

Year 8 'Midsummer Night's Dream' Knowledge Organiser

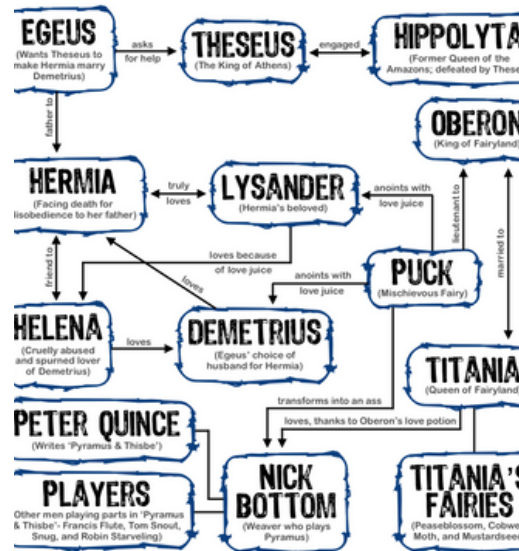
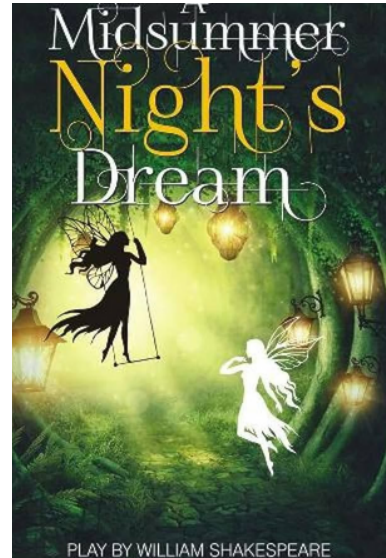
Plot Summary Who loves Whom

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.

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.

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.

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.



Key words

soliloquy - a speech in a play that the character speaks to himself or herself or to the audience, rather than to the other characters

severe - very strict or harsh

conflict - a serious disagreement, battle or struggle between two sides or ideas.

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 to resolve - to solve a problem or difficulty

Background Information

Shakespeare went to a grammar school where he was taught Ancient Greek. The play is set in Ancient Greece and follows the rules of a comedy from Ancient Greece.

When the play was written, Elizabeth 1st was Queen. She decided not to get married which many people disagreed with. Many Elizabethans believed in and feared magic.

Cupid is the ancient god of love. He is usually presented as a baby whose arrows make people fall in love.