

# *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Study Guide

## Act I, Scene i


1. Who is Theseus? Why is he anxious for the rising of the new moon? What does he tell Philostrate to do?
2. Why is Egeus angry? Why has he come to see Theseus?
3. What are your first impressions of Hermia?
4. Where do Hermia and Lysander agree to meet that night? Why?
5. Who is Helena? How and why does she betray the secret Hermia tells her?

## Act I, Scene ii

1. What is the purpose of meeting at Peter Quince's house?

2. Who is Nick Bottom? How would you describe him?
3. Briefly, what is the plot of *Pyramus and Thisbe*? Do you think this is appropriate wedding entertainment?
4. What part will Nick Bottom play? What about Snug?
5. Prediction: Do you think the tradesmen will end up with a polished performance? Why or why not?

## Act I post-reading

Draw an arrow  through the heart from each character on the left to the character whom he or she loves at the end of Act I

**Example:**





Act II, Scene i

1. What does the fairy tell Robin at the beginning of the scene? What warning does he give her in return?
2. Why is Oberon angry with Titania?
3. Why is Titania jealous of Hippolyta? Of whom is Oberon jealous?

4. Oberon tells Robin to fetch a pansy. According to Oberon, how did the flower become magical, and why does he want Robin to bring it to him?
5. Who follows Demetrius into the woods? How does he try to stop her?
6. Helena gives a speech in lines 238-244. Paraphrase the speech, putting it in your own words.
7. Prediction: Do you think Oberon's plan for the magic nectar will work?

Act II, Scene ii

1. What job does Titania send her fairies off to do?
2. Why does Oberon pronounce a spell over Titania?
3. Why does Lysander move away from Hermia before they sleep?

4. What does Hermia dream about?
5. Why does Hermia run off at the end of the scene?
6. Lysander gives a speech in lines 141-151. Paraphrase the speech, putting it in your own words.

## Act II post-reading

Robin (Puck) Goodfellow is an important character in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. What do we know about him so far, and how does he contribute to the story? Use 3 words or phrases to describe Robin, and find a quote from the play to support each word or phrase that you choose. You can quote Robin or what another character says about him.

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Supporting Quote:

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Supporting Quote:

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3.

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Supporting Quote:

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Act III, Scene i

1. Why is Bottom worried about the ladies in the audience? What solution does he offer?

2. Why does Quince decide to have Starveling carry a thornbush?

3. How does Bottom propose that Snout make the wall more realistic?
4. In line 140, Titania says "Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful." Why is this an statement ironic?

Act III, Scene ii

1. How does Oberon learn that Titania is in love with Bottom? How does he feel about that?
2. What mistake did Robin make? How does Oberon react to this mistake?
3. What does Hermia think has happened to Lysander?
4. How does Helena act feel when Demetrius declares his love? Quote one piece of textual evidence to support your answer.
5. Why do Helena and Hermia argue beginning on line 282?

6. What does Oberon order Robin to do in order to set things right?

#### Act IV, Scene i

1. How is Titania showing her affection for Bottom at the beginning of this scene? Who else is present, unnoticed by her?
2. What kind of food and music does Bottom request? Why?
3. How does Oberon get the little boy?
4. Why does Oberon return Titania to normal?
5. How do Theseus, Egeus, and the others happen to find the four Athenian lovers? Why is Theseus surprised by their appearance?
6. How do you feel toward Bottom, now that he is “back to normal”? Do you pity him?

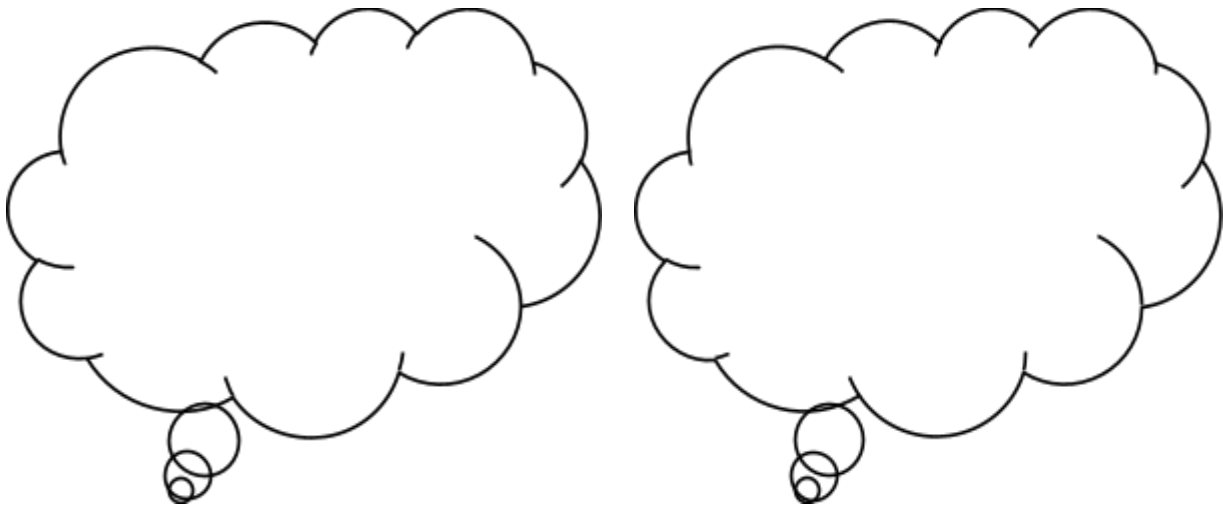


Act IV, Scene ii

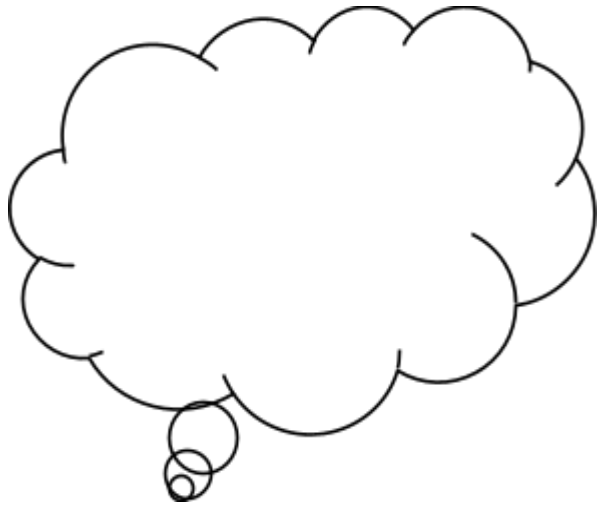
1. How do the tradesmen feel at the beginning of the scene? Quote one piece of textual evidence to support your answer.
2. What news does Snug bring? How does this make the tradesmen feel?
3. How do the tradesmen find out that their play has been put on the “preferred list”?

## Act IV post-reading

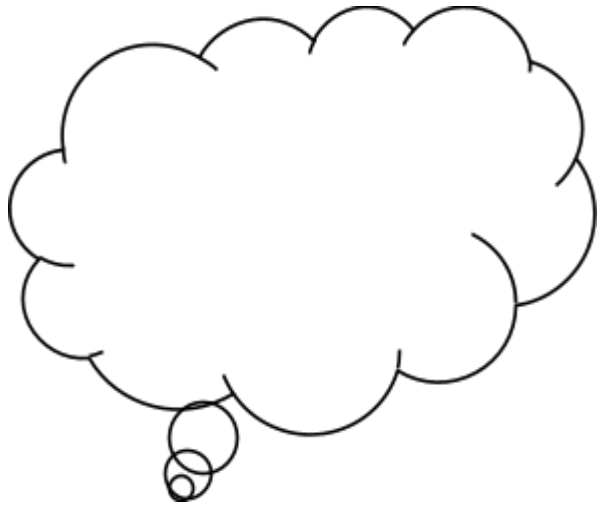
By the end of Act IV, a number of characters wake up. Write the name of each character who wakes up. Then, in the thought bubbles, summarize that character’s reaction to what happened during the night.



Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Character: \_\_\_\_\_



Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Character: \_\_\_\_\_



Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Act V, Scene i

1. Who is married in this scene?
2. Why does Theseus choose *Pyramus and Thisbe* over the other shows he could watch?
3. How does Quince unintentionally make the beginning of the play funny?
4. What is Hippolyta's reaction to the players?
5. How does the audience react as the players enact the suicides of Pyramus and Thisbe?
6. What choices does Bottom give Theseus at the end of the play? What does Theseus choose?
7. What does Oberon give each fairy? Why?

8. What is Robin doing at the end as he describes the night?

9. For what does Robin apologize?