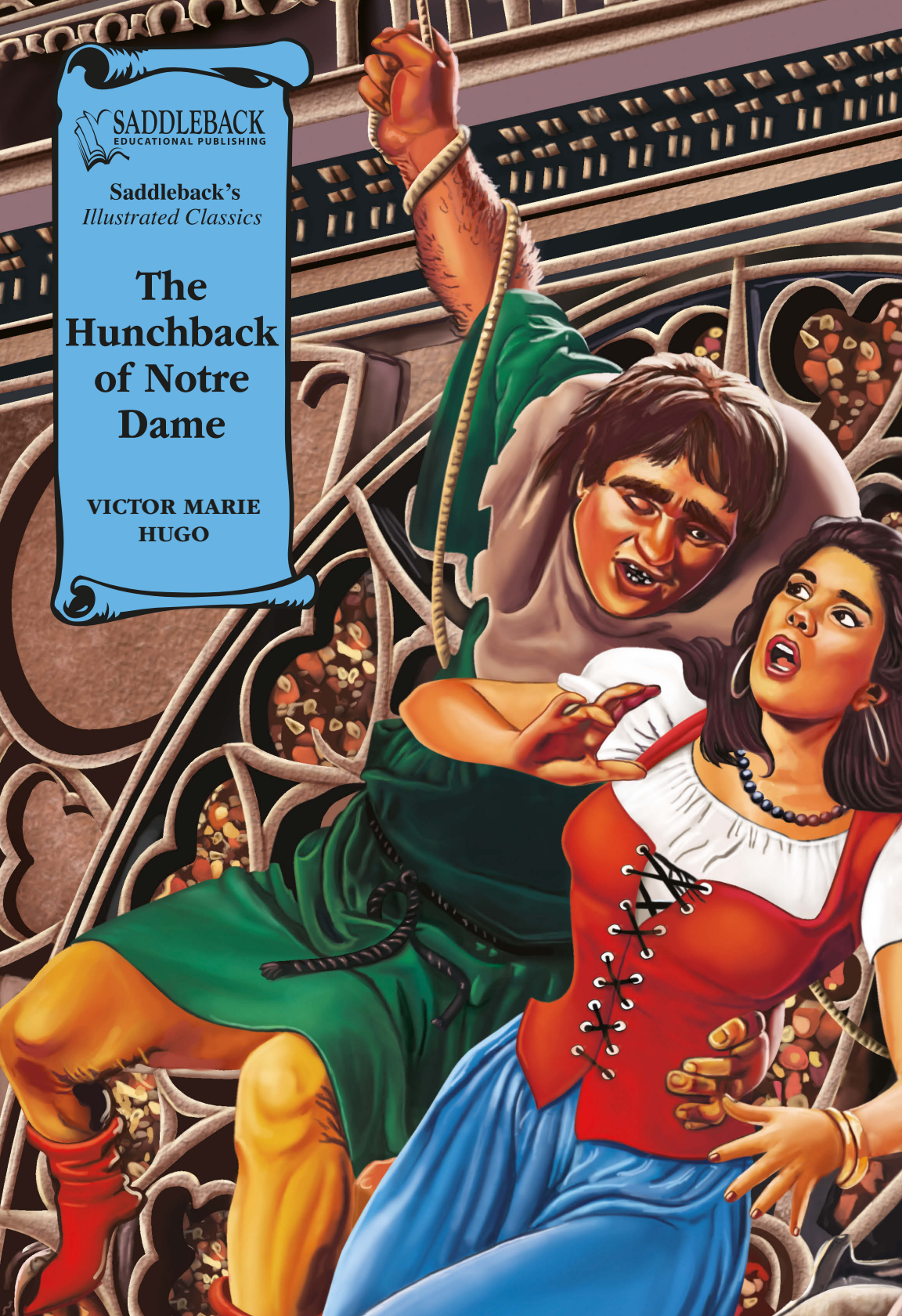
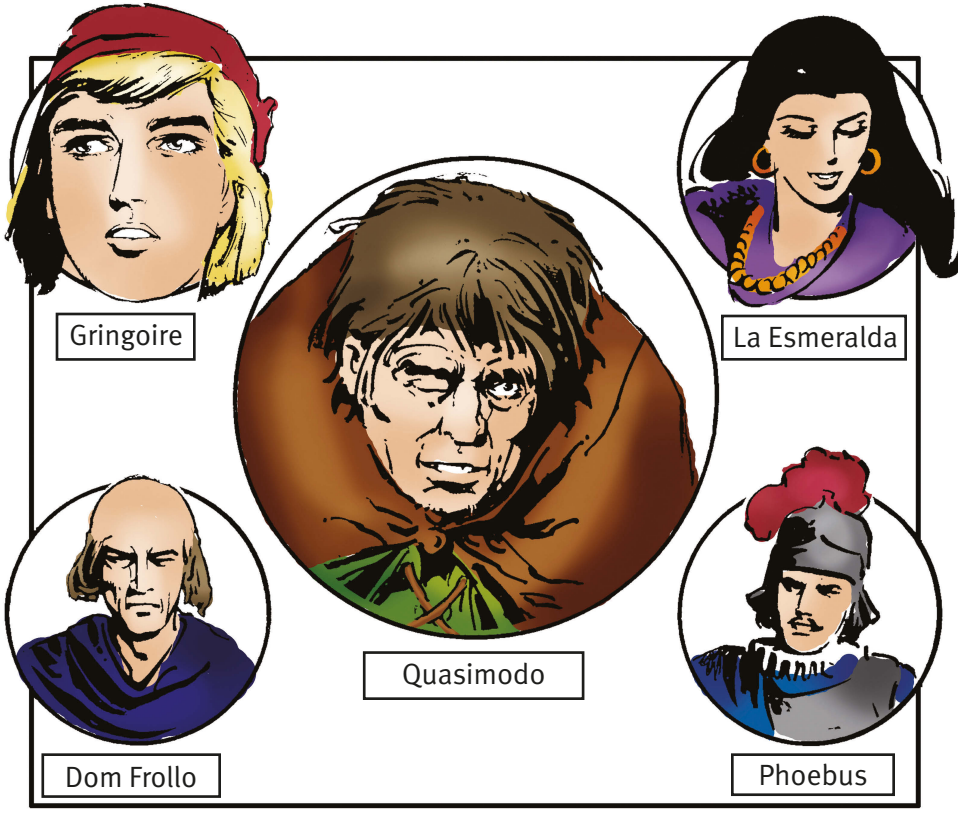

SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING
Saddleback's
Illustrated Classics
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
VICTOR MARIE HUGO

Victor Marie Hugo

The Hunchback of Notre Dame



A great ringing of bells greeted the double holiday of January 6, 1482, Epiphany and the Festival of Fools. In Paris, it was to be celebrated with fireworks in the Place de Greve, and a play performed at the Palace of Justice.

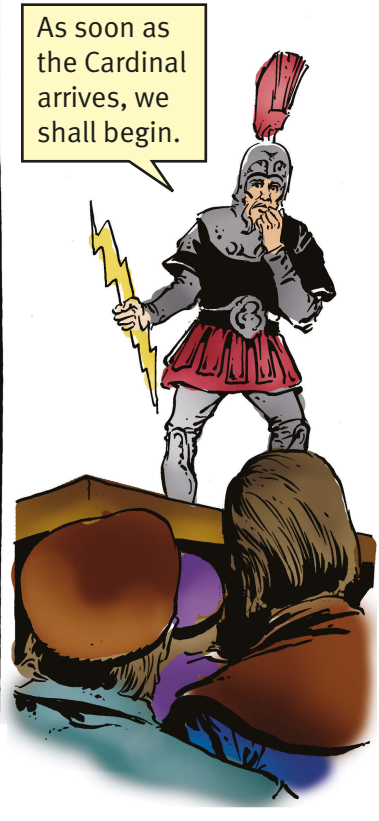


This was announced in public places, with the sounding of a trumpet, by the major's officers in their fine uniforms.

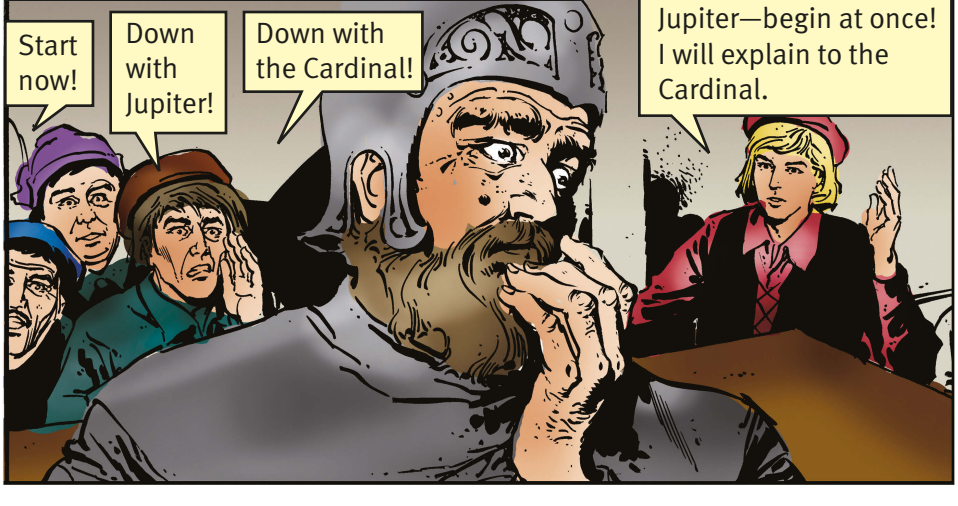
At noon there was to be a play and also the arrival of the high officials. But both were late, and the crowd became restless. Students, soldiers, tradesmen, beggars; the crowd filled the Palace of Justice.



A frightened actor dressed as a god appeared.



The crowd booed angrily. A tall, fair young man stepped forward.

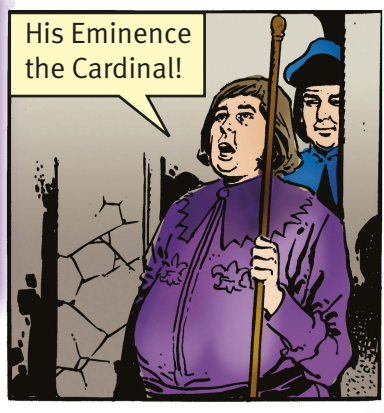



As the play began, a girl in the front row spoke to the young man.
Will this be a very fine play?
Certainly!
I wrote it myself!
You did?
Yes! I am Pierre Gringoire!
As the play continued, a ragged beggar climbed up to a ledge below the balcony and seated himself.
A young joker, seeing him, pointed him out to the crowd.
Look at the beggar there!
Speak kindly of me, if you please!

The actors stopped. Every head turned. Gringoire was upset.



The play went on again. The audience listened patiently All at once the door of the balcony was thrown open.



But the Cardinal was followed by a long line of famous guests: ambassadors from Austria, high officials from Flanders, and finally...



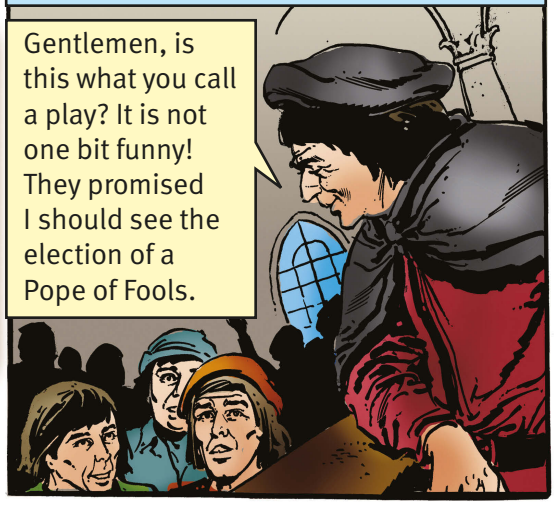
Every head turned toward the Cardinal. Again the unlucky play was cut short.



The crowd found the noble guests more interesting than the play. Every eye was on the balcony. Gringoire lost hope.



At last everyone had arrived. The actors went on. Suddenly, Master Coppenole rose from his seat.



We have our Pope of Fools at Ghent, too. But the way we do it is this...

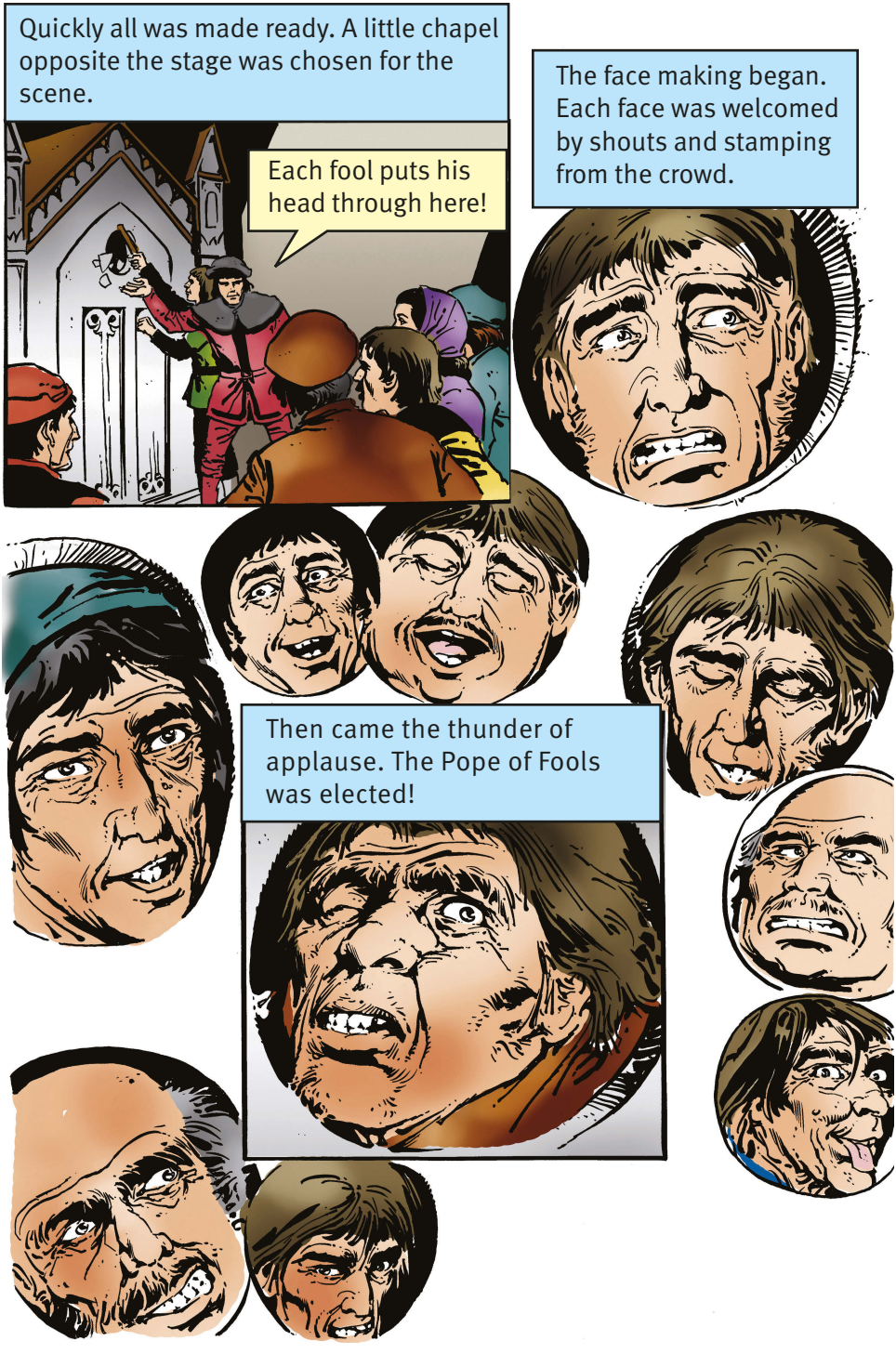


We collect a crowd; then everyone who wants to puts his head through a hole and grins at the crowd. The ugliest face is chosen Pope.



Shall we choose your Pope that way?




Quickly all was made ready. A little chapel opposite the stage was chosen for the scene.
Each fool puts his head through here!
The face making began. Each face was welcomed by shouts and stamping from the crowd.
Then came the thunder of applause. The Pope of Fools was elected!

Only when he was brought out in front of the curtain was it discovered that the face was his real face.

It is Quasimodo, the bell ringer!

It is the hunchback of Notre Dame!

You are the finest piece of ugliness I ever saw!

He is deaf, sir.

Deaf! Can he speak?

He can talk when he likes. He became deaf from ringing the bells.

A paper crown and a poor robe were placed on him and he was carried on the shoulders of twelve men.

There was a look of hateful pride on his face as he saw beneath him the heads of those straight, well-shaped men.

The parade moved off through the streets. Gringoire felt a hope of finishing his play.



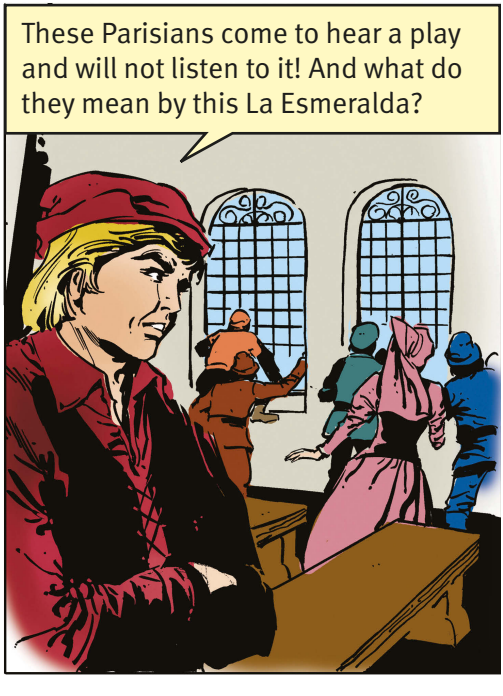
Unluckily, the crowd rushed after them. In a moment the great hall was nearly empty.



All at once a shout came from a young man in a window.



Those who were left in the hall ran to the windows.



The Hunchback of Notre Dame

"A tragic story of love, disappointment, ignorance, anger, and deceit."

The Hunchback of Notre Dame is one of Victor Hugo's greatest accomplishments. This gothic tale about Dom Frollo, the archdeacon of Notre Dame Cathedral, and his total infatuation and frustration for the beautiful La Esmeralda ends in disaster. The pathetic and disfigured Quasimodo, the hunchbacked bell ringer, is forced to choose between his two loves—Dom Frollo and La Esmeralda.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame, a grim novel, is beautifully written, and is without question a timeless classic.

SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING
www.sdlback.com

LEXILE HL500L

ISBN: 978-1-56254-908-4

9 781562 549084 90000