



Topic: Midsummer Night's Dream

Year: 7

NC Strand: Shakespeare

What should I already know?

I have used basic inference and deductions skills and have been able to select evidence from a text. I have applied retrieval techniques in previous term's work and can now build upon this when analysing a new set of texts.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

You will learn background knowledge on Shakespeare, his life and work.
 Life in Ancient Athens, Greece; Shakespearian England
 The outline of the plot
 The effects of a love potion
 The central characters, especially: Helena, Lysander, Hermia and Demetrius
 You will be familiar with some of the patterns of Shakespearian language and remember the meaning of simple words such as 'thou', 'thee' and 'art'.
 You will know the standard format of Shakespeare's plays and the methods he used to engage the different social groups within the audience.
 You should know how to read a play script and understand how stage directions work.
 You should be able to select quotations from the text to support your ideas on characters, setting and themes.
 You should be able to compare and contrast differing versions of the same source material and be able to comment on a director's intent.

Key Characters

Theseus	The Duke of Athens. A strong and strict ruler of Athens.
Hippolyta	Theseus' bride. She was a fearless warrior.
Egeus	Hermia's stubborn father who wants her to marry Demetrius or be put to death.
Hermia	Egeus' daughter who is in love with Lysander.
Lysander	He is in love with Hermia and runs away to the forest with her.
Demetrius	He wants to marry Hermia and is disgusted by Helena's love for him.
Helena	Hermia's friend who is desperately in love with Demetrius.
Oberon	The king of the fairies who is in control of a love potion.
Puck	Oberon's mischievous servant.
Titania	The fierce queen of the fairies who falls in love with Bottom when the love potion is put in her eye.
Bottom	A weaver and an actor who has his head turned into a donkey. Titania falls in love with him when she is under the influence of the love potion.

Key Terms

Soliloquy	A speech in a play that a character speaks to himself or herself or to the audience, rather than to the other characters.
Conflict	A serious disagreement, battle or struggle between two ideas or sides.
Unrequited love	If a person loves someone who doesn't love them back, the person's love is unrequited.
To mock	To mock someone is to make fun of them.
Chaos	A situation where there is no order and everyone is confused.



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Plot Summary	Who loves whom?	Key information
<p>Act 1: Hermia and Lysander love each other but are not allowed to marry so decide to run away to the forest to get married in secret. Demetrius wants to marry Hermia. Helena loves Demetrius. They follow Hermia and Lysander into the forest.</p> <p>Act 2: In the forest, Oberon and Titania are arguing. Oberon sees Demetrius and Helena arguing and commands Puck to use the potion on the Athenian man to make him fall in love with Helena. However, the first Athenian man Puck sees is Lysander, so he puts the love potion on him. Lysander falls madly in love with Helena.</p> <p>Act 3: Puck sees Bottom in the forest and transformed his head into a donkey's head. He puts the love potion on Titania, who falls in love with Bottom. Puck puts the love potion on Demetrius so that he falls in love with Helena. As a result, both men love Helena so there is chaos. Puck eventually drops a herb in Lysander's eyes to put him back to normal.</p> <p>Acts 4 and 5: Oberon finds Titania and Bottom and decides that he has had enough fun. Puck drops a herb in her eyes, she wakes and leaves with Oberon. The lovers return to Athens where Bottom and the other actors perform their play at the wedding of the three happy couples: Theseus and Hippolyta, Lysander and Hermia and Demetrius and Helena.</p>	<pre> graph TD Hermia --> Lysander Hermia --> Demetrius Lysander --> Helena Demetrius --> Helena Hermia --> Lysander Lysander --> Helena Demetrius --> Helena Hermia --> Lysander Lysander --> Helena Demetrius --> Helena Hermia --> Lysander Lysander --> Helena Demetrius --> Helena </pre>	<p>Shakespeare went to a grammar school where he was taught Ancient Greek.</p> <p>The play is set in Ancient Greece and follows the rules of a comedy from Ancient Greece.</p> <p>When the play was written, Elizabeth 1st was Queen. She decided not to get married which many people disagreed with.</p> <p>Many Elizabethans believed in and feared magic.</p> <p>Cupid is the ancient god of love. He is usually presented as a baby whose arrows make people fall in love.</p> <p>The play features a love potion. The love potion is made from a flower in the forest. The flower is magical because Cupid hit it with his arrow when he was aiming at a young girl. When the potion is put on characters' eyes, they fall in love with the first person they see. It is very powerful.</p>

Further Reading and extension activities

BBC bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zksycdm>
The Shakespeare Stories by Andrew Mathews and Tony Ross.

- How might the reactions of modern readers be different to Shakespearian readers?
- How would a Shakespearian audience be kept interested without the modern technologies of lighting and special effects?



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