

## Cymbeline abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 3

### Introspection

**Situation:** When the boys leave to hunt deer “up to the mountains,” Belarius reflects on his boys, noting in particular that they “conduct themselves as princes,” acknowledging to himself that “The game is up.”

**BELARIUS:** Up to the mountains! He that strikes the venison first shall be the lord o’ th’ feast. I’ll meet you in the valleys.

Guiderius and Arviragus exit.

#### Belarius to Himself, No. 1

Hard it is to hide what nature doth give,  
And the father knows not that the boys live.  
They know not who they are, thinking they are  
Mine, yet nature prompts them in the simplest  
Ways to conduct themselves as princes far  
Beyond the other young men. Guiderius,  
The heir of Britain, lets his spirits fly  
When I tell the warlike stories of my  
Youth, letting princely blood flow in his cheek,  
Posturing himself to act out my words.  
The younger boy, Arviragus, doth seek  
To be like his brother, but he deferr’d  
More to his own conceiving. It’s abrupt,  
But this charade must end. The game is up.