

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM SYNOPSIS

A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedy written by William Shakespeare. The story starts with a Duke named Theseus planning his marriage to Hippolyta, the Queen of the Amazons, where there will be a huge celebration for their nuptials.

Egeus brings his rebellious daughter Hermia in front of the Duke. Egeus wants her to marry Demetrius but Hermia refuses, because she's in love with Lysander. The Duke orders Hermia to obey her father or if she refuses, according to Athenian law, she will face the penalty of death. She has until the eve of the wedding to make her decision.

Hermia and Lysander decide to elope that night and run away to the forest and they confide in their friend Helena. However, she's secretly in love with Demetrius. Hoping to win his affection, she tells him of Hermia's plan. That night, all four lovers set out into the forest.

Meanwhile, a group of Athenian tradesmen (known as the players), led by Peter Quince, are planning to perform a play "The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe" in celebration of the Duke's wedding. The charismatic and exuberant Nick Bottom has been cast as the lead. They plan to rehearse their play in the forest.

In the forest, the Fairy King and Queen, Oberon and Titania, argue over Titania's refusal to give up her little changeling boy to Oberon. He sends his servant Puck to find a magic flower to cast a spell on Titania. The magic of the flower, when fallen onto the eyes of someone asleep, causes them to fall in love with the first creature they see when they wake up. Oberon plans to use this on Titania as she sleeps in her bower.

Puck overhears the players rehearsing and magically transforms Bottom's head into that of an ass. The other men are terrified and flee the forest. When Titania wakes, the first creature she sees is Bottom and she falls rapturously in love with him.

Helena chases Demetrius in the forest and their fighting disturbs Oberon, who has seen how mean and cruel Demetrius is to Helena. He tells Puck to use the magic flower on Demetrius too, so that he will fall in love with Helena. Hermia and Lysander have also entered the forest, on their way to elope but become tired and decide to rest for the night. While sleeping, Puck confuses the two Athenian men and uses the love spell on Lysander instead, who wakes and falls in love with the first person he sees; Helena. Furious Oberon, who sees this mistake, demands that Puck use the spell on Demetrius and fix his mistake. When Demetrius wakes he is also in love with Helena, who believes that the men are mocking her and playing a trick. All four argue about this and attack one another.

Eventually, Oberon and Puck lift most of the enchantments and put the lovers to sleep. Titania is freed of her love spell and, horrified that she's been enamoured of an ass, reconciles with Oberon. On waking, the lovers decide the night's events must have all been a dream. Lysander and Hermia are back to normal, and Demetrius (still under the love spell) admits he loves Helena. Bottom wakes up and recounts his 'strange dream'.

The wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta becomes a triple celebration as the other royal couples marry too. Quince and Bottom's troupe amuses the couples with their amateur performance of the play. When the play is done the lovers go to bed and Oberon and Titania bless the sleeping couples. Then Puck looks to the audience and tells them that, like a good dream, a good play should not be forgotten.

