CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Saint Joan

Bernard Shaw · *1923 · original English (Brentano's, New York, 1924; this file follows the 1926 printing, Project Gutenberg #76323)*

No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs? So Robert de Baudricourt storms, and Saint Joan, a chronicle play in six scenes and an epilogue, is under way. The hosted text is Shaw's English, complete, with his long preface first. For grades 10–12. Quote the play, not only the preface. Gravity.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read Shaw's Saint Joan—as a play about a girl who hears saints and is later condemned, with Shaw's own preface sitting in front of it—without confusing the play with the already mapped trial, and without taking Shaw's most provocative preface-claims as the school's doctrine?

"No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs? STEWARD."

Scene I, Robert de Baudricourt

The play, after a long preface, opens at Vaucouleurs, with Robert de Baudricourt shouting about eggs, and a steward who cannot lay them. Joan will enter as Shaw wrote her: a village girl who hears saints and will be sent to the Dauphin. Teach the six scenes and the epilogue, for grades 10–12, with gravity. The hosted file is complete, PG #76323, first published 1924, this printing 1926. Quote the play, not only the preface. Shaw's preface is his; a Christian school may teach Joan as a saint without adopting every claim in that preface. This play is not the same work as The Trial of Joan of Arc, already mapped from the trial record. Keep them distinct.

KEY CHARACTERS

Robert de Baudricourt, and the steward
Who open the play, at Vaucouleurs, over a matter of eggs

Joan
A village girl who hears saints and is sent to the Dauphin; teach her as Shaw wrote her, with gravity, not as a later mascot

The Dauphin, and the court
The later scenes; finish the play, including the epilogue

Shaw, in the preface
Whose long essay stands first, and is not the same thing as the action of the play

A SHOUT ABOUT EGGS, AND A GIRL ALREADY TALKED OF

> *"No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs? STEWARD."*
>
> Scene I, Robert de Baudricourt

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

01

A Chronicle Play, and a Preface

THE FILE AS A WHOLE

Shaw's preface, "Joan the Original and Presumptuous," stands first and is long. The play itself is six scenes and an epilogue. Quote the play for the first memory-line; if you assign the preface, say that it is Shaw's essay, not the action of the play.

- Source: Project Gutenberg #76323, Brentano's, New York, MCMXXVI, from the 1924 text.
- For grades 10–12. Gravity.
- Do not confuse this play with the already mapped trial of Joan.
- Not a later film.

> *"No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs? STEWARD."*
>
> Scene I, Robert de Baudricourt

02

No Eggs

SCENE I

At Vaucouleurs, Robert has no eggs, and blames the steward; the steward says it is the act of God. The comic storm is the door of a play that will not stay comic. Joan is already being talked about before she is seen.

- The first spoken lines are exact, including the two exclamation marks after the second "No eggs."
- Keep Shaw's wording; do not tidy it.
- The castle is the opening place, not yet Rouen.
- 10–12.

> *"No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs? STEWARD."*
>
> Scene I, Robert de Baudricourt

03

A Girl Who Hears Saints

THE PLAY

Joan comes as a village girl from Domrémy, sure of her voices, and is sent to the Dauphin. Teach her courage and her obedience to what she hears, as Shaw wrote them. The later scenes include the court and the fire; teach those with gravity, not as a spectacle.

- Tact. No gore on the map.
- Do not make Joan a mascot of a later cause Shaw sometimes names in the preface. Teach the girl in the play.
- The epilogue belongs to the work; finish the play.
- This is Shaw's Joan, in Shaw's English, not the minutes of the trial.

> *"No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs? STEWARD."*
>
> Scene I, Robert de Baudricourt

04

The Preface Is Shaw's

THE PREFACE

The preface calls Joan a warrior saint, and also makes sharp, sometimes provocative, claims about her place in later history. A school should let students see that these are Shaw's sentences, and should not require those claims as doctrine.

- Quote the preface only as preface.
- The play is the thing to finish.
- Gravity and charity: Joan is honored in the Church as a saint.
- 10–12.

> *"No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs? STEWARD."*
>
> Scene I, Robert de Baudricourt

05

This English, 1924

THE EDITION

The title-page in this file is Saint Joan: a Chronicle Play in Six Scenes and an Epilogue, by Bernard Shaw. Keep that form.

- Complete, as hosted.
- Robert's first line is the right first quotation of the play.
- Not a substitute for the trial record already in the library.
- Gravity throughout the close.

> *"No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs? STEWARD."*
>
> Scene I, Robert de Baudricourt

A Warrior Saint · Courage to Speak · A Play, and a Preface · A Trial, and a Fire · Not the Trial Record

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 10–12

1. The play opens, after a long preface: "No eggs! No eggs!! Thousand thunders, man, what do you mean by no eggs?" Keep both exclamation marks. This is Shaw's Saint Joan, six scenes and an epilogue, PG #76323 (1924; this printing 1926). For grades 10–12.
2. Quote the play, not only the preface. The preface is Shaw's essay; a school need not adopt its most provocative claims as doctrine. Joan is honored as a saint. Gravity.
3. This play is not The Trial of Joan of Arc, already mapped from the trial record. Keep the two works distinct.
4. Teach the close with gravity, not as a spectacle. Finish the epilogue. Not a later film.
5. The first scene is Vaucouleurs, not yet Rouen.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English (Brentano's, New York, 1924; this file follows the 1926 printing, Project Gutenberg #76323), Project Gutenberg #76323, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/shaw-saint-joan/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.