.
- The Acharnians is also in the eleven-play file, in a different English.
- 11–12.

> *"If they were trysting for a Bacchanal, A feast of Pan or Colias or Genetyllis, The tambourines would block the rowdy streets, But now"*
>
> Lysistrata, the opening

05

This English, and the Other

THE EDITION

A later or rival English of Lysistrata stands in The Eleven Comedies. If a class uses both files, say that they are not the same translation.

- Quote this opening if you are in this file.
- PG #7700, #2562, #3012.
- Not a later film.
- The Propylaea opening is the right first quotation.

> *"If they were trysting for a Bacchanal, A feast of Pan or Colias or Genetyllis, The tambourines would block the rowdy streets, But now"*
>
> Lysistrata, the opening

Three Plays · A City at War · A Plan for Peace · Waiting · Tact

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. This file is three plays: Lysistrata (PG #7700), The Clouds (Hickie, PG #2562), and The Acharnians (PG #3012). Do not treat it as Lysistrata only.
2. Lysistrata opens: "If they were trysting for a Bacchanal, A feast of Pan or Colias or Genetyllis, The tambourines would block the rowdy streets, But now there's not a woman to be seen." She stands alone with the Propylaea at her back. Quote this English, not the Athenian Society version, if this is the file you are in.
3. For grades 11–12. Tact. No prurience on the map. The play is a comedy about ending a war. Do not make the frankness a spectacle.
4. A modern foreword stands first and calls Lysistrata the greatest work by Aristophanes; quote the play, not that claim.
5. The Eleven Comedies holds another English of Lysistrata and of The Acharnians. If you use both files, say they are not the same translation.

Quotations are verbatim from the this file unites three public-domain English versions: Lysistrata (the text associated with Norman Lindsay's illustrations, Project Gutenberg #7700); The Clouds, trans. William James Hickie (PG #2562); and The Acharnians (PG #3012), Project Gutenberg #7700/#2562/#3012, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/lysistrata-and-other-plays/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.