

Reflections:

*A Student Response Journal for...*

# *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

*by William Shakespeare*

Copyright © 2003 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.  
1-800-932-4593. [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com) Permission to copy this unit for  
classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. *This material,  
in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.*

ISBN: 978-1-60389-596-5

Item No. 201472

---

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

**Act One, Scene One**

1. Theseus tells Hermia, "To you your father should be as a god." Clearly, Hermia's rights as a woman are limited. If you were Hermia, would you agree that a man should have complete control over your life, or would you want things to change? Pretend you are making a speech to a group of women very much like Hermia. Tell them how you think they should behave towards the men who are in power.
  
2. Hermia chooses Lysander, whom she truly loves, over Demetrius, whom her father favors. Why would someone choose to follow his or her heart rather than enter a "proper" relationship? Pretend you are Hermia's marriage counselor. Outline the reasons both for and against marrying both Lysander and Demetrius, and tell her which one you think she should choose.

---

## *Response Journal*

3. We know that Hippolyta and Theseus met in battle, but we do not know the circumstances of Lysander's and Hermia's first encounter. How do you think they met? Recreate the scene of their first meeting. Include both dialogue and description.
  
4. Theseus lectures Hermia on the authority of parents. How have you been influenced and shaped by your parents or elders? List the top ten lessons you have learned from the people who have raised you.
  
5. Hermia understands that there will be consequences if she chooses to disobey her father, but goes ahead with her plan. This is a kind of "civil disobedience" —intentional violation of a law that one believes to be unfair, with full acceptance of the punishment for breaking that law. Is there a law you feel is wrong? Under what circumstances would you refuse to obey that law? Explain your answer.

---

## *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

6. “The course of true love never did run smooth,” says Lysander. Throughout history, the best-laid plans of young couples in love have been ruined by circumstances beyond the lovers’ control. Think of other frustrated lovers who appear in books, movies, songs, or television shows. Write a dialogue between some of these couples and Hermia /Lysander in which they discuss their problems.
  
7. Does the relationship between Hermia and Lysander seem mature, or is it closer to “puppy love”? Write a brief version of Act One, Scene One in which Hermia and Lysander are ten years older. Does this change the way they speak and act?
  
8. Lysander and Hermia make plans to elope and avoid the certain punishment that awaits them in Athens. Is running away the right thing to do, in this case? Have you ever felt that the only way out of a bad situation was to run away? Write about a time when you or someone you knew solved a problem by running away.

---

*Response Journal*

9. Helena loves Demetrius, but he rejects her again and again. What similar situations have you seen? Why have you or someone you know continued to pursue someone, even though that person gives no love in return? Was the problem solved, and, if so, how?
10. Hermia loves Lysander, Demetrius loves Hermia, and Helena loves Demetrius. Rewrite their mixed-up story as a modern-day soap opera. Give the soap opera a title, a setting, leading characters, dialogue and description.

