

A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedy centering on the efforts, downsides, and joys of love and marriage.

oys of love and marriage. te the play between 1594

the play on *The Knight's Tale,* vritten by Geoffrey Chaucer.

nens, Greece and nearby reek mythology. The date of ion is June 24 which is the John the Baptist. It was a easting and happiness. Oner Night, fairies, hobgoblins, itches heid their festival. To ream about Midsummer ght, therefore, was to dream about strange creatures and strange happenings—like those in the play. The tone of the play is lighthearted, mischievous, and magical.

THE PLOT...

The play starts with a Duke Theseus and Hippolyta 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 vows that Egeus must have his way, and gives Hermia a month to marry Demetrius, or either die or become a nun. Hermia and Lysander agree to run away and to meet in the forest.

Hermia tells Helena of their plans, and she then tells Demetrius, hoping that he will like her more for telling him. Demetrius pursuits after the eloping couple, and Helena chases after him.

SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Bottom want a prologue written for the play?

He speaker: "Tie up my love's tongue, bring him silently."

Puck done to Bottom?

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



(born 1564; died 1616) was an English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's preeminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon". His surviving works, including some collaborations, consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, who bore him three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. He appears to have retired to Stratford around 1613, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive, and there has been considerable speculation about such matters as his physical appearance, sexuality, religious beliefs, and whether the works attributed to him were written by others. Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were mainly comedies and histories, genres he raised to the peak of sophistication and artistry by the end of the sixteenth century. He then wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, including Hamlet, King Lear, and Macbeth, considered some of the finest works in the English language.

Many of his plays were published in editions of varying quality and accuracy during his lifetime. In 1623, two of his former theatrical colleagues published the First Folio, a collected edition of his dramatic works that included all but two of the plays now recognized as Shakespeare's.

ABOUT WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

- 1. What are Theseus and Hippolyta discussing at the play's start?
- 2. How does Hippolyta come to be betrothed to Theseus?
- 3. Why is Egeus disturbed?
- 4. What will be Hermia's fate if she refuses to marry Demetrius?



d Hermia agree?

nave by telling Demetrius of Lysander and Hermia's flight

ters in scene two, and what do they plan?

4. What news does Puck bring Oberon?

- 5. Why does Oberon send Puck to fetch Helena?
- 6. What is Helena's situation at this point in the play?
- 7. What does Helena suppose of Hermia?
- 8. What does Hermia think Helena has done?
- 9. Why does Oberon send Puck to confuse the two young men?
- 10. What remedy corrects the crossed-loved couples?

ACT III

remove the spell he has cast over his queen?

uples asleep in the wood and learning of their more balanced s Theseus give?

ottom bring his companions?

Shakespeare included a play within a play?

do after the palace goes to sleep?

ACT I

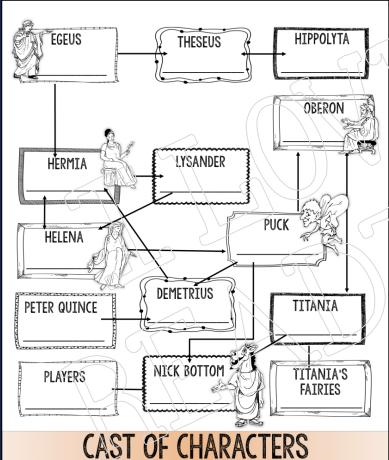
- 6. What is Helena's reaction to Lysander's words of love?
- 7. To where has Lysander disappeared when Hermia awakes?

ACT 11

з who does म्प्रदेश address at the play's end?

4. What is the purpose of this last speech?

ACTS IV AND V

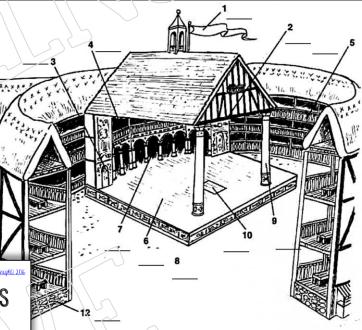


Danielle Knight (Hudy Oll Knight) 20%

The Globe Theatre

In 1599, the famous Globe Theatre was built. Referred to by Shakespeare as a "wooden O," the Globe could hold up to 3,000 spectators, and had as many as 20 sides. Using the Glossary of Terms, examine this unique theatre with its tiered stages, hidden doors, and unusual construction. The Globe Theatre burned down during a production of Henry VIII in 1613; reconstruction began that same year. In 1684, the Globe was finally torn down.

Directions-Using the Globe Theatre parts and descriptions on the next page, label the parts on the diagram. Place the correct letters on the spaces provided.



Laniette Knight (Aliay ale Knight), LOI

GLOBE THEATRE PARTS AND DESCRIPTIONS

TIRING A. dressing and storage rooms. Actors rested here between scenes and changed into HOUSE main entrances and exits.

GALLERIES B. three covered seating sections. Audiences paid more to sit on these tiered wooden benches under a thatched roof to keep out the sun and rain. For an additional penny, a patron could borrow a cushion to sit on.

INNER STAGE C. this stage was used mostly for indoor scenes. It had a curtain that could be opened or closed for scene change

FLAG D. signified which type of play was being performed - black for tragedy, white for comedy, and red for history. This piece of the Globe Theater was flown high enough so most of London could see it waving from the top of the Globe.

UPPER STAGE E. this "chamber" was used for most bedroom and balcony scenes

hese wooden pillars supported the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used study ALL Knight "lence. **

**The support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used the support of the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used to look like marble. Act



oald one penny to stand here and watch the performance rain or shine. Often or groundlings, would participate in the play by cheering, shouting or throwing ctors.

foundation needed to be constructed of brick, as it was built on wet, marshy be Thames River.

g gnosts or witches could rise or descend through this door built into the main e cellarage underneath was referred to as "hell".

ENTRANCE J. "Gatherers" stood at the single entrance to collect one penny from each patron per performance. Patrons put their pennies into a box, hence the term "box office" It took audiences at least half an nour to file into the theater.

MAIN STAGE K. where the main action of the play took place, especially outdoor scenes of battlefields, forests, or cityscapes. It was often called an "apron" stage because audiences could sit around all three sides. The stage was intentionally built four to five feet high so the audience could not jump up and into the action.

THE L. ceiling over the stage that protected the actors from too much sun or rain. It also represented the sky and heavens and was painted blue with golden stars. Actors who played "HEAVENS" angels or spirits descended from the hut on top of this "roof" to the main stage. The hut was also used for storage and additional sound effects such as alarm bells, cannon fire, and

GLOBE THEATRE



*Answer Keys for everything ©

Study Guide Answer Key

Act

1. What are Theseus and Hippolyta discussing at the play's start? They are discussing their wedding which is supposed to take place in four days' time.

- How does Hippolyta come to be bet marriage as a peace settlement or per
 Why is Egeus disturbed? He wants h
 wander.
- 4. What will be Hermia's fate if she ref
- To what do Lysander and Hermia ag and from there to make their way to Athen's cruel punishment and separat
- 6. What hope does Helena have by tell She anticipates the sweet pain of follow
- Who are the characters in scene tw They are six craftsmen of Athens who honor the duke's wedding day.

Act II

- Why is Oberon angry with his queer young boy for himself. She refuses to a 2. On what mission does Oberon send Oberon sends Puck to find a flower to Oberon sends puck to himself. It was the
- Titania, causing her to blindly love the 3. Upon overhearing Demetrius and Hi He tells Puck to find the Athenian coup the maid and love her.
- Upon whose eyes does Puck apply
 When he wakes up, who does Lysan
- 6. What is Helena's reaction to Lysand
- 7. To where has Lysander disappeared

Act III

- Why does Bottom want a prologue He wants one written so that his charathe actors either by sword or by lion.
- What has Puck done to Bottom? He
 Identify the speaker: "Tie up my lov Bottom to her bower.
- 4. What news does Puck bring Oberon he has successfully dosed the Athenia 5. Why does Oberon send Puck to fetc mistake and that now a maid has lost it repulsing Helena. While Puck its away.

 **The Puck its away.

 **The
- What is Helena's situation at this pobelieves that they have conspired to pi
- What does Helena suppose of Herm Lysander and Demetrius.
- 8. What does Hermia think Helena has height and therefore her greater value

Study Guide Answer Key

9. Why does Oberon send Puck to confuse the two young men?

They are going to fight over Helena, so Oberon has Puck make the night darken and cloudy and use his voice to level them away from each other and to sleep.

10. What remedy corrects the crossed-loved couples? Puck drips the potion on Lysander's eyes so be will love his former sweetheart, Hermia. He leaves Cemetrius loving Helena.

Act IV

- 1. Why does Titania give Oberon the child? She cares for him so longer now that she has Bottom on whom to dote.
- 2. How does Overest find Titania and Bottom? They are tolero in each other's arms.
- 3. Why does Oberon remove the spell he has cast over his queen?

He has the boy and now he pities his goven her silly new love-pet. He wants her back to her true self.

4. Finding the two couples asleep in the wood and learning of their more balanced love, what order does Theseus give?

He orders that they should follow him and Hippointa to be married with them at the temple.

5. What news does Sottom bring his companions?

He says that their play has been chosen by the cuke as an entertainment. They must now get ready and meet at the palace.

Act V

- Why do you think Shakespeare included a play within a play? The story of Pyramus and Thisby is an ancient tale well known to the audiences in Shakespeare's time. The audience of A Midsummer Night's Dream could join in with the jests and comments.
- 2. What do the lairies do after the palace goes to sleep? Oberon sends them off throughout the house to sing and clance and bless the new lovers on their wedding night.
- 3. Who does Puck address at the play's end? He talks to the audience.
- 4. What is the purpose of this last speech?
- It closes the play and thanks the audience, asking that they enjoy or else partion a frivolous entertainment

Globe Theatre Answer Key

- 1. Flag
- 2. The "Heavens"
- 3. Tiring House
- 4. Upper Stage
- 5. Galleries
- 6. Main Stage
- 7. Inner Stage
- 8. Open Yard
- 9. Support Pillars
- 10. Trap Door
- 11. Entrance
- 12. Brick Foundation

