



ManorAcademy

Introduction to Shakespeare. Lesson 1



Mind map everything you know about Queen Elizabeth



State the years when Queen Elizabeth was on the throne.

Queen Elizabeth





2

Aim - To understand the context of Elizabethan England and how this may have influenced the works of William Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

Elizabeth I became Queen of England in 1558 and ruled until her death in 1603. we call the time of her reign the Elizabethan Age.

Elizabeth was only a young woman when she came to the throne, but she was proud and clever. She encouraged the building and manning of ships to defend England in case of attack by foreign powers. Under Elizabeth's rule, England prospered. She aimed to create peace at home.

As a result of the peace at home, it meant that people at home could work in peace therefore farmers and tradesmen of all kinds flourished. People built bigger and better houses. The people of England generally ate well and dressed well.

Queen Elizabeth loved music, dancing and theatre. She encouraged art and learning generally. she was intelligent and well educated. It is because of her love of art that William Shakespeare's talents were able to develop.

Also, during 1588, Elizabeth's navy defeated the great Spanish Armada sent by Philip of Spain to conquer England.

Her sea captains - Raleigh, Hawkins, Drake and Frobisher made voyages of discovery around the world. they brought back treasure and began the process of colonising the newly found lands of America.

When did Elizabeth I become Queen of England?

How long was Elizabeth Queen of England?

What did Elizabeth do to make sure England could defend herself from foreign attacks?

How did peace at home help the ordinary people of England?

Why did Elizabeth encourage art and learning?

When was William Shakespeare born?

Why was it good William Shakespeare was born during this time period?

How did Elizabeth's sea captains help her?



Do you believe Elizabeth the II was a successful Queen of England? Explain your ideas.





Hail, Queen Elizabeth! Here comes Queen Bess
In a very big ruff and a very wide dress;
Her hair is red, and her eyes they are green,
And England has prospered since Bess became Queen.

The coldest of sailors have sailed to the West,
The greatest of poets have written their best,
The gayest of people have danced on the green,
And England's grown merry since Bess became Queen.

She's vain as a peacock that opens its tail,
She's proud as an eagle that weathers the gale,
She's crafty and jealous, suspicious and mean,
But England is England now Bess is the Queen.

In pairs, discuss the questions

What does the verb mean?
Why is this an effective opener?
This gives the reader what impression of her?

The rhyme schemes gives the poem what tone?
How does this reflect how the people of England view her?
How do we know she is a successful Queen from this description?

What does the verb mean?
How do we know that Elizabeth is a successful ruler?
From the previous task, how do we know England has prospered?

Hail, Queen Elizabeth! Here comes Queen Bess
In a very big ruff and a very wide dress;
Her hair is red, and her eyes they are green,
And England has prospered since Bess became Queen.

What does this imply about previous rulers?
Are the people correct to respect the Queen? Why?
The previous Queen was Mary, what was she famously known as and why would people prefer Elizabeth to her?
Why is this repeated here? This makes the reader think what?

The coldest of sailors have sailed to the West,
The greatest of poets have written their best,
The gayest of people have danced on the green,
And England's grown merry since Bess became Queen.



Why did the people of England feel this way?
Are the people correct to respect the Queen? Why?
The previous Queen was Mary, what was she famously known as and why would people prefer Elizabeth to her?
Why is this repeated here? This makes the reader think what?

She's vain as a peacock, that opens its tail,
She's proud as an eagle, that weathers the gale,
She's crafty and jealous, suspicious and mean,
But England is England now Bess is the Queen.



What is the feature?
Why does the writer compare Elizabeth to these birds?
The previous Queen was Mary, what was she famously known as and why would people prefer Elizabeth to her?
Peacock is the male of the peafowl birds. Why has the poet chosen this and not the female term of a peahen?

Does the list sound like the qualities of a good leader?
Why might the qualities be positive or negative?
The poet is implying what about England since Queen Elizabeth's reign?





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Queen Elizabeth was...

The reader learns that Queen Elizabeth is...

'Hail, Queen Elizabeth'

The suggests...

The verb 'Hail' implies...

Furthermore, the poet states that since Queen Elizabeth has been on the throne...

'England has prospered since Bess became Queen'

This was because...

Using the verb 'prospered' informs the reader...

Not only does the poet think it has improved, people are described as...

'England's grown merry since Bess became Queen'

This shows...

The poet states 'grown' which implies...

whereas 'merry' suggests that...



The poet repeats '...' this is to show...

Finally, the poet compares Queen Elizabeth to...

'...' and '...'

The connotations of each birds are...

thus implying to the reader...

The use of the list suggests...

'...'

Queen Elizabeth here is shown to be...

therefore subverting the stereotype of a woman as...

How does the poem present Queen Elizabeth II?

Add to your mind map everything you learnt about Queen Elizabeth



State the years when Queen Elizabeth was on the throne.

Queen Elizabeth





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Introduction to Shakespeare. Lesson 2

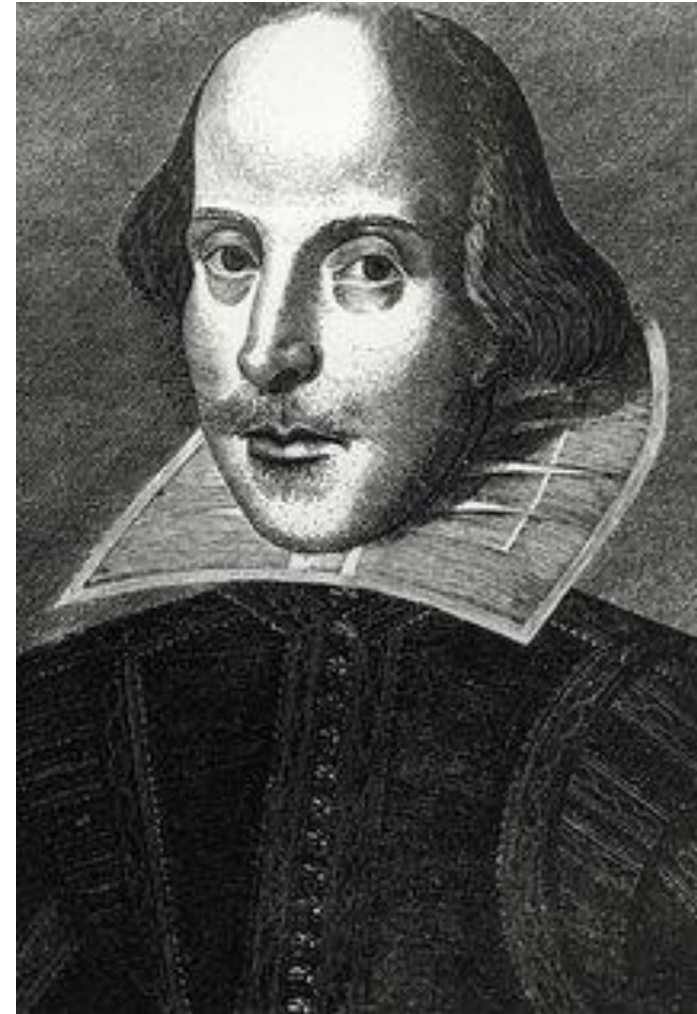


Mind map everything you know about William Shakespeare



List at least five works written by Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare





2

Aim - To understand the context of Elizabethan England and how this may have influenced the works of William Shakespeare.

Find the answers to the following:

Where and when Shakespeare was born.

What date is Shakespeare said to have died on and at how old?

Who did Shakespeare marry in November 1582 and how many children did they have?

Where did Shakespeare live for most of his life?



What 3 professions is Shakespeare famous for?

How many plays did Shakespeare write?

What else did Shakespeare write?

Shakespeare wrote many genres of play. Fill in at least two examples for each type:

History

Comedy

Tragedy



What is the difference between a Shakespearean comedy and a Shakespearean tragedy?

Find three of Shakespeare famous quotations. State where they are from and translate what they mean into modern day English.



State who from the play spoke the line.

Which theatre company did Shakespeare join in 1594?

What did they later to change their name to and why?

Which theatre did Shakespeare invest in?

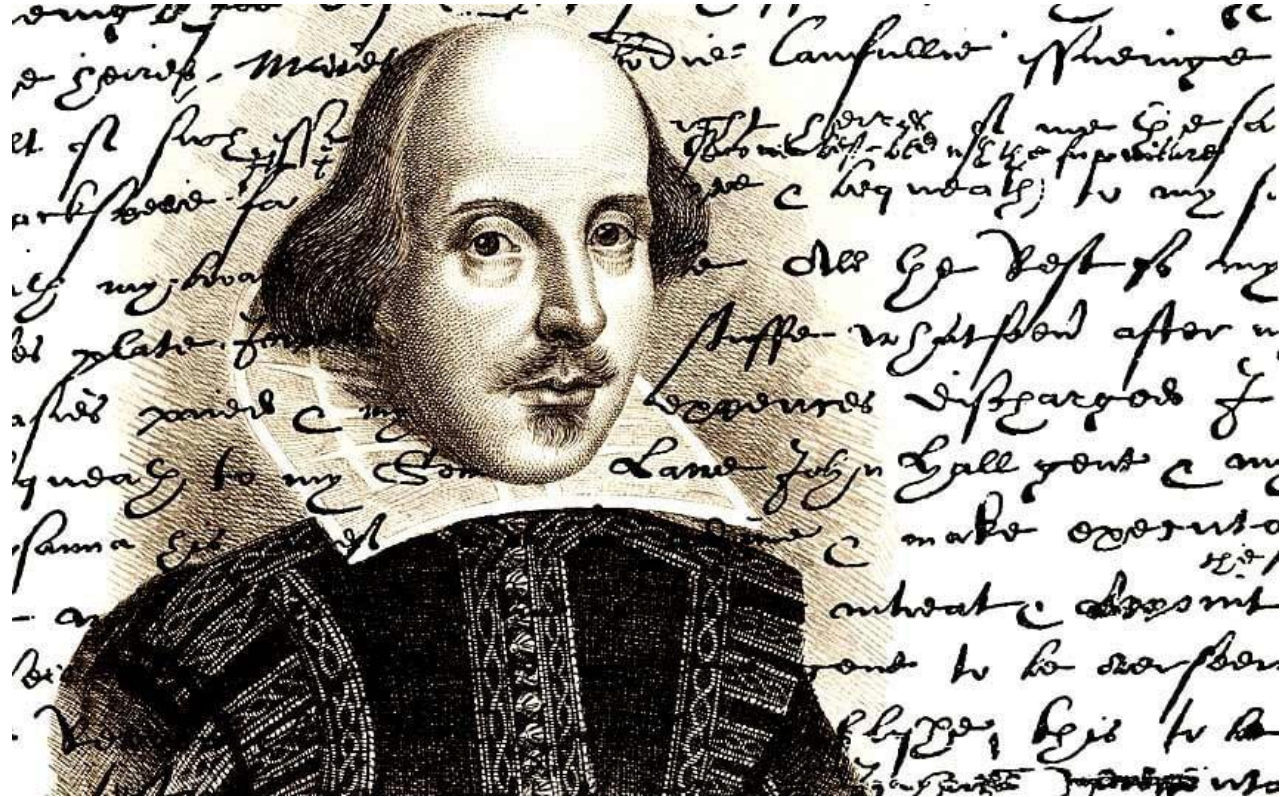
Who played the roles of the females in his plays and why?

Which two monarchs reigned while Shakespeare was alive? What was each period called?



What caused all of the London theatres to close down between 1593 and 1594?

What happened to the theatre companies at this time?



Create a fact file about William Shakespeare.

This could be any of the following:

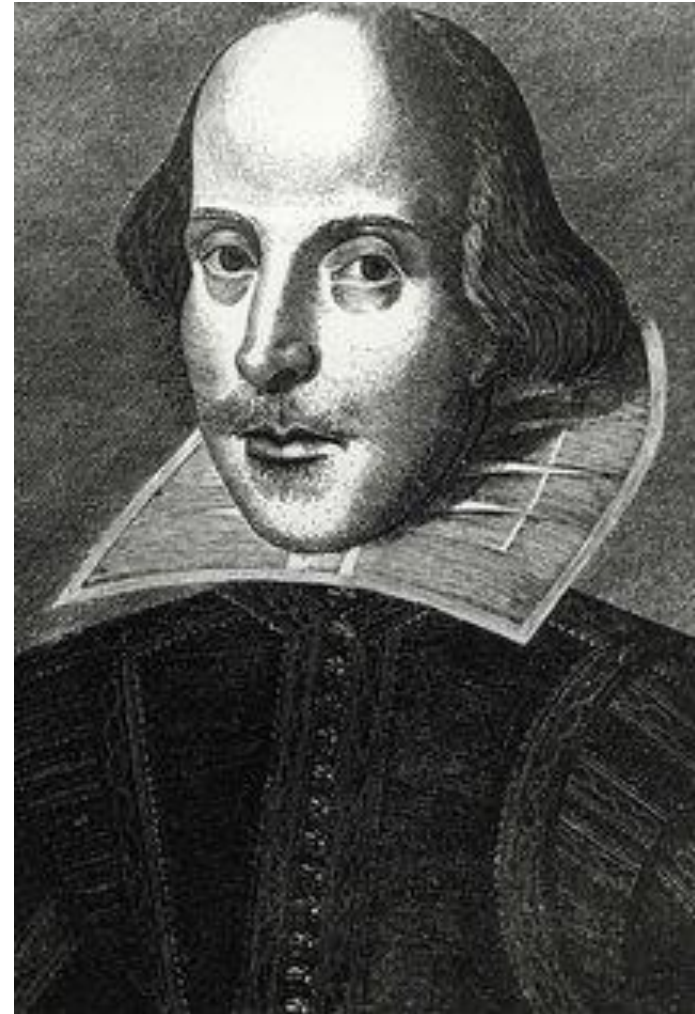
- Poster
- Leaflet
- Booklet

Add to your mind map everything you learnt about William Shakespeare



List at least five works written by Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare





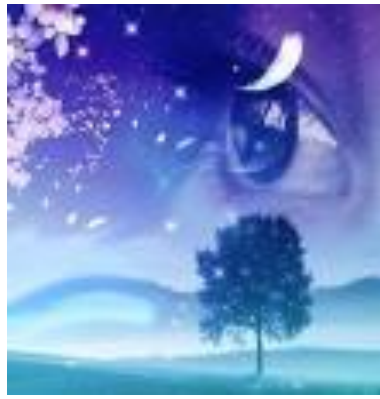
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Introduction to Shakespeare. Lesson 3





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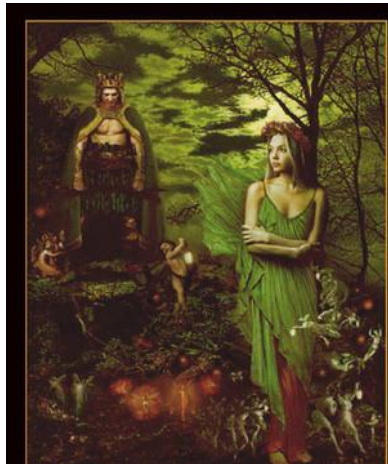
Mind map what you see in the images.

Are there any connections between the images?

How can the images connect to the title of Shakespeare's play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'?



Using the pictures, predict what you think the play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' will be about.



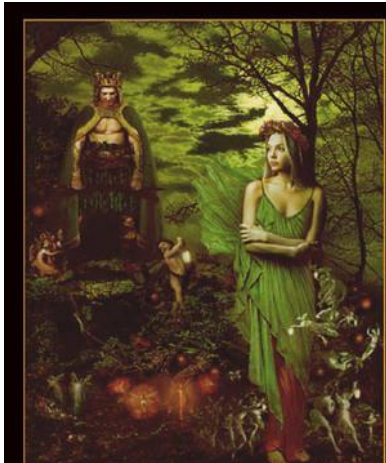
What is 'Midsummer' and how was it celebrated?



Aim - To explore the opening to the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the context of the the chain of being.



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Using the A3 sheet on your table, list words you associate with the images.



- e.g. night
- spooky
 - scary
 - unknown
 - hiding



Midsummer night is the night before 24th June and in Shakespeare's day it was always celebrated with festivals, dances and pageants.

The characters in the pageants were fairies, goblins, witches and devils who could cast spells, change people into birds or animals and do all kinds of other extraordinary things.

Shakespeare followed the custom of the time period by setting the play in a fairy world. Most people at the time believe in witchcraft and the supernatural.

The play is set in an enchanted wood, near the of Athens in Greece. It is unlikely Shakespeare ever went to Athens himself but would have studied Greek and Roman history at school.

Predict what the play is going to be about based on the information you know have about the play?

Why do you think people would have been interested in an enchanted wood setting and fairies?

If people believed in witchcraft and the supernatural, why would they be interested in the play?

The chain of being

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Elizabethans believed in a divine **hierarchy** that had been created by God. This hierarchy, called the **chain of being** stretched from God himself at the top all the way down to plants and stones. Everything on Earth had its place.

The chain of being helped to maintain order. Challenging one's place in society disrupted the chain and could lead to terrible chaos. People were expected to respect their position in the hierarchy. Those who accepted their given place would be rewarded in heaven.

Women were always considered beneath men in the chain, with the exception of Queen Elizabeth I. It was believed that **monarchs** were chosen by God and so held a **divine right** to their position.

Why do you think women accepted their position in society?

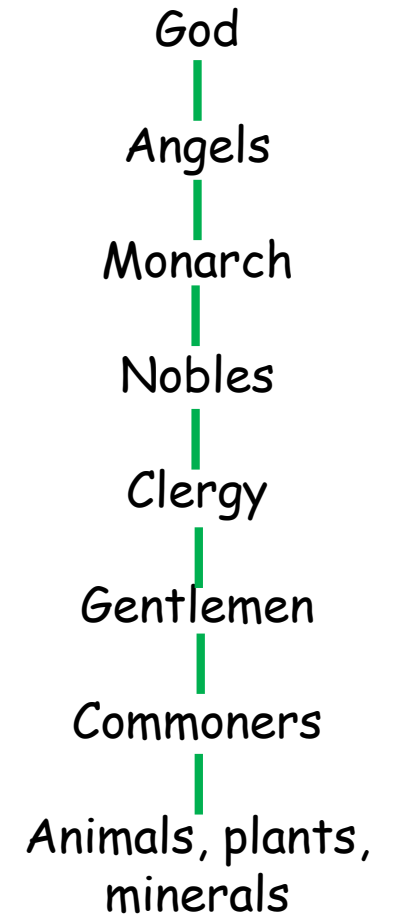
Do you think they would have disobeyed the rules of their fathers? State why.

Define the key term patriarchal society and link it to the chain of being.



Do women have equal rights today?
Explain your ideas and link to the chain of being.

Divine order



Egeus is a character in William Shakespeare's comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

He is an Athenian who tries to keep his daughter Hermia from marrying the man that she loves, Lysander.

Egeus disapproves of Hermia and Lysander's love and appeals to Theseus (the ruler of Athens) to force his daughter to marry Demetrius. If Hermia refuses to wed Demetrius, she could be put to death, or placed in a nunnery for the rest of her life - both are sentences supported by Athenian law.

Do fathers in *Mansfield Woodhouse* often choose the husband of their daughter?

Why is this?

How would you feel if you were told who you had to marry?

Why would you feel this way?

How has society changed since the play was written?

Does the setting of a strict rules encourage Hermia to marry Demetrius or do you think she will try to get out of it?

EGEUS

Full of vexation come I with complaint
Against my child, my daughter Hermia.—
Stand forth, Demetrius.—My noble lord,
This man hath my consent to marry her.—
Stand forth, Lysander.—And my gracious duke,
This man hath bewitched the bosom of my child.—
Thou, thou, Lysander, thou hast given her rhymes,
And interchanged love tokens with my child.
Thou hast by moonlight at her window sung
With feigning voice verses of feigning love,
And stol'n the impression of her fantasy
With bracelets of thy hair, rings, gauds, conceits,
Knacks, trifles, nosegays, sweetmeats—messengers
Of strong prevailment in unhardened youth.
With cunning hast thou filched my daughter's heart,
Turned her obedience (which is due to me)
To stubborn harshness.—And, my gracious duke,
Be it so she will not here before your grace
Consent to marry with Demetrius,
I beg the ancient privilege of Athens.
As she is mine, I may dispose of her—
Which shall be either to this gentleman
Or to her death—according to our law
Immediately provided in that case.

THESEUS

What say you, Hermia? Be advised, fair maid:
To you your father should be as a god,
One that composed your beauties, yea, and one
To whom you are but as a form in wax,
By him imprinted and within his power
To leave the figure or disfigure it.
Demetrius is a worthy gentleman.

Read the extract

What are the men discussing?

Why do you think Egeus goes to speak to Theseus?

For what reasons do you think Egeus is so angry?
Does he have any right to be angry because of this?

Could Theseus be asking Hermia a question directly to get her to rethink her actions?



Why is it relevant that Theseus speaks to Hermia, but her father, Egeus does not?



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In pairs, on A3 paper.

Translate the extract



EGEUS

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How does Egeus feel towards his daughter?
Prove it with a line from the extract.

How does Egeus feel towards Lysander?
Prove it with a line from the extract.

Does Theseus believe Hermia should obey her father?
Prove with a line from the extract.
Why does he think this?

How does the extract fit the context of the chain of being?



Hermia responds to Theseus by saying the following:

HERMIA

I do entreat your grace to pardon me.
I know not by what power I am made bold
Nor how it may concern my modesty
In such a presence here to plead my thoughts,
But I beseech your grace that I may know
The worst that may befall me in this case,
If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

Why is this unusual for the time period?
How does an audience respond to Hermia here and why?





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Introduction to Shakespeare. Lesson 4

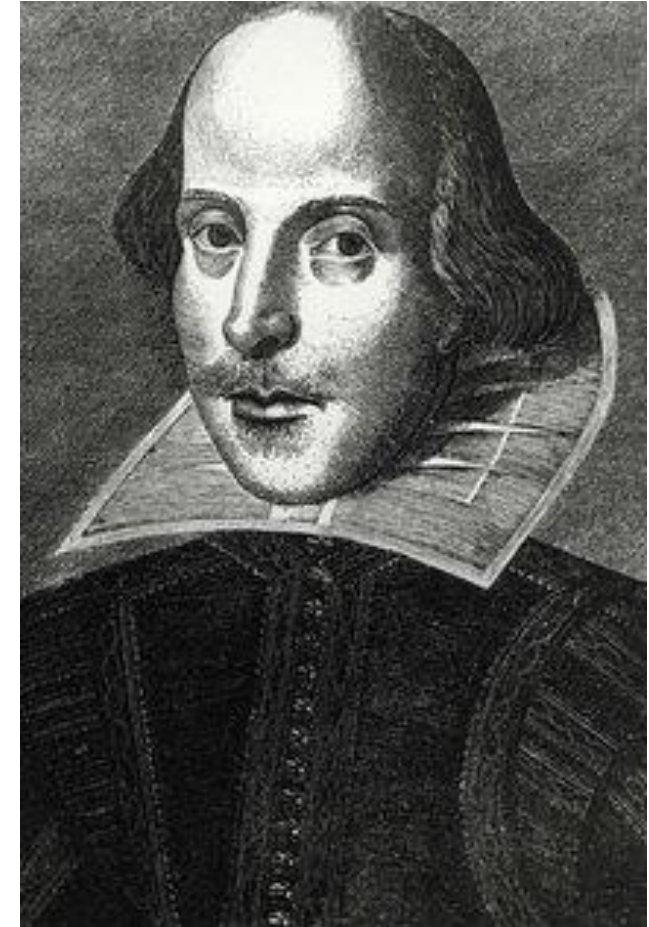


Mind map everything you know about A Midsummer Night's Dream



Link your ideas to the context of the Elizabethan era or William Shakespeare's personal life.

A Midsummer Night's Dream





Aim - To explore the opening to the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the context of the chain of being.

EGEUS

Full of vexation come I with complaint
Against my child, my daughter Hermia.—
Stand forth, Demetrius.—My noble lord,
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Stand forth, Lysander.—And my gracious duke,
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HERMIA

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Nor how it may concern my modesty
In such a presence here to plead my thoughts,
But I beseech your grace that I may know
The worst that may befall me in this case,
If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

An audience is surprised by her actions, why is this?
Do you think she understands what could happen to her?
Why do you think she is so motivated to speak up for herself?

Explore the chain of being in the extract.

How is the chain of being presented?

Why do you think Egeus follows the chain of being?

Do you think Hermia has any respect for her father?

Why does Shakespeare have two men speak before Helena the female?

How does this fit the society of the time?

Hermia responds to Theseus by saying the following:



Explore the chain of being in the extract.

The chain of being is...

Shakespeare presents the chain of being in his opening scene to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* through the characters of...

Egeus goes to speak with... he does so because...

Egeus is feeling...

'Full of vexation come I with complaint

Against my child, my daughter Hermia.—'

He is feeling this way due to...

Egeus states 'vexation' to inform Theseus that...

Also, he takes ownership of his daughter by repeating 'my' showing daughters were...

Soon after, Egeus states I beg the ancient privilege of Athens.

As she is mine, I may dispose of her—' which is suggesting...

Egeus seems to have very little respect for his daughter as he states 'dispose' which implies...

He only refers to her name at the beginning showing...

So early on in the play the audience see...

This would have been unusual during the time as...

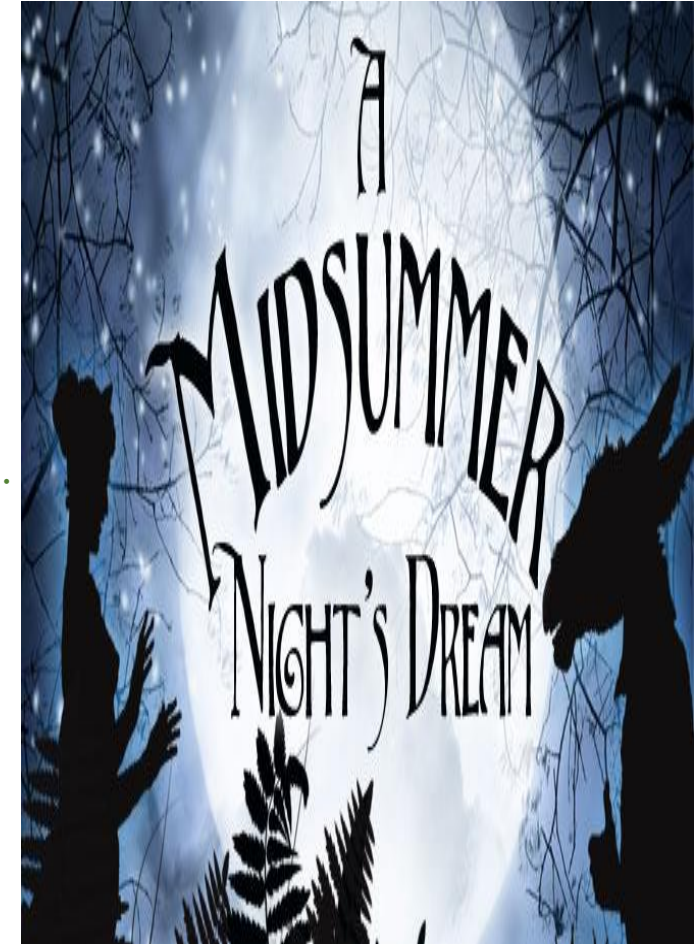
Shakespeare could have perhaps been suggesting that...

This could possibly link to his own marriage as...

The reason Egeus has gone to Theseus is because of the chain of being...

Hermia is subverting the female stereotype of the Elizabethan era as she...

Hermia refusing to marry who her father wishes contrasts the chain of being as...



Theseus warns Hermia that...

'Be advised fair maid:

To you your father should be as a god'

Theseus supports the He is feeling this way due to...

Theseus uses the simile 'as a god' because...

This fits the chain of being as...

Theseus is warning Hermia of her father's power to...

When he states 'Be advised' he seems to be offering he advise to...

However, the imperative 'be' suggests he is...

Theseus does not speak as much as Egeus as he assumes...

Hermia would be expected to listen to him due to...

She contrasts the expectation of a female as...

Hermia does not respect nor believe the chain of being as...

However, Theseus does state 'What say you Hermia' so he is offering her...

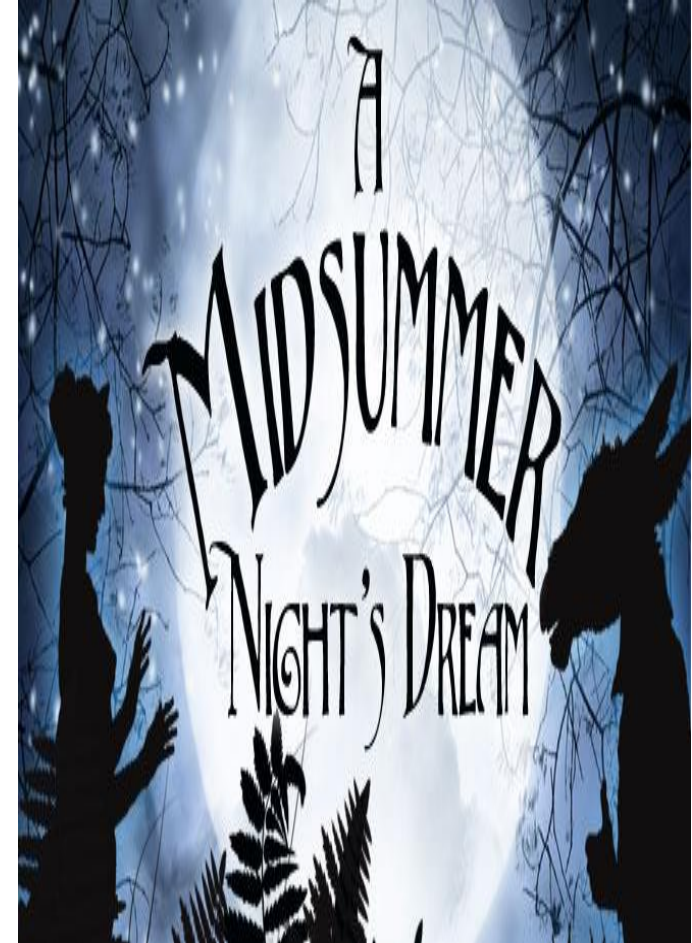


Write a PEEL on Hermia and how she questions her fate so perhaps may be worried about the chain of being.

HERMIA

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I know not by what power I am made bold
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In such a presence here to plead my thoughts,
But I beseech your grace that I may know
The worst that may befall me in this case,
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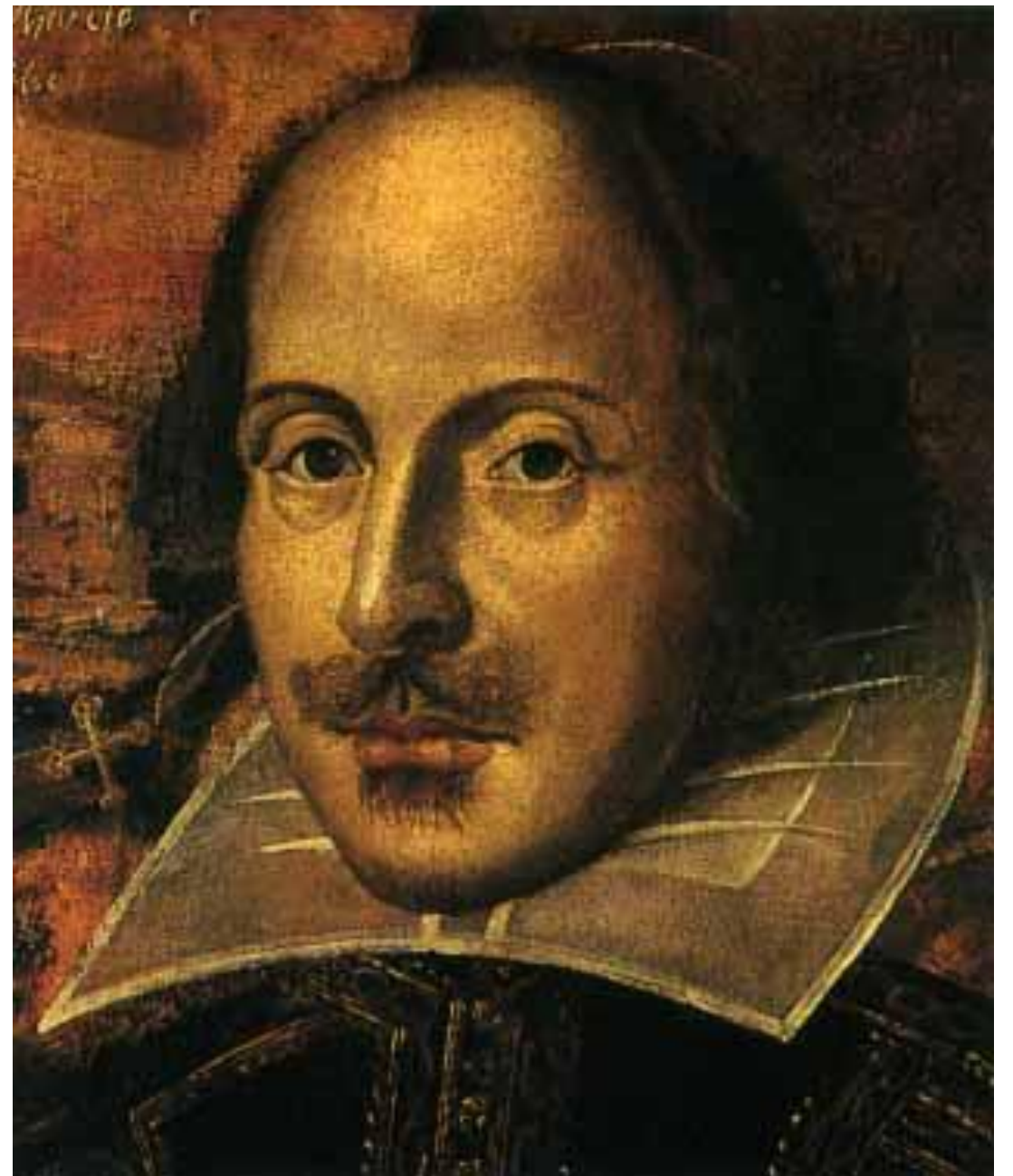
Explore the chain of being in the extract.





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Introduction to Shakespeare. Lesson 5



HERMIA

I do entreat your grace to pardon me,
I know not by what power I am made bold
Nor how it may concern my modesty
In such a presence here to plead my thoughts,
But I beseech your grace that I may know
The worst that may befall me in this case,
If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

THESEUS

Either to die the death or to abjure
Forever the society of men.
Therefore, fair Hermia, question your desires.
Know of your youth. Examine well your blood—
Whether, if you yield not to your father's choice,
You can endure the livery of a nun,
For aye to be in shady cloister mew'd,
To live a barren sister all your life,
Chanting faint hymns to the cold, fruitless moon.
Thrice-blessèd they that master so their blood
To undergo such maiden pilgrimage.
But earthlier happy is the rose distilled
Than that which, withering on the virgin thorn,
Grows, lives, and dies in single blessedness.

Look at the line highlighted in your colour and have a go at translating it.





Aim - To explore the opening to the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the context of the chain of being.



HERMIA

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Thrice-blessèd they that master so their blood
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But earthlier happy is the rose distilled
Than that which, withering on the virgin thorn,
Grows, lives, and dies in single blessedness.

What are Hermia and Theseus discussing?

Why do you think Hermia questions Theseus?

For what reasons do you think Hermia is so brave?
Does she have any right to question the decisions made
for her?

Do you think that Hermia will be phased by Theseus'
response or statements about what will happen to her?
State why.



Which do you think would be worse for Hermia,
living in a nunnery for the rest of her life or
being executed? Explain your reasons.



Dear Miss Midsummer,

Please help, I am in love with a man I wish to marry but my father has decided who my husband will be.

I have tried talking to him, but he took me to see Theseus who threatened me with death or to be sent to a nunnery.

I need help, what can I do to be with the man of my dreams?

Thank you,

Hermia.



What would you advise Hermia to do?

Should she disobey her father? Explain why.

Would ignoring the rules of Theseus go against her? Link to the chain of being.



How might Hermia get around her wish to marry Lysander?



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Dear Hermia,



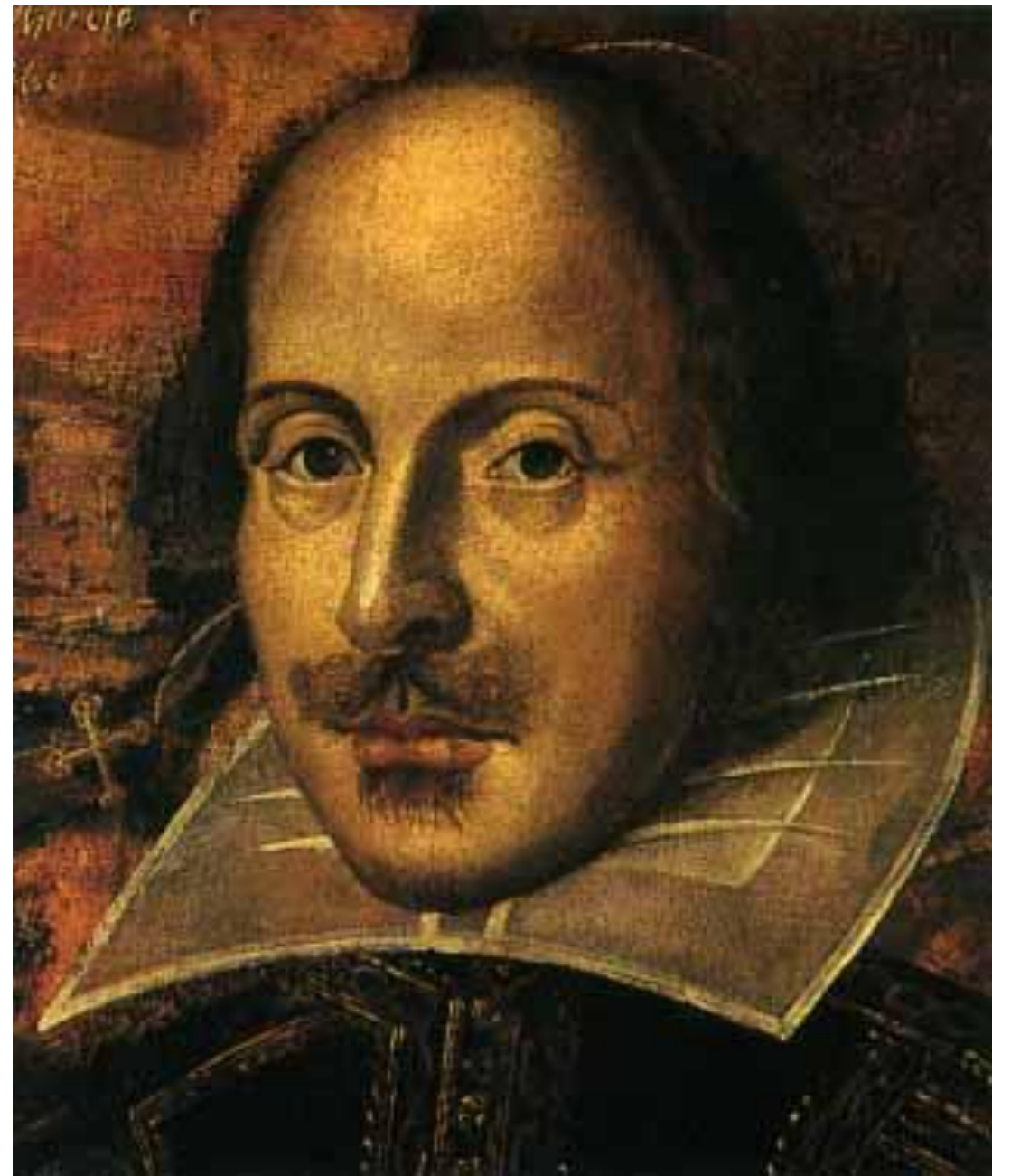
#Challenge

Can you use a line from either of the scenes we have looked at in your letter?



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Introduction to Shakespeare. Lesson 6

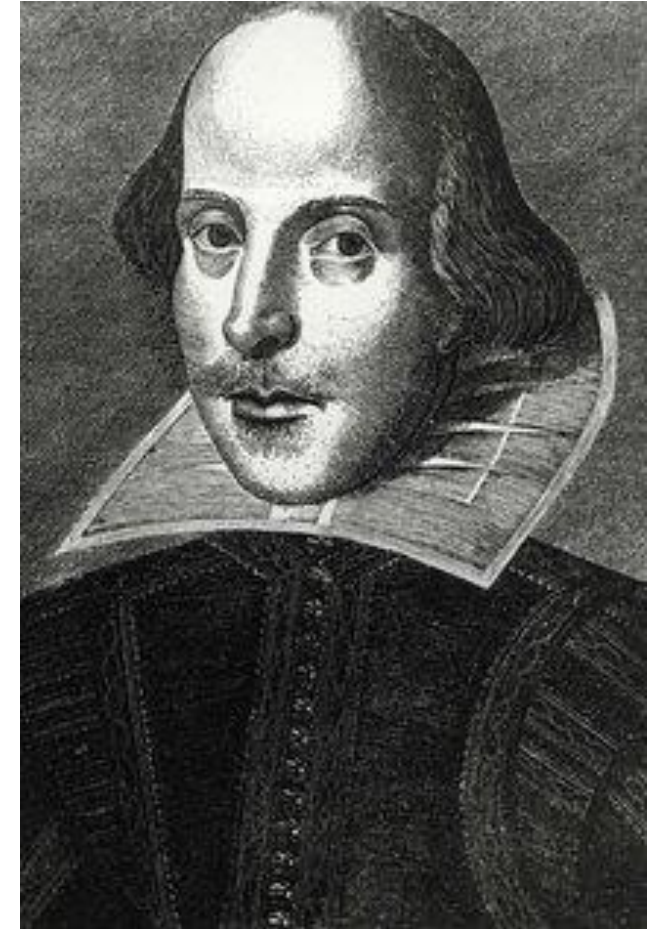


Mind map everything you know about A Midsummer Night's Dream



Link your ideas to the context of the Elizabethan era or William Shakespeare's personal life.

A Midsummer Night's Dream





Aim - To explore the a modern story telling of the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



Ma



Pages 5 - 10

Listen carefully, you will be answering questions on it.

PROLOGUE

A fairy king quarrels with his fairy queen
in an enchanted wood where confused lovers
meet, kiss, cry and kiss again.

A playful spirit's tricks confuse as a weaver
wears an ass's head and plain men plan a play.

Is it real, or all a wondrous dream ...



... dreamt on a midsummer night?

Pages 5 - 10

Listen carefully, you will be answering questions on it.

LOVE LOSES

Duke Theseus of Athens had won a war, but lost his heart to the queen he'd taken prisoner. Capturing a queen is no way to make her love you, but this time it had worked. Theseus wanted to show everyone that love had triumphed over a bad beginning with a lavish wedding to Queen Hippolyta.

"Time to celebrate!" the happy duke exclaimed.



Then in came an angry nobleman, a girl in tears, and two quarrelling young men who loved her.

"My daughter Hermia won't obey me!" the furious nobleman said.

"I have told her to wed Demetrius but she refuses. She wants to marry Lysander."

"You know the law of Athens!" the duke told Hermia. "If you disobey your father and refuse to wed Demetrius, you die!"

"But I love Lysander!" Hermia sobbed.

“And I love Hermia,” Lysander told the duke.
“I am as good as Demetrius. Why shouldn’t
I marry Hermia?”

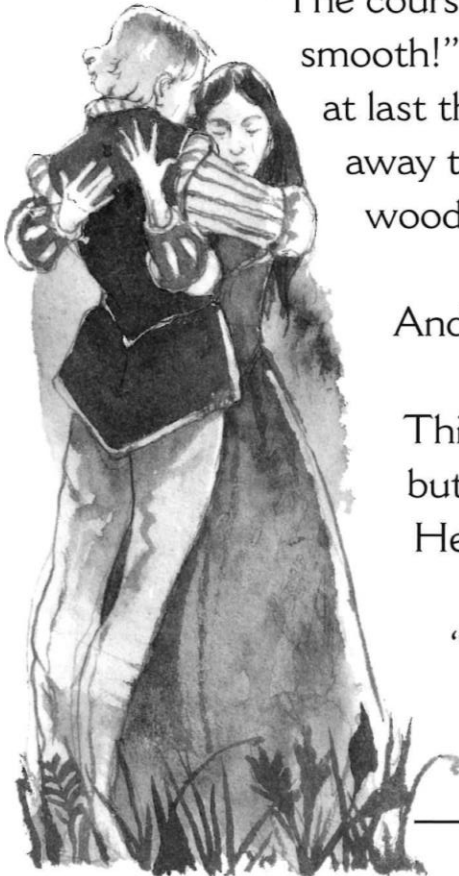
Duke Theseus had to uphold Athenian law,
whether or not the young couple were in love.
“Wed Demetrius or die!” he told Hermia sternly.

“The course of true love never did run
smooth!” Lysander told Hermia when
at last they were alone. “We’ll run
away together. Meet me in the
wood tomorrow!”

And Hermia agreed.

This should have been all right,
but Hermia told her best friend
Helena of the plan.

“I must do it! I don’t love
Demetrius! I’d die before I’d
marry him!” she said.

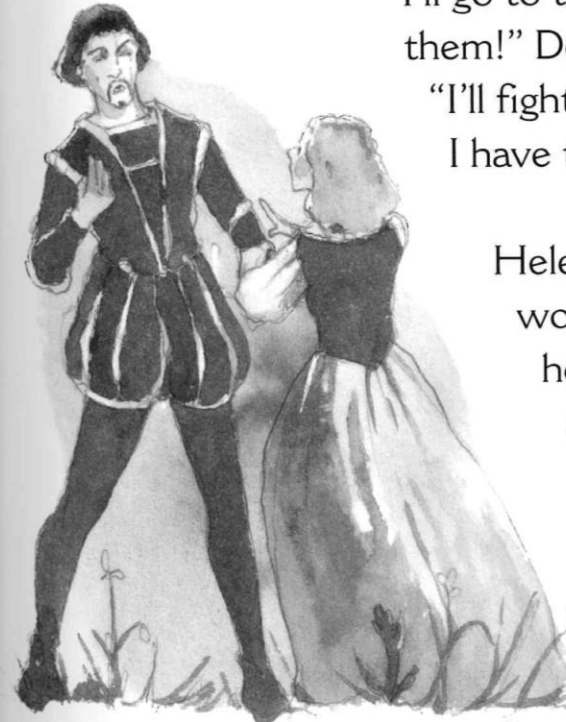


“And I’m dying for love of
Demetrius!” Helena sighed.
“I love him but he never
looks twice at me.”

Then, as if things weren’t
muddled enough, Helena, desperately
hoping to win favour with Demetrius, told him
what Hermia and Lysander were planning.

“I’ll go to the wood after
them!” Demetrius swore.
“I’ll fight Lysander if
I have to!”

Helena decided she
would follow Demetrius,
hoping that somehow
she might win his
love. Hope is all
some lovers have
and, sometimes,
hope wins.



Who is due to be married at the beginning of the play?

What is Egeus' issue?
Why would he be so annoyed?
How is Hermia threatened?

Lysander plans for him and Hermia to do what and why?
Hermia confides what to her friend Helena?
Why does Helena decide to tell Demetrius of the plan?

Lysander states 'The course of true love never did run smooth'
What does he mean?
Here could be Shakespeare foreshadowing what to the audience?

Why do you think Shakespeare opens the play with so many issues around the theme of love?
Could he be suggesting anything about relationships?



How does the opening present the men?
How does this contrast the presentation of the women?

Listen to pages 5 - 10

Answer the comprehension questions in full sentences.

Key words

Theseus

Hippolyta

Helena

Hermia

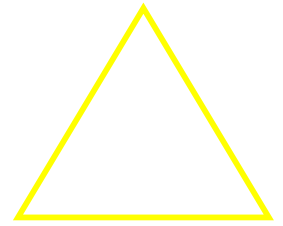
Demetrius

Lysander

patriarchy

arranged marriage

disobey





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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

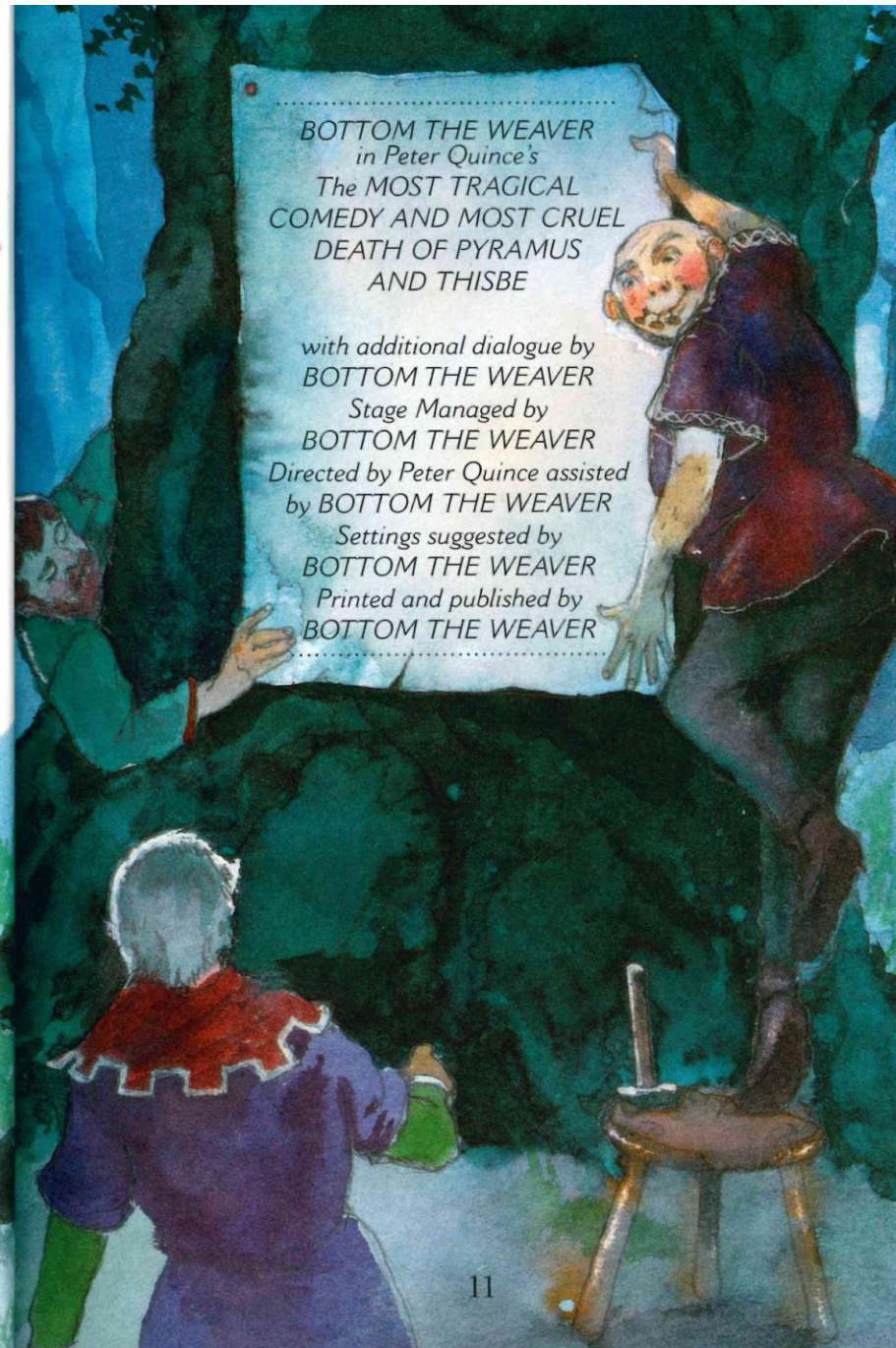
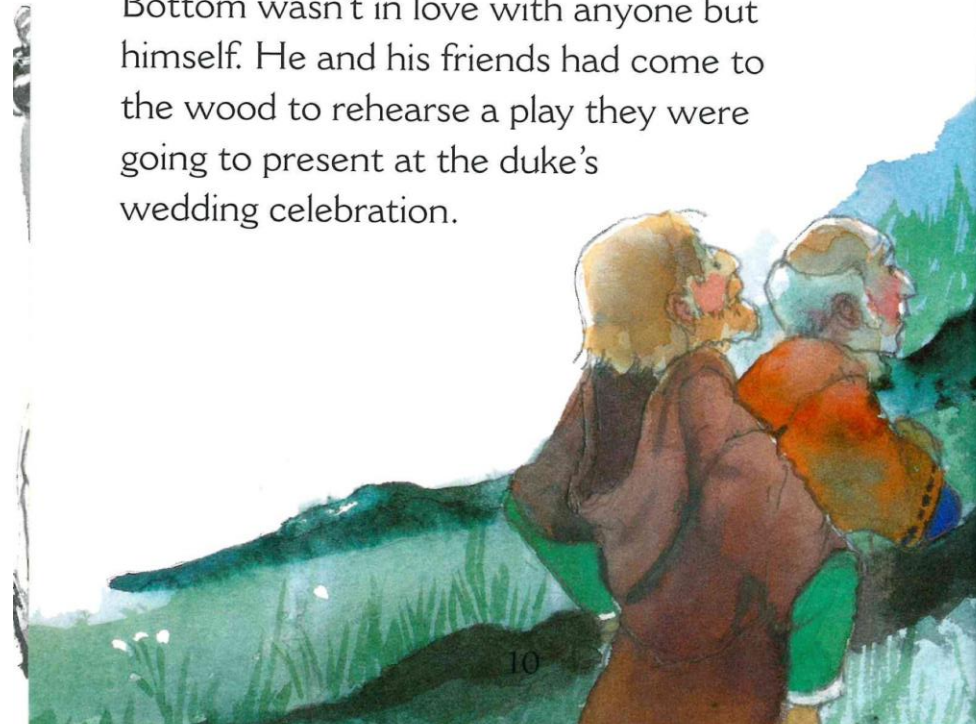
Pages 10 - 20

Listen carefully, you will be answering questions on it.

ENTER BOTTOM THE STAR!

As the moon rose that midsummer night,
four young lovers were heading for the
wood. Four young lovers, and Bottom
the weaver and his friends.

Bottom wasn't in love with anyone but
himself. He and his friends had come to
the wood to rehearse a play they were
going to present at the duke's
wedding celebration.



“You play Pyramus the lover!” Quince the carpenter told Bottom. “He kills himself for love at the end.”

“I’ll make everyone weep!” Bottom said. “Mind you, I could be frightening as well.”

Then Bottom bounced about being frightening. Everyone was frightened.

“Flute!” said Quince. “You play Thisbe, the girl Pyramus loves!”

“A girl?” gasped Flute the bellows-mender.

“I could play Thisbe!” Bottom suggested.

He wisped and lisped about being a woman who looked just a bit like a rather fat weaver. Everyone cheered.

“Snout!” said Quince. “You play the lion.”



“I would be a good lion!” Bottom boasted, and he roared like a lion. Everyone jumped.

“Duke Theseus might hang us all if your roaring scared the ladies,”

Quince pointed out.

Everyone was horrified.

“I’ll roar you like a nightingale!” Bottom said, and he did.

Everyone was relieved.

“You can’t play all the parts!” Peter Quince insisted, so Bottom agreed to be Pyramus.

Everyone knew Bottom would be brilliant because he was **BOTTOM THE STAR!**



LOVE HURTS

Others were out in the wood, not the play-actors or the young lovers. Others that they couldn't see, a fairy king and his queen, ill-met by moonlight. They were quarrelling like the lovers at court.

The argument was about one of their servants. Queen Titania flounced off in a furious sparkle, followed by the fairies who served her.





The angry King Oberon summoned Puck, the most mischievous of all the spirits.

“I’ll teach my proud Queen Titania a lesson!” he told Puck, ordering the sprite to fetch a flower called love-in-idleness.

“I’ll squeeze the juice of the flower on Titania’s eyelids as she sleeps,” Oberon laughed. “When she wakes, she’ll fall in love with the first thing she sees! A lion, a wolf, a bull? A monkey would be good, or an ape! When she does what I want, I’ll undo the spell!”

“I’ll fly round the world till I find it!” Puck said, and he disappeared to do Oberon’s bidding.

At that moment, along came the angry Demetrius looking for Hermia and Lysander, followed by the lovesick Helena. Neither of the humans could see or hear Oberon, for he was a spirit, but he could see and hear them.





“Don’t follow me!”
Demetrius swore.
“You know I’ve come
to save Hermia from
Lysander. I don’t love
you. Go away!”

Helena wouldn’t go.

“I get sick when I look at you!” Demetrius said cruelly. “I’ll run off and hide, leaving you here at the mercy of the beasts!”

“I can’t fight for love as men do,” Helena said sadly. “But I’ll follow you just the same.”

The invisible Oberon was horrified by the way Demetrius had spoken to the poor girl. He decided to do something about it.



“I’ll turn things round before you leave this wood!”
Oberon swore. But they couldn’t hear him.

When Puck returned, Oberon put the love potion on Titania’s eyes. He ordered the sprite to cast the same enchantment on the young Athenian the fairy king had seen in the wood.

And that’s where it all went wrong!



Why are the group of men going off into the woods?

Bottom seems a confident character, why is this?

Who are the fairy king and queen?

They are arguing, what is it about?

The fairy king plans to do what to his queen?

Lysander states 'The course of true love never did run smooth'

What does he mean?

How could this link to the fairy king and queen?

Why do you think Shakespeare continues to show issues with relationships?

All of the characters are heading into the woodland, Oberon has organised for what to happen?

How could this go wrong with so many humans around?



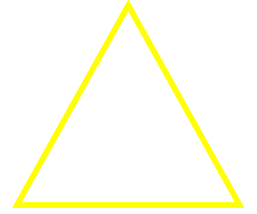
How does this scene present the men?

How does this contrast the presentation of the women?

Listen to pages 10 - 20

Answer the comprehension questions in full sentences.

Key words



Bottom

Theseus

Titania

Oberon

Puck

Demetrius

Hermia

Lysander

Helena

fairy



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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Pages 20 - 26

Listen carefully, you will be answering questions on it.

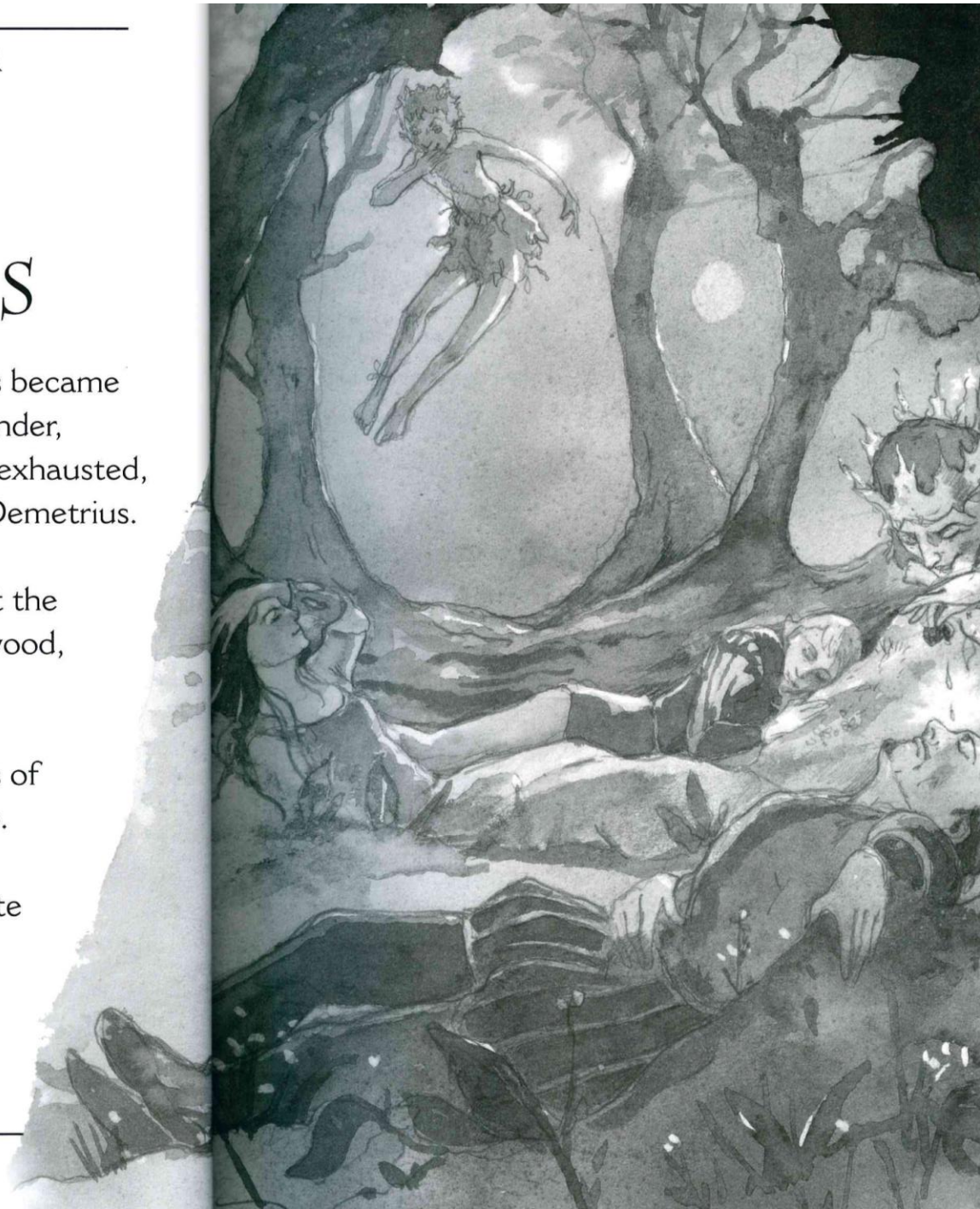
LOVE CONFUSES

Tired and confused, the young lovers became lost and separated in the wood. Lysander, Demetrius and Hermia all fell asleep exhausted, while Helena was still searching for Demetrius.

Oberon had ordered Puck to enchant the young Athenian he had seen in the wood, but Puck found the wrong Athenian.

He laid the love potion on the eyelids of the sleeping Lysander, not Demetrius.

When Oberon realised what the sprite had done, he put the love potion on Demetrius' eyelids himself, so that both young men were enchanted.





“Bring Helena here! When Demetrius wakes, he will see her and fall in love,” Oberon commanded Puck.

“Lord, what fools these mortals be!” sighed Puck when he returned with Helena.

Then Lysander woke up before Demetrius and saw Helena.
“I love you forever, Helena!” Lysander cried.



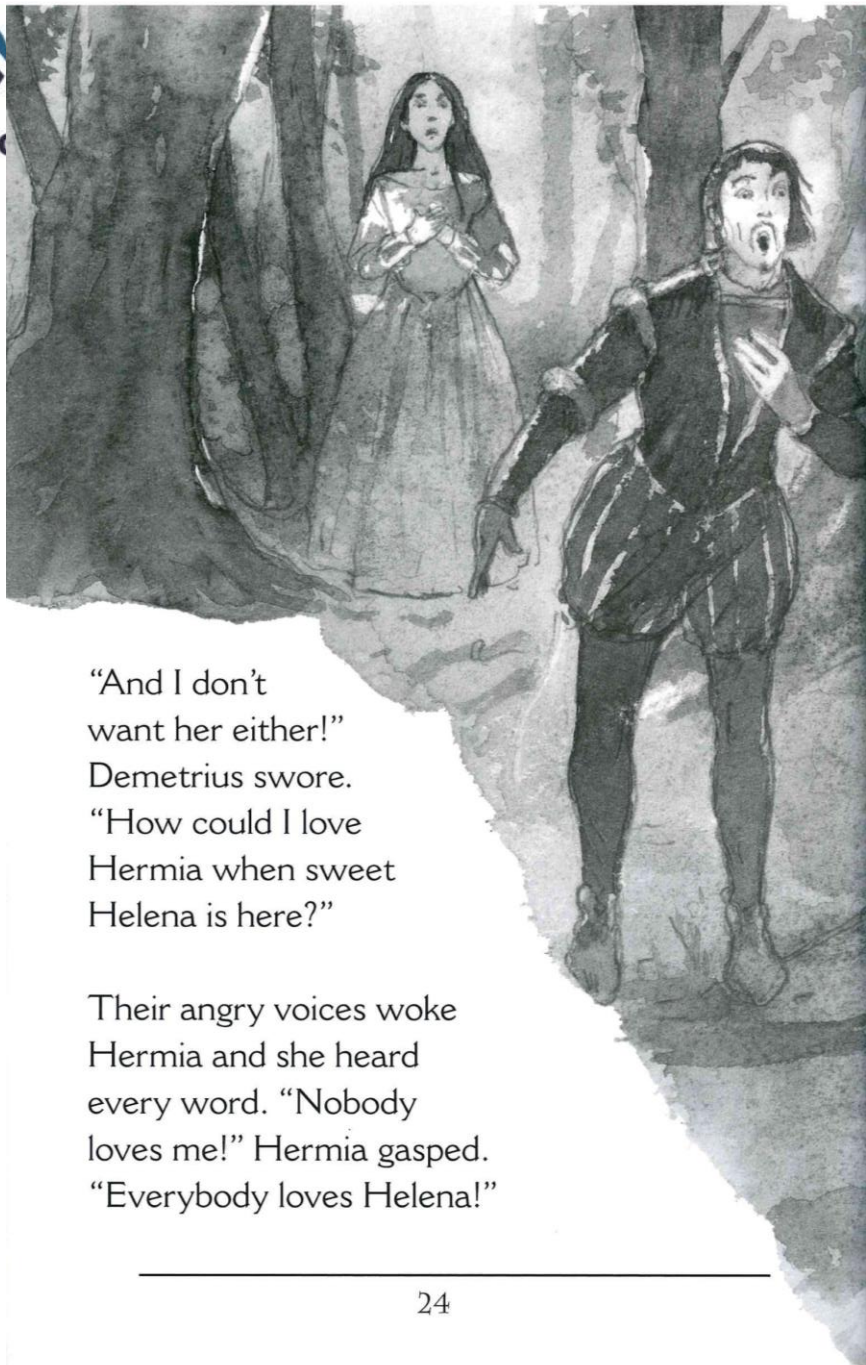
“Don’t make fun of me!” Helena said bitterly.

Their arguing woke Demetrius, and the first person he saw was Helena.

“Helena, you goddess! I love you,” he cried, falling instantly in love with her just as Oberon had planned.

“But you said you loved Hermia,” Lysander objected angrily. “You can have Hermia now. I don’t want her!”





“And I don’t want her either!”
Demetrius swore.
“How could I love
Hermia when sweet
Helena is here?”

Their angry voices woke
Hermia and she heard
every word. “Nobody
loves me!” Hermia gasped.
“Everybody loves Helena!”

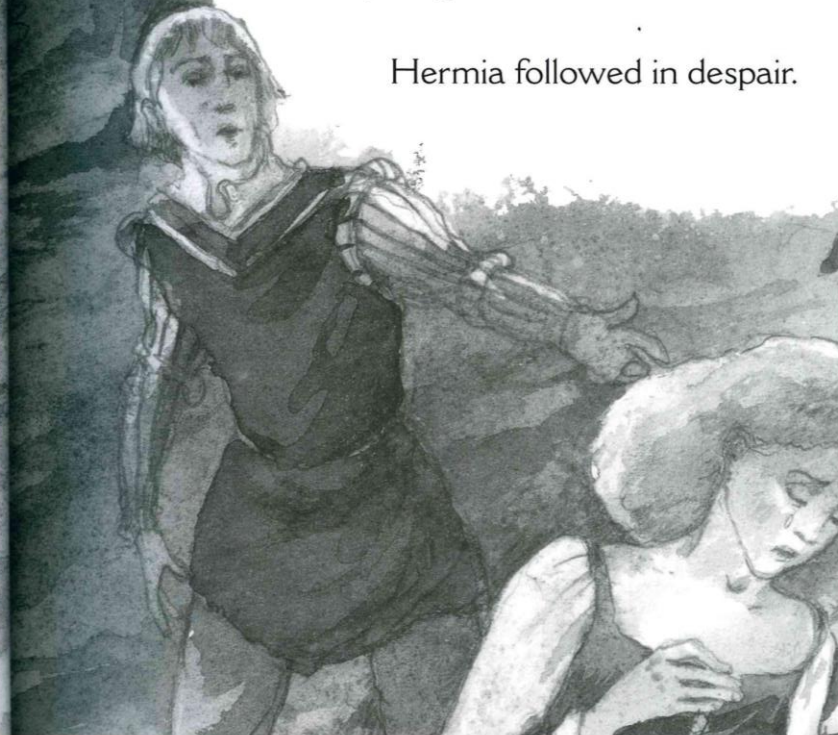
But Helena didn’t believe any of them.
“I hate you all!” she said angrily.

“Why hate me, Helena?” Hermia asked.

“Because you’re all in it together!
You’re all teasing me!” Helena sobbed.

Then Helena ran off weeping, and
the young men ran after her.

Hermia followed in despair.





The mischievous Puck led them astray by imitating their voices, so they all got lost in the dark wood.

When they fell asleep, Puck seized his chance and put the love potion on Lysander's eyes, making sure the young man saw Hermia when he woke.

Everyone had the right lover at last!

Then Puck made more mischief ...



Who is Puck and what has he been sent to do?

Who falls in love with who and why is this surprising?

An audience would find the situation amusing for what reason?

Lysander states 'The course of true love never did run smooth'

What does he mean?

How could this link to the current situation?

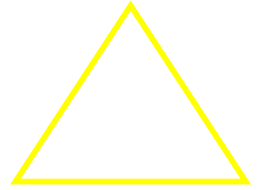
Puck soon rectifies the situation between the humans, what do you predict he is going to do with the potion next?



How does this scene present the men?

How does this contrast the presentation of the women?

Key words



Lysander

Demetrius

Hermia

Helena

Oberon

Puck

enchanted

fairy

potion



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Introduction to Shakespeare. Lesson 7

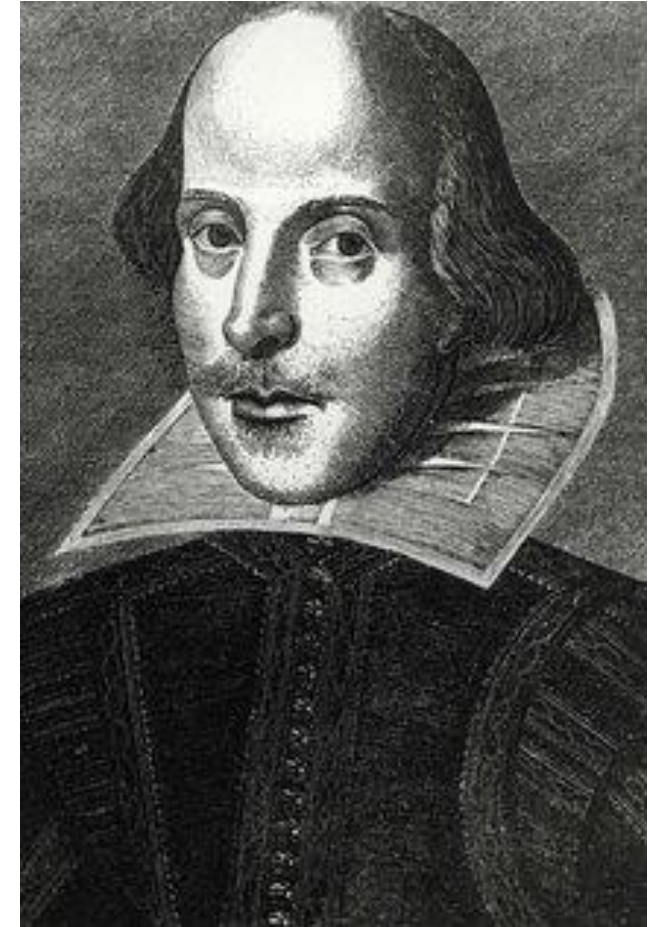


Mind map everything you know about A Midsummer Night's Dream



Can you name any of the characters?

A Midsummer Night's Dream





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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

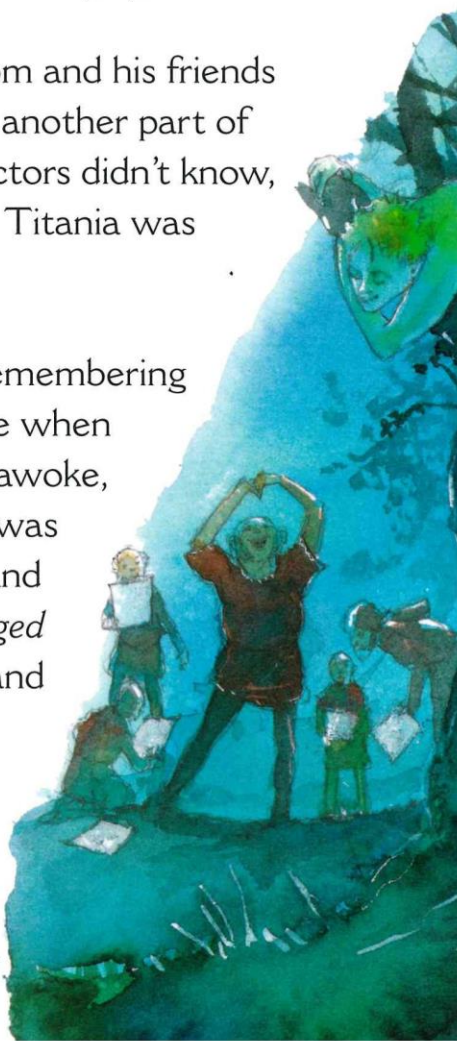
Pages 27 - 36

Listen carefully, you will be answering questions on it.

BOTTOM THE ASS!

The sprite found Bottom and his friends rehearsing their play in another part of the wood. What the actors didn't know, and Puck did, was that Titania was sleeping close by.

Puck's mind whirled, remembering Oberon's plan. Suppose when the enchanted Titania awoke, the first thing she saw was Bottom the weaver? And what if she saw a *changed* Bottom? Puck purred and Puck danced and Puck grinned with delight, and then set his magic to work.



One minute Bottom was Bottom the weaver ...
the next he was Bottom the ass!



It was too much for Quince and the other actors!
They fled through the dark wood.

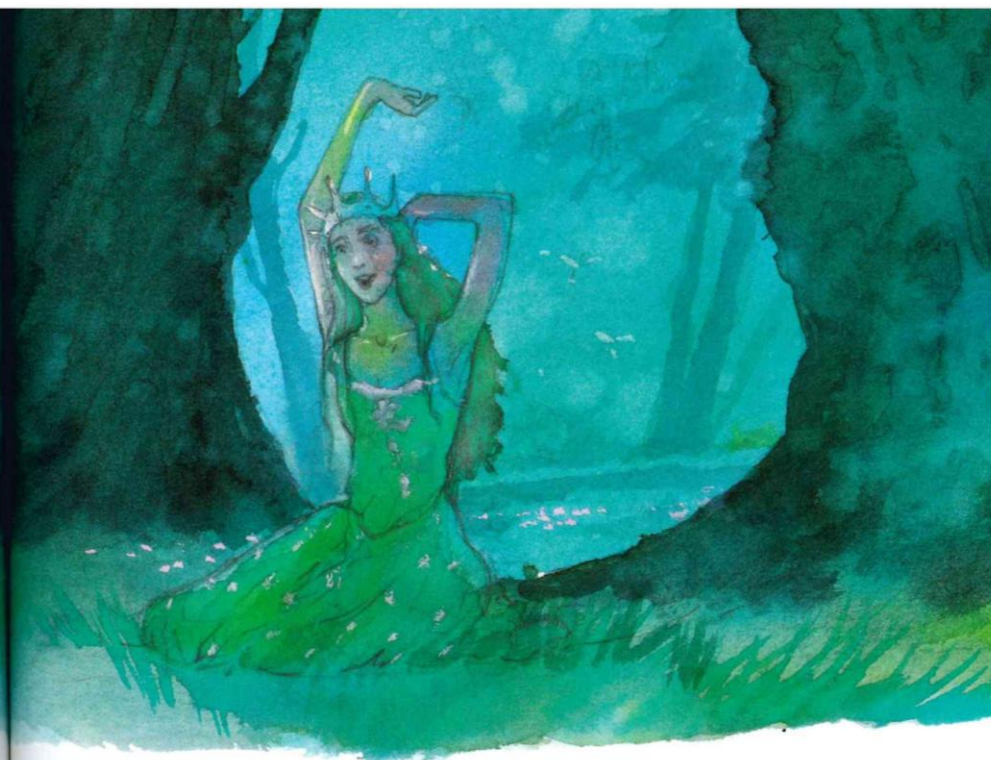


Puck darted through the trees, appearing to them
as a horse, then a headless bear, then a hound,
then a fire blazing round them. His neighing and
grunting and roaring and burning scared the
actors out of their wits.



Bottom didn't understand why his friends had run away screaming. He didn't know he had huge ears and looked like an ass with a human body. He thought the others were playing a trick to frighten him.

"They'll not make an ass out of me!" Bottom swore. And he stayed where he was, singing quietly to himself to show everyone just how scared he *wasn't*, as people do, when they are really scared.



Bottom's singing woke the sleeping Titania. She opened her eyes and saw ... Bottom the ass! Of course she fell in love at once.

"Sing to me! Sing your beautiful song to me again, oh my love!" gasped the enchanted Titania.

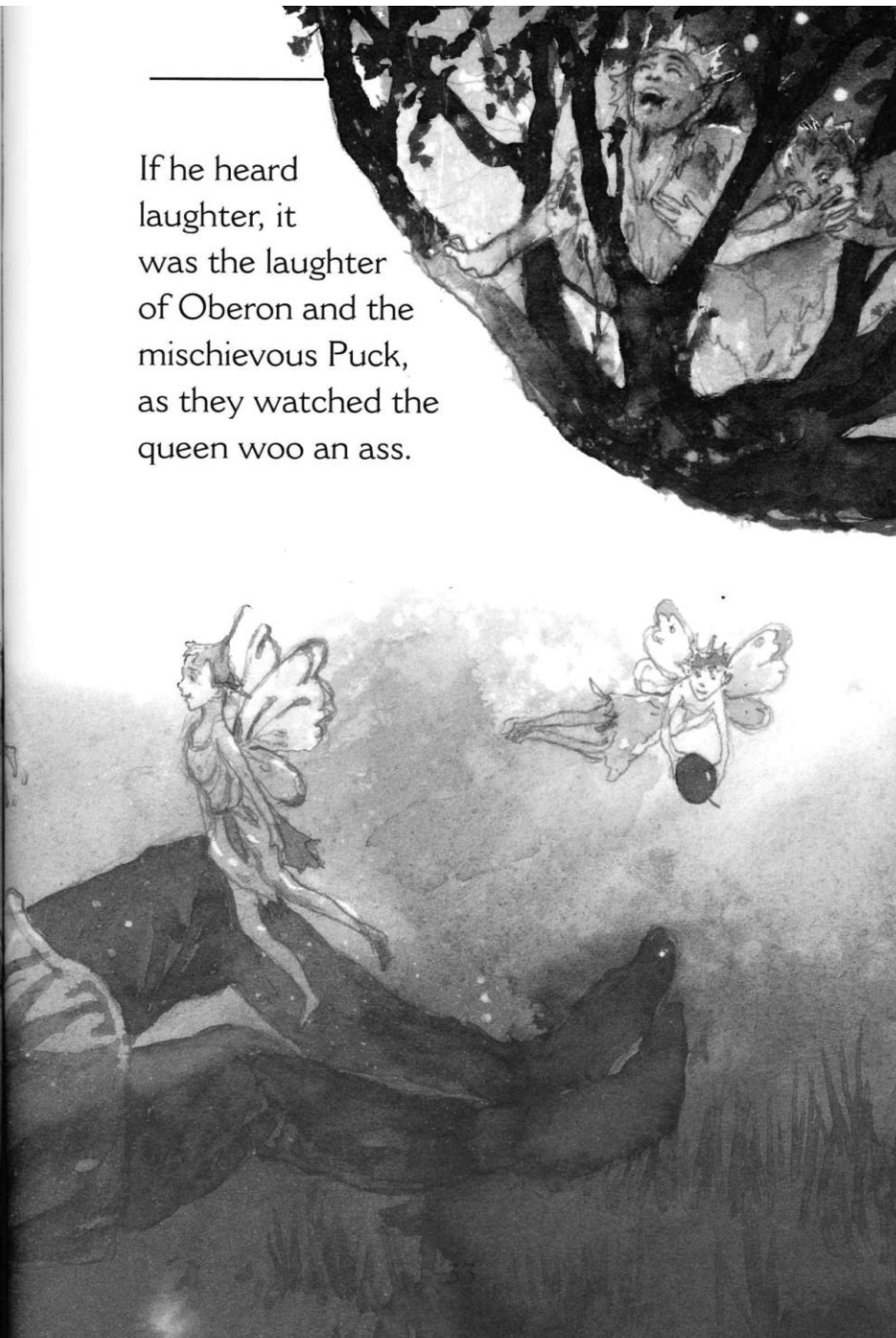
It wasn't every day, or every midsummer night, that Bottom found himself embraced by a beautiful fairy queen in an enchanted wood.

The queen's fairy servants, Peasblossom, Cobweb, Moth and Mustardseed, fluttered round him. They fed Bottom purple grapes, green figs and mulberries and honey.

Bottom fell asleep in the arms of the queen.



If he heard laughter, it was the laughter of Oberon and the mischievous Puck, as they watched the queen woo an ass.



Bottom started to snore and Oberon came forward, seizing his chance to win his argument with the queen.

“About our servant ...?” he began.

“Do what you want! I’m too busy being in love with this gorgeous creature!” cooed Titania.

Then Oberon removed the enchantment.

“How could I be in love with that?” gasped Titania.

“No matter, sweet queen!” laughed Oberon.

Their argument forgotten, the fairy king and queen smiled at each other once more.



In a flash, Puck undid his spell, and
Bottom was Bottom again!

When Bottom woke up he thought he had
dreamed the best dream that ever a weaver
dreamed. He rushed off to tell his friends
about it.





Who does Puck play a trick on and why?

Who falls in love with who and why is this surprising?

Why do you think Puck chose to use the potion this way?

An audience would find the situation amusing for what reason?

Which situation has been the funniest and why?

Lysander states 'The course of true love never did run smooth'

What does he mean?

Here could this link to the current situation?

Do you think Puck is trying to prove a point?

Why?



How does this scene present the men?

How does this contrast the presentation of the women?

Key words

Bottom

Puck

Titania

magic

enchanted

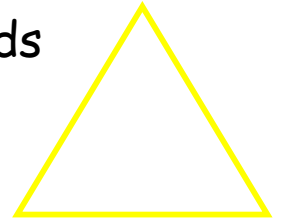
midsummer

beautiful

mischievous

fairy

potion





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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

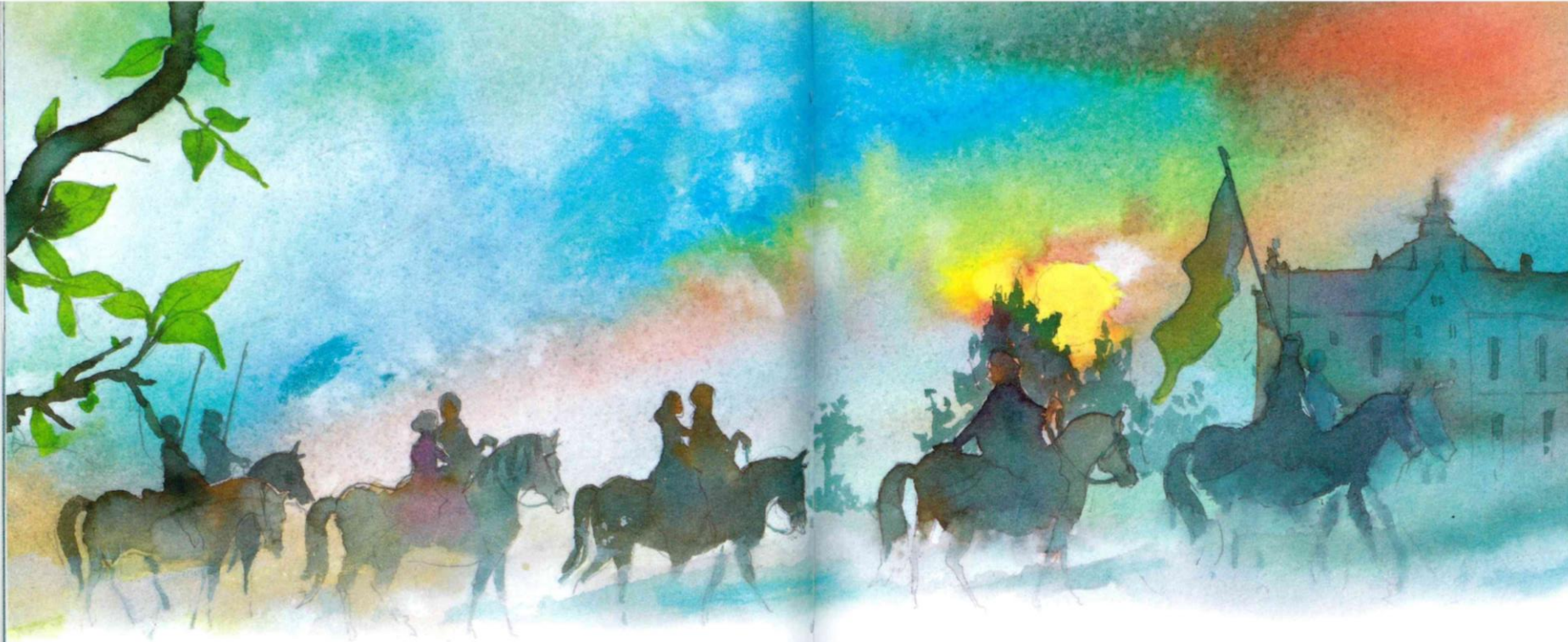
Pages 36 - end

Listen carefully, you will be answering questions on it.

LOVE CONQUERS

As morning dawned, Duke Theseus came to the wood with his huntsmen. He was surprised and pleased to find that everything had been sorted out between the young lovers, though quite how that had happened the duke didn't know.





Demetrius, still enchanted, told the duke that he loved Helena and could never marry Hermia. That meant that Lysander, released from his enchantment with Helena, could marry Hermia, the girl he really loved.

“We’ll celebrate all three weddings together!” the duke told the lovers, and Hermia’s father had to agree.

“I’m afraid we’ve got Quince the carpenter’s play to watch first!” someone sighed.

“What play is that?” asked the duke.

“The Most Awful Play Ever!” the same someone replied, and everyone groaned.

“Oh well, if we must,” laughed the duke, leading them all back to the palace.

Quince the carpenter brought his actors on to the stage. And the play? The play was so bad that the audience loved it. They'd never seen anything like it before, especially the weaver in the starring role.

Bottom
strutted.



Bottom
cried.



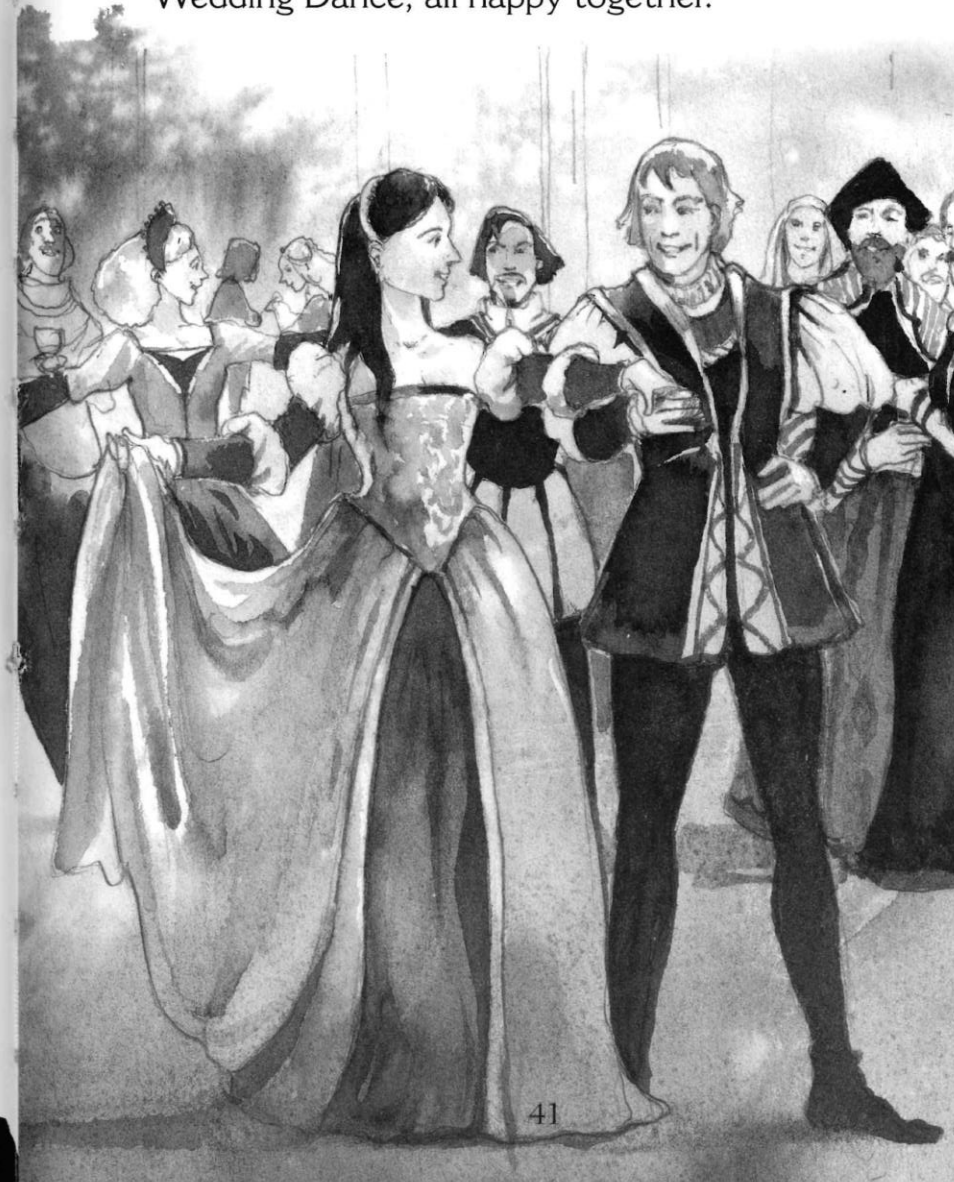
Bottom died,
several times,
and ...



... the audience cheered!



Then the actors and audience joined in the
Wedding Dance, all happy together.



When everyone had left and the night was still, the duke's hall suddenly filled with sweet music. Titania and Oberon danced with the spirits, and they sparkled and glowed and sang their blessing to the lovers. No one saw them come and no one saw them go. They went softly, leaving the lovers to love.

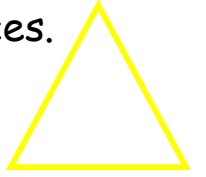


EPILOGUE

A fairy king, a fairy queen,
four lovers, a playful spirit, plain men
and a weaver with an ass's head.
It seemed they'd shared a wondrous dream ...



... dreamt on a midsummer night.



Key words

Theseus

Hippolyta

Demetrius

Helena

Hermia

Titania

Oberon

wedding

fairy

performance

How does the title fit the plot of the story?

A Midsummer Night's Dream is often viewed to be Shakespeare's funniest play, why do you think this is?

In your opinion, what do you think is the funniest part of the play and why?

Why would people in Shakespeare's day have found it so amusing?
Link to the context of Midsummer and how it was celebrated.

How are all the plots tied in together and why does this create comedy for the audience?





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In a different colour to the starter, mind map all you can about A Midsummer Night's Dream

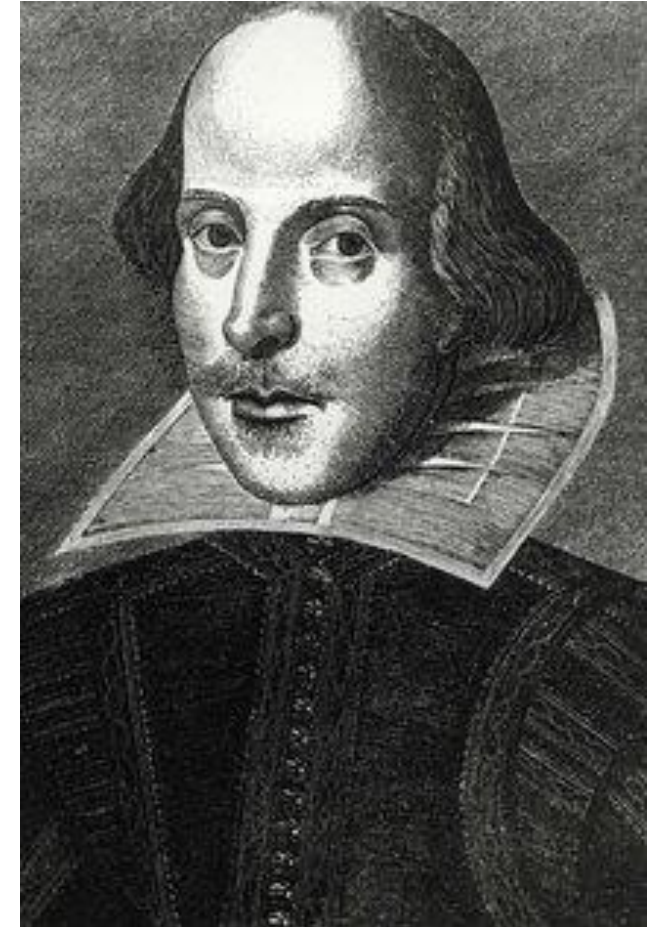


How does the play fit into the following genres?

Comedy

Love

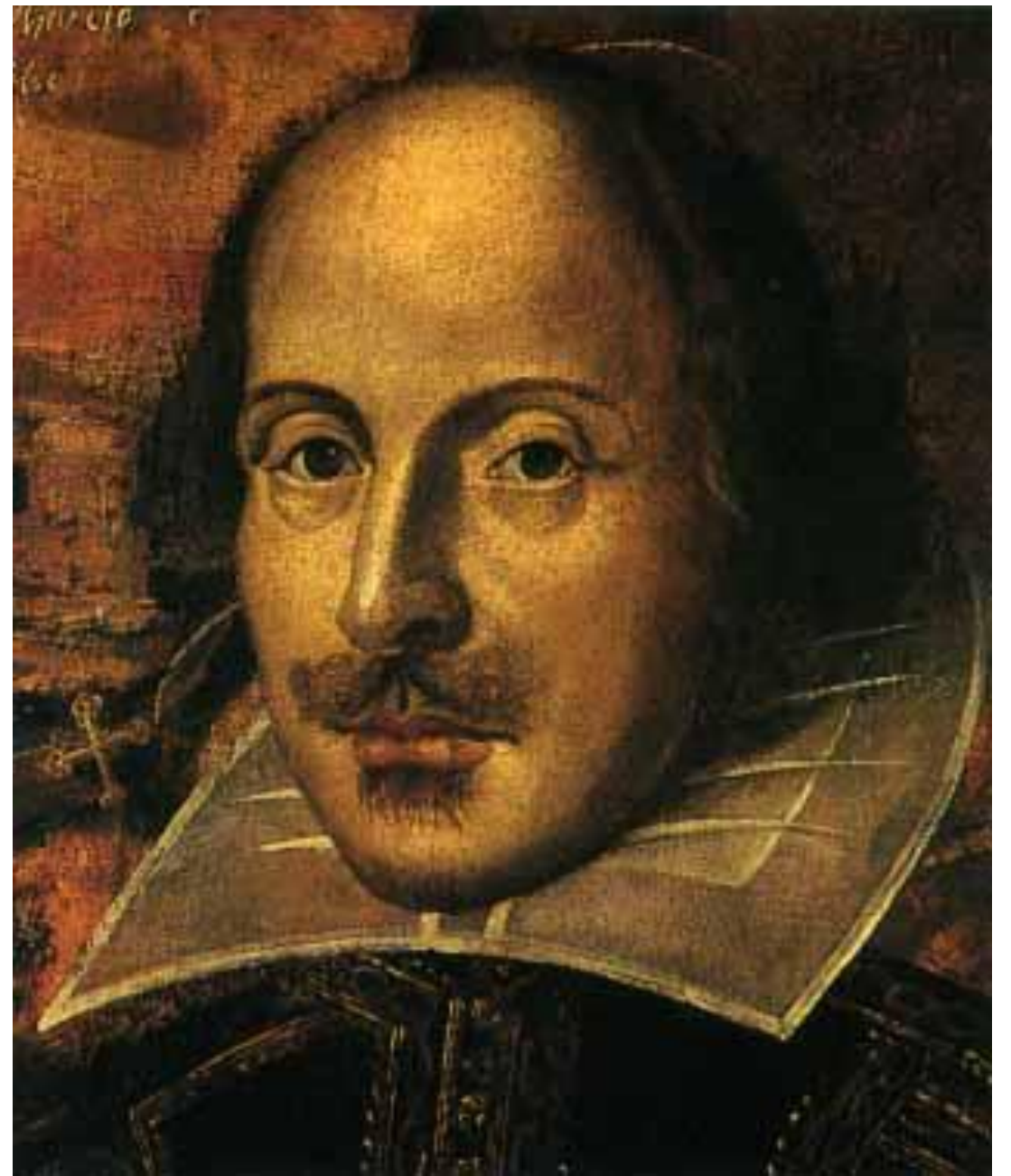
A Midsummer Night's Dream





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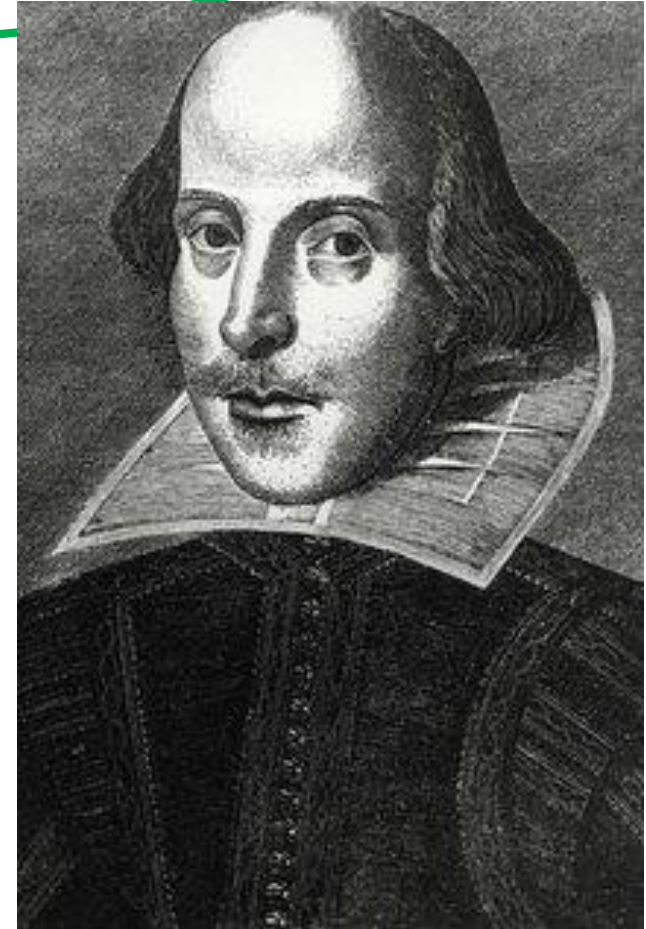




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A Midsummer Night's Dream

Note down eight key points from the play which could be included into a storyboard.





Aim - To storyboard the plot of the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| | | | |
| Helena and Lysander sneak off into the woods. | Oberon and Titania (the fairy king and queen) argue in woods. | Oberon tells Puck to go and find a potion to play with the lovers in the woods. | Puck places the potion on the eyes of Lysander and Oberon on the eyes of Demetrius. Both fall in love with Helena. |
| | | | |
| Puck turns Bottom into an ass. | Puck places the potion on the eyes of Titania who falls in love with Bottom. | Normality is restored and there's a triple wedding. Theseus and Hippolyta Lysander and Helena Demetrius and Hermia. | Oberon and Titania dance with the spirits and fairies while the humans sleep. They sing their blessing to the lovers. |



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Introduction to Shakespeare. Lesson 9





M What could you feature on an advertisement poster for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

Out of all the characters, who would be the most interesting to put as the centre of an advertisement poster and why?

Would you feature the following characters as the main feature on your film poster? Explain why.

Theseus
Hippolyta

Why would the fairy king and queen be interesting to place on a poster advertising the play.

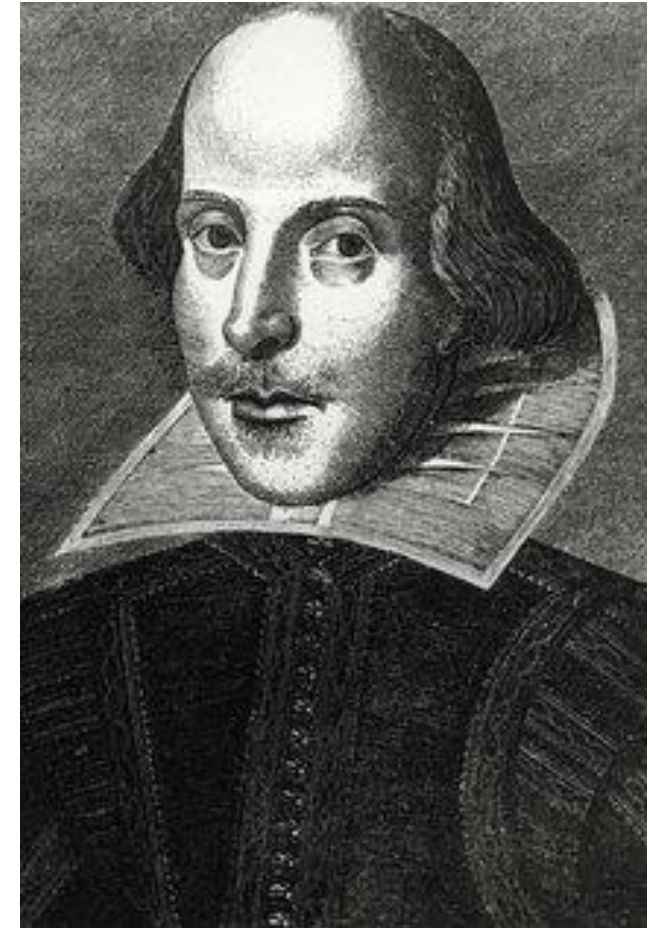


The best character to place on a poster advertising the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* would be Bottom.

Do you agree or disagree with the opinion? Explain why.

Homework

Create a poster advertising a production of the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*





Aim - To rewrite to story version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* into a play.



7

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

In pairs, you will be given a section of the play which you are to write into a play.

You will start at the beginning and will work your way through.

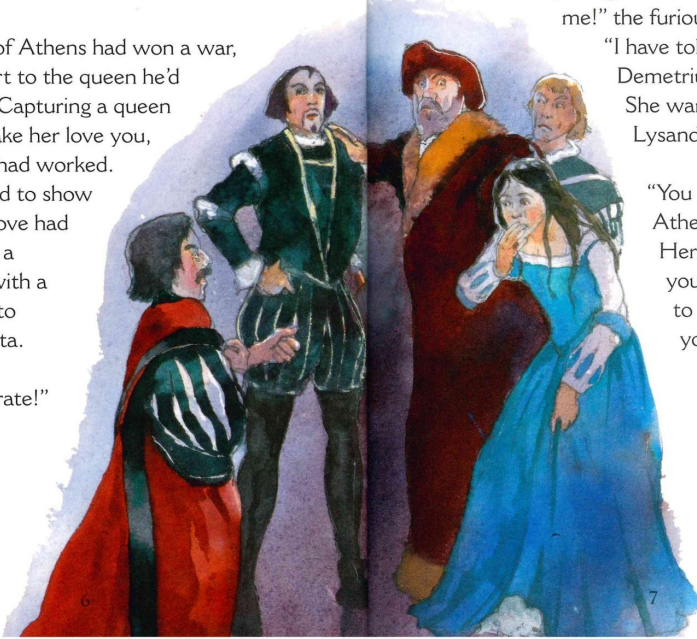
There is no rush!

LOVE LOSES

Duke Theseus of Athens had won a war, but lost his heart to the queen he'd taken prisoner. Capturing a queen is no way to make her love you, but this time it had worked.

Theseus wanted to show everyone that love had triumphed over a bad beginning with a lavish wedding to Queen Hippolyta.

"Time to celebrate!" the happy duke exclaimed.



Then in came an angry nobleman, a girl in tears, and two quarrelling young men who loved her.

"My daughter Hermia won't obey me!" the furious nobleman said.

"I have told her to wed Demetrius but she refuses. She wants to marry Lysander."

"You know the law of Athens!" the duke told Hermia. "If you disobey your father and refuse to wed Demetrius, you die!"

"But I love Lysander!" Hermia sobbed.

Example.

Duke Theseus: Result!

The war has been won.

Now all I need to do is win the heart of Hippolyta.

Enter Nobleman and his daughter Hermia.

Nobleman: I am furious!

My daughter is refusing to marry Demetrius.

Hermia: Father, please, I beg you.

Please.

Nobleman: I will not hear of it. You are my daughter and you do as I say!

Hermia: Please father. Do not make me marry Demetrius.

I love Lysander.

Can you include emotions in brackets for some lines to state how the character is feeling or the facial expression?

