

# *a Midsummer Night's Dream*

## SHAKESPEAREAN COMEDY

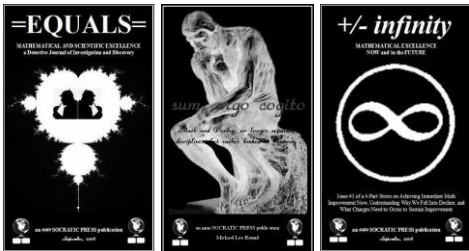
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an *auto* SOCRATIC QUICK-START publication

Michael Lee Round





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Published by:  
*auto*SOCRATIC PRESS  
[www.rationalsys.com](http://www.rationalsys.com)

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## **YOUR ASSIGNMENT**

Answer the brief questions on the bottom of each page. Then, complete the word search at the end of the booklet, and discover a relevant quote regarding the name of this Comedy.

# A War and a Wedding

Duke Theseus of Athens fights the Amazons - by the Black Sea - and wins.

The Queen of the Amazons (a race of women warriors) is Hippolyta.

The victorious Theseus plans to marry Hippolyta.

The marriage takes place in four days, and Theseus wants lots of cheers!

Theseus wants the word spread for there to be a lot of merriment.

The Marriage is between Duke \_\_\_\_\_ and Queen \_\_\_\_\_

1

and

2

# A Surprise Play

On his wedding night, Theseus plans to have mirth and revelry.

Local workmen learn of Theseus' plans, and want to put on a play.

A play is chosen, with Peter Quince, a carpenter, named director.

Unhappy with the "actors" progress, they are sent to practice in secrecy.

The Play's actors retreat to the woods to rehearse.

**The Play's actors go to the ...**

3

to

4

# A Family Issue

Hermia's Father,  
Egeus, wants Hermia  
to marry Demetrius.

Hermia instead wants  
to marry Lysander.

Egeus takes the issue  
to Duke Theseus of  
Athens.

Ancient law says a  
daughter must wed  
her father's choice, or  
face death.

Duke Theseus is  
sympathetic to the  
daughter, but bound  
by law.

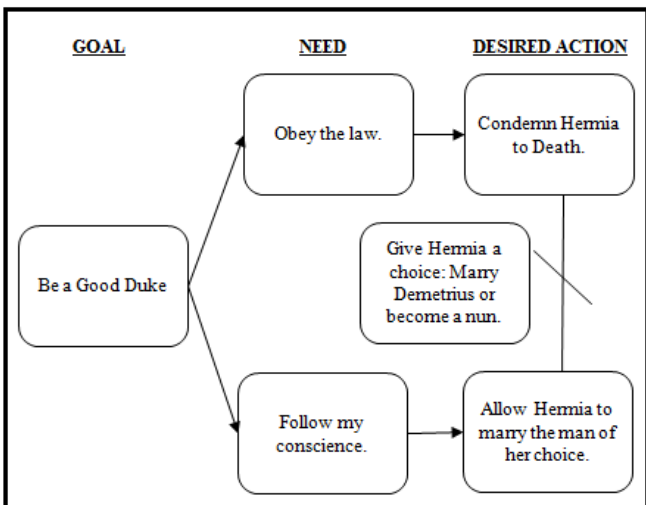
**Hermia wants to marry ...**

5

instead of

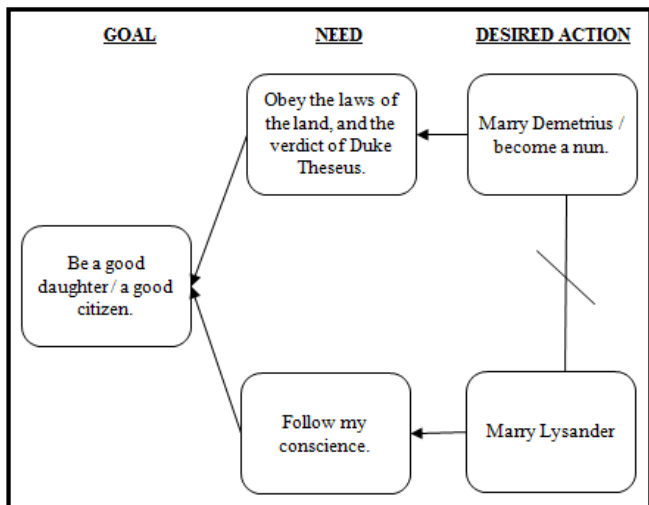
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# A Duke is Torn



Theseus is divided as to what to do, confronted with this dilemma. On the one hand, in order to be a good duke, he knows he must obey the law. However arcane and ancient the law is, it is the law. If he follows the law, then he must condemn the disobedient Hermia to Death. On the other hand, in order to be a good duke, Theseus must follow his own conscience - and he really wants to allow Hermia to marry the man of her choice. Condemn Hermia to death - or Allow Hermia to marry the man of her choice? His "solution" / compromise: give Hermia a choice: Marry Demetrius or become a nun.

# Hermia's Dilemma



The disobedient Hermia weighs *her* options. She does not like the "choice" she's left with. On the one hand, in considering Theseus' demands, she must either Marry Demetrius / become a nun. Why? That's the ruling. On the other hand, she wants to marry Lysander. Why? Follow her conscience. The choice nags at her a bit, so there must be something to both parts - a common goal. What is it? To be a good daughter / good citizen?



# Hermia Rejects the Dilemma

Hermia refuses to understand her Father's rationale.

The Duke has told her to choose, where no answer is a good answer!

Hermia is caught in a dilemma she refuses to accept.

Her true love is Lysander, and Lysander it will be!

Hermia and Lysander plan to elope, and head to the woods!

**Hermia and Lysander plan to ...**

7

They head to the ...

8

# The Consequence of Gossip

Hermia, deciding to run away with Lysander, tells her friend Helena.

Helena is in love with Demetrius.

Hermia thinks things will work out for everybody.

Helena, knowing Demetrius' love for Hermia, tells him of the elopement.

Demetrius follows the eloping couple into the woods.

**These two characters also head to the woods!**

9

and

10

# In Fairyland

In Fairyland (outside Athens) are the King (Oberon) and Queen (Titania).

Titania refuses to give her Changeling (henchman) to the King for his use.

The King and Queen have become estranged.

Titania plans to stay in Athens for the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta.

King Oberon, angered, seeks to punish Titania.

In the woods are King \_\_\_\_\_ & Queen \_\_\_\_\_.

11

and

12

## In The Woods ...



Into the woods we go, three separate parties on a collision course! Party 1 includes the eloping Lysander and Hermia, followed by Demetrius and Helena. Party 2 includes the actors, secretly rehearsing their parts for the play at the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta. Party 3? The fairies, in town for the wedding, with their own saga. Oberon and Titania, estranged, feuding, and plotting!

# King Oberon's Plan

King Oberon calls Puck, his "shrewd and knavish sprite".

The "love-in-idleness" flower has fluid simulating a "love potion".

Puck is to pour the fluid in the eyes of the sleeping Titania.

King Oberon wants Titania to fall in love with a vile creature.

The King will be in a position to shame Titania into giving up the changeling.

\_\_\_\_\_ is supposed to give \_\_\_\_\_ to Titania.

13

and

14

# Puck Plans to Help Helena

King Oberon sees how poorly Demetrius has treated Helena.

King Oberon wants Demetrius to fall in love with Helena.

Puck is told to pour the potion into the sleeping eyes of Demetrius.

Puck mistakes Lysander for Demetrius.

Lysander instead falls in love with Helena!

**Who mistakenly falls in love with Helena?**

15

# A Bad Plan Made Worse

King Oberon sees the mistake made by Puck.

King Oberon "fixes" the problem by giving the potion to Demetrius.

Both Lysander and Demetrius fight over Helena - instead of Hermia!

Helena, confused over the changing state, thinks she is being mocked.

All four lovers quarrel in the woods.

**Because of the potion, who is in love with Helena?**

16

and

17

# A Happy Ending

King Oberon suspects Puck has created this chaos intentionally.

Puck, assuring the King it was an accident, fixes the mix-up with magic

The four awake. Hermia & Lysander are in love, Helena & Demetrius, too!

Duke Theseus comes upon the happy couples.

The Duke arranges for the couples to be married on his wedding day.

**Who fixes the problem?**

18



# The King's Plan in Action

The group of "actors" in the forest rehearse their lines for the secret play.

Nick Bottom is one of the actors, and is near Queen Titania.

Puck turns Nick Bottom's head into a donkey.

Nick's singing awakens the sleeping Queen Titania.

Under the spell, she falls in love with the donkey-headed Nick Bottom.

**The Queen falls in love with a man who looks like a ...**

19

# King Oberon's Plan Works

King Oberon, seeing the two together, removes Titania's spell.

Titania, seeing herself in the arms of "Nick" Bottom, is embarrassed.

She agrees to hand over the Changeling to King Oberon.

The spell under Nick Bottom is removed as well.

Thinking it was all a dream, he decides to turn it into a ballad at the play!

Believing this was a \_\_\_\_\_, Nick turns it into a \_\_\_\_\_

20

21

# The Play

The Play, "Pyramus and Thisbe", is like Romeo and Juliet.

The warring families have sons and daughters in love.

The daughter (Thisbe) and son (Pyramus) plan to secretly meet.

Thisbe, seeing a lion at the spot, flees, her veil falling off.

When Pyramus arrives, he sees the mutilated and bloodied veil.

**The play resembles what other Shakespeare tragedy?**

22

and

23

# The Play's Tragic Outcome

Pyramus, seeing the bloody veil, thinks the lion has killed her.

Pyramus cannot stand the thought of life without Thisbe.

Pyramus kills himself.

Thisbe, returning, sees the Pyramus' body.

Thisbe kills herself!

**The two main characters who kill themselves are ...**

24

and

25

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

The story of fairies, Kings, Queens, and potions is remarkable.

We often attribute the remarkable and unbelievable to a dream.

It's easy to think of fairies, etc., from a dream-perspective.

The play ended at midnight, on a midsummer night.

The story of a Midsummer Night's Dream has come to a close.

**This was all a ...**

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# YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Write the answers from the previous pages below. Find them – and cross them out – in the Word Search. The left-over letters reveal a quote:

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**WHAT TIME IS IT?**

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# SHAKESPEARE

## BLACK BELT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

### THE TRAGEDIES

Antony and Cleopatra	Coriolanus	Timon of Athens
Romeo and Juliet	Hamlet	Titus Andronicus
Othello	Macbeth	King Lear
Julius Caesar		

### THE HISTORIES

King Henry IV Part 1	King Henry V	King Henry VI Part 1
King Henry VI Part 2	King Henry VI Part 3	King Henry VIII
Richard III	King Henry IV Part 2	King John
		Richard II

Twelfth Night	<b>THE COMEDIES</b>			Two Gentlemen of Verona
All's Well That Ends Well	Merry Wives of Windsor	Merchant of Venice	Troilus and Cressida	Winter's Tale
As You Like It	Comedy of Errors	Cymbeline	Love's Labour's Lost	Measure for Measure
Midsummer Night's Dream	Much Ado About Nothing	Pericles, Prince of Tyre	Taming of the Shrew	Tempest



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