

Icos Goes to School

by Margaret Maugenest



Doran shook the sleeping boy. "Time to get up, Icos," he said. "It's going to be fine, sunny weather."

Icos yawned and turned over. "It's always fine weather in Athens," he said. "So what?"

"You must get up," Doran said firmly. "It's time for school."

READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

When and where does the story take place?



Icos sighed. It was barely light out. He didn't want to get up. It took him a while to get out of bed.

Doran walked to school with Icos. Doran was Icos's servant. The two strolled through the streets.

They reached the school late. The teacher was already sitting on his tall chair. Icos sat on a bench at the back. Doran stayed outside.

READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

What problem does Icos have?

The teacher gave each student a block of wax. It was time to practice writing. Icos looked for his stylus.

Doran came in with the stylus. Now Icos could carve letters into the wax. Icos tried not to yawn. He was proud of his tidy writing. He wanted to do a good job.



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READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

Describe Icos. What does he look like? How does he act?



By now, Icos was wide awake. It was time to learn a poem. This poem was not written down. The teacher spoke each line. The students repeated it.

The teacher called on Icos to say the whole poem. Icos stood. He spoke in a firm voice. He did not leave one word out.

Doran came in. He took the writing stylus back. "You certainly did well!" he told Icos.

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Literary Elements

Is Doran a good friend to Icos? Explain.

Now it was music time. One student played the harp. Another played the flute. Icos and the other boys sang.

Icos looked out at the servants. Doran was nodding in time to the music. The teacher was tapping his foot. "We must be doing well," Icos thought.



READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

What does Icos think of school now? How do you know?



The afternoon was for sports. The boys walked to the sports field. Their servants came with them. The field was at the edge of the city.

The boys worked hard. Building strong bodies was important. They ran races. They jumped. Sports teachers watched them. Icos won a race. He was very pleased.



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READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

Where do the boys practice sports? What time do they practice?

At last the school day ended. Icos and Doran walked home together. "That was a full day," Icos said.

"Yes, it was," Doran agreed. "You had fun at school, didn't you?" he asked.

Icos knew what Doran was saying. "Yes, I did. I'll try not to be so slow and grumpy tomorrow morning!"



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READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

Does Icos still have a problem? Explain.



Reread and Respond

1 Name one way that Doran is helpful to Icos.

Hint

For clues, see pages 10, 12, and 13.

2 How does Icos change at the end of the story?

Hint

For clues, see page 16.

3 What clues in the pictures show that the story takes place long ago?

Hint

Clues are on every page.