

My Hero – With Terry Deary



Opening a story

This is the play Huck wrote. Read it and prepare to perform it with your partner.

Step 1: *On your own, read the whole scene quietly.*

Step 2: *Get into groups of 3. Talk about how the characters are feeling and behaving. Write additional stage directions in the left-hand margin, giving information about the characters' way of speaking and behaving.*

Step 3: *Perform the play in front of the class, acting out your stage directions.*

Step 4: *Watch the other groups' performances.*

Caratacus Reprieved

Caratacus is in a Roman prison cell.

Claudius enters.

friendly, welcoming

Caratacus:

Claudius, Emperor of Rome, welcome to Catuvellauni.

Claudius:

*putting Caratacus down
mean, arrogantly*

Caratacus, you're not in Catuvellauni. You are in a Roman prison cell.

Caratacus:

Ah, well, as the chief of the Catuvellauni tribes, I like to think of this as my embassy and therefore Catuvellanian sovereign territory. So again welcome to Catuvellauni.

Claudius: *(emphasising 'Rome')*

Caratacus, this is not Catuvellauni! This a Roman prison cell, under the Roman Senate, in Rome and I'm here to tell you that you are going to be executed for crimes against Rome.

Caratacus:

Executed? What do you mean?

Claudius: *(emphasising 'cross')*

Executed! What don't you understand? You will carry a cross up a hill. You will raise the cross. You will have your hands nailed to the cross. And then we will leave you to hang, until you're dead.

Caratacus:

falls down to his knees

You can't do that to me.

Claudius:

Yes we can.

Caratacus: *(stuttering)*

Why would you want that to happen to me?

Claudius:

Because you rebelled against the might of the Roman Empire and attacked the Roman army at Medway.

Caratacus:

Well, I'm sorry about that.

Claudius:

Are you? Sincerely?

Caratacus:

Yes, my brother was killed in that battle.

Claudius:

Really?

Caratacus:

Yes, my brother Togodumnes.

Claudius: *(emphasise 'dumnes')*

Togodumnes?

Caratacus:

Yes. Poor Togodumnes, he never was the sharpest pike in the phalanx.

Claudius:

A lot of your soldiers got killed, but you didn't. You abandoned your army. What kind of leader are you?

Caratacus:

Well, my mum always said: "He who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day." I couldn't die. I was needed to defend our land. I was just looking after us.

Claudius: *(quite quickly)*

That's not true! You invaded the Atrebates' territory.

Caratacus:

But nobody likes the Atrebates.

Claudius:

Actually, their leader Verica is a good friend of mine.

Caratacus:

Oh, really?

Claudius:

Yes, and he said you terrorised them so much that he had to flee here to Rome to ask for our assistance.

Caratacus:

Oh, is that why you took your army to Britain?

Claudius:

For the most part and then when we landed you used guerilla tactics against... my army!

Caratacus: *(angrily)*

Look, Claudi, you make bigger mistakes than me. You killed your nephew, Caligula.

Claudius:

What? I didn't do it! It was as much a tragedy to me as to anyone. I was sad when Caligula died but I will not be with you.

Caratacus: *(trying to change the conversation)*

So did you ever go to England?

Claudius:

Yes. I led my soldiers at the battle of Medway.

Caratacus *(obsequious)*

Ahh, yes! Some of my men thought it was you. They said a handsome general was coming.

Claudius:

Did they say handsome? Well, it's been said before.

Caratacus:

And they weren't wrong. I think your profile would look really good on some of your Denarii coins.

Claudius:

I do too.

Caratacus:

And bravery. I've never seen anyone as brave as you.

Claudius:

Really?

Caratacus:

Oh yes, I remember my men saying to me: "If only we had a leader like him."

Claudius:

If only my senate thought that way.

Caratacus:

I could tell them how "great" you are.

Claudius:

Would you? That would be brilliant.

Caratacus:

I'm just sorry I won't be able to see you on those coins.

Claudius:

Well, maybe I could give you a pardon.

Caratacus:

Oh, thank you, Claudius. May I become a Roman citizen?

Claudius:

Of course.

(Claudius puts his arm around Caratacus)

And you'll get to pay all the Roman taxes.

Caratacus:

Ahh.