Tracing Motifs in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Directions: Have a look at the list below, and select (or create) one motif or dichotomy to trace as we read, perform, and view *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* Today, as you watch the film version, keep your composition notebook open and jot down any moments that depict your motif. A T-chart works well for this as you can note evidence on one side and use the other for close reading.

Motifs (feel free to add your own):

Power vs. powerlessness

Portrayal of women

Subordination vs. dominance of female passion

Dreams vs. reality

Natural vs. supernatural

Lawful vs. lawless

Concord vs. discord

Light vs. dark

Chastity vs. sexual indulgence

Possession

Natural desire vs. social custom

Nature / human nature

Reason vs. passion

Metamorphosis

Incongruence vs. congruence

Clothed vs. bared/exposed

The nature of romantic love