CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Simon Lee, the Old Huntsman

William Wordsworth · *1798 · English original, as hosted (from lyrical-ballads, PG #9622)*

In the sweet shire of Cardigan, not far from pleasant Ivor-hall, an old man dwells, a little man, I've heard he once was tall. So this complete ballad begins. Later they are poorest of the poor; the speaker has heard of hearts unkind. William Wordsworth, 1798, extracted from Lyrical Ballads (PG #9622), which already has its own collection map. Name the poem, and the parent. For grades 6–12. Gravity and pity, not mockery. Quote this wording.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as Wordsworth's complete 1798 ballad of Simon Lee, extracted from Lyrical Ballads, beginning in the shire of Cardigan, rather than as the whole 1798 volume?

"In the sweet shire of Cardigan, Not far"
Opening

William Wordsworth's Simon Lee, the Old Huntsman, with an incident in which he was concerned, 1798, complete as hosted. It is extracted from Lyrical Ballads (PG #9622), which already has its own collection map. It opens: In the sweet shire of Cardigan, not far from pleasant Ivor-hall, an old man dwells, a little man, I've heard he once was tall. Later they are poorest of the poor. The speaker has heard of hearts unkind. For grades 6–12. Gravity and pity, not mockery. Name the poem, and the parent. Quote this wording.

KEY CHARACTERS

Simon Lee
An old huntsman, once tall, who dwells not far from Ivor-hall, and who is later helped at a stump of rotten wood

Old Ruth
Who works out of doors with him, and does what Simon cannot do

The speaker
Who offers aid, severs a tangled root, and has heard of hearts unkind

HOW TO BEGIN SIMON LEE

> *"In the sweet shire of Cardigan, Not far"*
> Opening

> *"heard of hearts unkind, kind deeds With"*
> The close

Grades 6–8
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

In the Sweet Shire of Cardigan

OPENING

In the sweet shire of Cardigan. The ballad begins by naming a shire, before the old man's poverty is shown.

- Keep "sweet shire of Cardigan."
- 6–12.
- A complete short ballad, extracted from Lyrical Ballads.
- Quote this wording.

> *"In the sweet shire of Cardigan, Not far"*
> Opening

02

Not Far from Pleasant Ivor-hall

OPENING

Not far from pleasant Ivor-hall, an old man dwells, a little man, I've heard he once was tall. A hall is named, and a hearing about a former height.

- Keep "pleasant Ivor-hall" and "I've heard he once was tall," with this file's apostrophe.
- 6–12. Pity, not mockery.
- Quote this wording.
- The opening stanza.

> *"Not far from pleasant Ivor-hall, An old"*
> Opening

03

Poorest of the Poor

THE HUT AND THE SCRAP OF LAND

Are poorest of the poor. Beside their moss-grown hut of clay they have a scrap of land, but they can till it no longer.

- Keep "poorest of the poor."
- 6–12. Gravity and pity, not mockery.
- One movement, before the helping at the stump.
- Quote this wording.

> *"Are poorest of the poor. This"*
> The hut and the scrap of land

04

Hearts Unkind

THE CLOSE

I've heard of hearts unkind, kind deeds with coldness still returning. Alas! the gratitude of men has oftner left me mourning. The last word is a mourning, after thanks have run out of the old man's heart.

- Keep "heard of hearts unkind" and "oftner," as this file prints them.
- 6–12. Gravity, not mockery.
- The close, after a single blow at a tangled root.
- Quote this wording.

> *"heard of hearts unkind, kind deeds With"*
> The close

05

A Ballad Extracted from Lyrical Ballads

THE EDITION

William Wordsworth, 1798, complete as hosted: an individual poem extracted from Lyrical Ballads, Project Gutenberg #9622, which already has its own collection map. Name the poem, and name the parent. For grades 6–12. Gravity and pity, not mockery. Quote this wording, including "I've" and "ancles." One short complete ballad; do not invent what the file does not say.

- Name Wordsworth, 1798, and the extraction from Lyrical Ballads.
- 6–12. Pity, not mockery.
- Cardigan, Ivor-hall, and hearts unkind.
- Quote this English.

> *"In the sweet shire of Cardigan, Not far"*
> Opening

A shire, and a named hall | An old huntsman, once tall | Poorest of the poor | A kind deed, and hearts unkind | A ballad, named as extracted

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 6–8

1. It opens: "In the sweet shire of Cardigan, not far from pleasant Ivor-hall, an old man dwells, a little man, I've heard he once was tall."
2. Later they "are poorest of the poor." The close: "I've heard of hearts unkind, kind deeds / With coldness still returning." Keep "oftner" as this file prints it.
3. This file is Wordsworth's complete 1798 ballad, extracted from the parent volume Lyrical Ballads (PG #9622), which already has its own collection map. Name the poem, and the parent.
4. For grades 6–12. Gravity and pity, not mockery. Quote this wording, including "I've" and "ancles."

Quotations are verbatim from the English original, as hosted (from lyrical-ballads, PG #9622), Project Gutenberg #9622, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/wordsworth-simon-lee-the-old-huntsman/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.