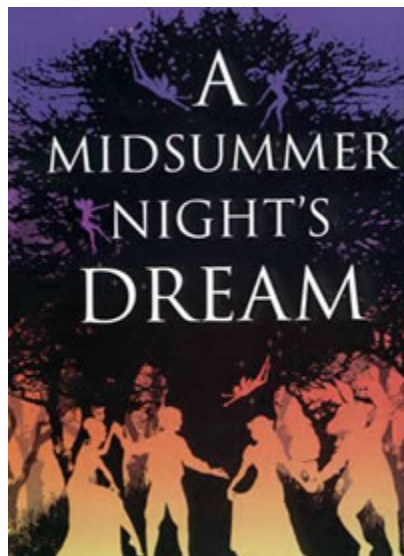


Year 7 Literature Revision
A Midsummer Night's Dream



Plot Summary

Duke Theseus and Hippolyta are preparing for their wedding, when Egeus arrives with his daughter Hermia, along with Lysander and Demetrius. Hermia and Lysander love each other; but Egeus wants Hermia to marry Demetrius (who is loved by Helena). Theseus insists that Egeus must have his way, and gives Hermia a month to marry Demetrius, or either die or become a nun. Hermia and Lysander decide to run away and to meet in the forest. Hermia tells Helena of their plans, and she in turn tells Demetrius, in the hope that he will like her more for telling him. Demetrius chases after the eloping couple, and Helena chases after him.

A group of actors meet to discuss a play on the theme of Pyramus and Thisbe which they want to perform at Theseus' wedding. They plan to rehearse in the forest.

Oberon and Titania, the king and queen of the fairies, are arguing over who should have a changeling boy that Titania has stolen. Titania will not give him up, so Oberon takes his revenge by having his servant Puck find a special flower whose juice he will squeeze onto Titania's eyes while she is asleep. This will make her fall in love with the first person she sees upon waking. Oberon, seeing Demetrius reject Helena, tells Puck to put the potion on Demetrius' eyes also. But Puck mistakes Lysander for Demetrius, and Lysander wakes to see Helena, whom he falls in love with and chases after, leaving Hermia alone.

Meanwhile, Puck gives Bottom (one of the actors) a donkey's head. Bottom frightens his friends away, and in doing so wakes Titania. She falls in love with him, and Bottom is treated like a lord by the fairy retinue.

Hermia, having lost Lysander, thinks Demetrius has killed him, and when he denies it she goes to look for him. Oberon is furious with Puck for his mistake and tells him to find Helena and bring her to him. Oberon squeezes the flower onto Demetrius' eyes while he sleeps. Lysander enters with Helena, begging for her love, telling her Demetrius does not love her; Demetrius then wakes, sees Helena, and begs for her love. Hermia enters and is snubbed by Lysander, while Helena thinks all three are tricking her.

Oberon gets Puck to imitate the two men's voices, leading them around until they fall asleep. Puck puts an antidote on Lysander's eyes so that he resumes his love for Hermia.

Oberon then releases Titania from her spell, having received the changeling boy from her. Puck removes the ass's head from Bottom.

Theseus and Hippolyta arrive to hunt in the forest, along with Egeus, where they discover the sleeping lovers. They hear their story, and Theseus announces they shall be married as they wish, despite Egeus' will.

Bottom is reunited with his friends, and they rehearse their play, which has been selected as one of those to be made available as entertainment at the wedding. After supper, Theseus chooses their play, which is presented in front of an audience of all the lovers.

Characters

Puck - Puck is a mischievous fairy who delights in playing pranks on mortals. His enchanting, mischievous spirit fills the atmosphere, and his antics are responsible for many of the complications in the play: he mistakes the young Athenians, applying the love potion to Lysander instead of Demetrius, thereby causing chaos within the group of young lovers; he also transforms Bottom's head into that of an ass.

Oberon - The king of the fairies. Oberon wants revenge on his wife Titania which leads him to send Puck to obtain the love-potion flower that creates so much of the play's confusion.

Titania - The beautiful queen of the fairies, Titania, who has had an argument with her husband Oberon about a changeling boy. Titania briefly (whilst under a spell) falls in love with Nick Bottom, whose head Puck has transformed into that of an ass (a donkey).

Lysander - A young man of Athens, in love with Hermia. Lysander cannot marry Hermia because Egeus, her father, wishes her to wed Demetrius. When Lysander and Hermia run away into the forest, Lysander becomes the victim of misapplied magic and wakes up in love with Helena.

Demetrius - A young man of Athens, initially in love with Hermia and ultimately in love with Helena.

Hermia - Egeus's daughter, a young woman of Athens. Hermia is in love with Lysander and is a childhood friend of Helena. As a result of the fairies' mischief with Oberon's love potion, both Lysander and Demetrius suddenly fall in love with Helena. Hermia suspects that Helena has seduced the men. By morning, however, Puck has sorted matters out with the love potion, and Lysander's love for Hermia is restored.

Helena - A young woman of Athens, in love with Demetrius. Lacking confidence in her looks, Helena thinks that Demetrius and Lysander are mocking her when the fairies' mischief causes them to fall in love with her.

Egeus - Hermia's father, who wants her to marry Demetrius.

Theseus - The duke of Athens, engaged to Hippolyta..

Hippolyta - The legendary queen of the Amazons, engaged to Theseus.

Nick Bottom - The overconfident weaver chosen to play Pyramus in the craftsmen's play for Theseus's marriage celebration. Bottom is full of confidence but frequently makes silly mistakes and misuses language. His head is turned into a donkey by Puck!

Key Quotations

Helena: "I am your spaniel!"

Lysander: "The course of true love never did run smooth."

Titania: "What angel wakes me from my flow'ry bed?"

Helena: "O, when she's angry she is keen and shrewd.
She was a vixen when she went to school,
And though she be but small she is fierce"

Hermia: "O me, you juggler, you canker-blossom you thief of love!"

Titania: "Methought I was enamoured of an ass"

Bottom: "I have had a most rare vision. I had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it was..."

Puck: "If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended,"

Puck: "Lord, what fools these mortals be!"

Helena: "And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind."

Oberon: "I'll met by moonlight, proud Titania"

Language Techniques

Rhetorical question – when a question is used that makes the reader think. It does not require an answer.

Metaphor – When something is compared to something else – it creates an image in the readers mind.

Alliteration – when the first letter of each word is the same.

Rhyme – when two words sound the same.