

Y7 DRAMA: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Key Words

Genre - A style, especially in the arts, that involves a particular set of characteristics

Dramatic irony - A technique where the full or true meaning of a character's speech or actions is clear to the audience but not the other characters.

Rhyming couplets – in poetry and Shakespeare's plays, this is where a pair of lines have the same rhyme at the end. They can be used to sum up a main idea or draw a scene to a close.

Unrequited love - If a person loves someone who doesn't love them back, the person's love is unrequited

Patriarchal - describing a society where men have the power and control. E.g. In a patriarchal society women have to fight for their rights.

Monologue - an extended speech by one person

Key Concepts

- Love
- Appearance and reality
- Order and disorder

Context

- English country fairy lore (fairies and spirits)
- English traditions (A Midsummer eve)
- Patriarchal society
- Elizabeth I (the virgin queen)

Key Skills

- Explore and explain Shakespeare's language choices
- Offer thoughtful personal responses to the play
- Understand the context of the play
- Perform and read the play aloud

Sentence starters

- Shakespeare presents (character/theme) as.....
- The line/phrase "....." tells the reader that.....
- This implies/suggests/explores the idea that.....
- The word/phrase/image "....." shows/implies/suggests
- During this time in history/the Jacobean era
- Shakespeare may have wanted to show that.....

Characters and Plot

Theseus	The duke of Athens. He is a strong and strict ruler of the city.
Hippolyta	Theseus's bride. She was a fearless warrior.
Oberon	The king of the fairies who controls the love potion.
Titania	The fierce queen of the fairies who falls in love with Bottom when the love potion is put on her.
Egeus	Hermia's stubborn father who wants her to marry Demetrius or be put to death
Hermia	Egeus's daughter who is in love with Lysander.
Lysander	He is in love with Hermia and runs away to the forest with her
Demetrius	He wants to marry Hermia and is disgusted by Helena's love for him.
Helena	Hermia's friend who is desperately in love with Demetrius.
Puck	Oberon's mischievous fairy servant who puts the potion on people's eyes.
Bottom	A weaver and actor who has his head turned into a donkey.
ACT 1	Hermia and Lysander love each other but are not allowed to marry so decide to run away to the forest to get married in secret. Demetrius wants to marry Hermia. Helena loves Demetrius. They follow Hermia and Lysander into the forest.
ACT 2	In the forest, Oberon and Titania are arguing. Oberon sees Demetrius and Helena arguing and commands Puck to use the potion on the Athenian man to make him fall in love with Helena. However, the first Athenian man Puck sees is Lysander, so he puts the love potion on him. Lysander falls madly in love with Helena.
ACT 3	Puck sees Bottom in the forest and transformed his head into a donkey's head. He puts the love potion on Titania, who falls in love with Bottom. Puck puts the love potion on Demetrius so that he falls back in love with Helena. As a result, both men love Helena so there is chaos. Puck eventually drops a herb in Lysander's eyes to put him back to normal.
ACTS 4 & 5	Oberon finds Titania and Bottom and decides that he has had enough fun. Puck drops a herb in her eyes, she wakes and leaves with Oberon. The lovers return to Athens, the two couples reconcile and marry. Bottom and the other actors perform their play at the wedding of the three happy couples.