

A Midsummer Night's Dream Synopsis

Our story begins in Athens where Theseus, Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, are soon to be married and great celebrations are planned.



This is **Hermia**, she refuses to marry Demetrius, the man her dad, Egeus, likes because she's in love with Lysander.



This is **Demetrius**, he would like to marry Hermia.



This is the **Duke**, he's getting married soon. He orders Hermia to obey her father or, according to Athenian law, face a death penalty or enter a convent.



This is **Lysander**. He and Hermia decide to elope that night.



This is **Helena**, Hermia and Lysander's friend, and they decide to confide in her. However, she's secretly in love with Demetrius so, hoping to win his affection, she tells him of Hermia's plan.

That night, all four lovers set out into the forest...

The synopsis for A Midsummer Night's Dream

Meanwhile... a group of Athenian tradesmen (known as Mechanicals) are planning to perform a play in celebration of the Duke's wedding. They rehearse *The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe* in the same forest.



This is **Quince**, and she leads the mechanicals in their rehearsals.



This is **Bottom**, he is confident he's the best actor and can perform any part, although we get the impression that he's not talented but foolish and arrogant. He has, however, been cast as the main role of *Pyramus* within the play.



This is **Francis Flute**, he always has to play the female roles in their plays, despite the fact he doesn't want to. He's going to play *Thisbe* in this piece.



This is **Tom Snout**, he's another one of the actors. He's going to be *Wall* in the play, and he seems quite pleased overall with his casting.



This is **Snug**, she's another actor but not quite so confident with her part *lion*. She wants only a few lines and has a concern of being too convincing which might frighten the audience members.

Elsewhere... in the forest, the fairy king and queen are having a hot-blooded dispute.



This is **Titania**, fairy queen, and she is refusing to give up her page-boy to Oberon.



This is **Oberon**, fairy king, and out of revenge he decides to cast a spell on Titania.



This is **Puck**, Oberon's mischievous servant, who is ordered to find a magic plant to cast a spell on Titania. The juice of the plant, when squeezed onto the eyes of someone asleep, causes them to fall in love with the first creature they see when they wake up. Oberon uses the juice on Titania as she sleeps in her bower.

Meanwhile

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

Elsewhere

Helena, who loves Demetrius, chases Demetrius, who doesn't at all love Helena, in the forest where their fighting is observed by Oberon. He tells Puck to use the magic plant on Demetrius too, so that he will fall in love with Helena when he wakes up. However, Puck muddles up the two Athenian men and uses it on Lysander instead, who promptly falls in love with Helena as he wakes. Both women, bewildered, have a raging quarrel.

Spoiler Alert

Oberon lifts all the enchantments and puts the humans to sleep. Titania is mortified that she's been enamoured of an ass and she reunites with Oberon. The lovers assume the night's events to be nothing else but a dream. Lysander and Hermia are in love once more, and Demetrius admits to loving Helena after all. Bottom wakes up and narrates his 'strange dream', and he too is a little changed.

In the end

The wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta becomes a triple wedding with the mechanicals ramshackle performance of *'Pyramus and Thisby'* as entertainment for the evenings celebrations.

As the couples withdraw

Oberon, Titania and the fairies perform a blessing, and Puck asks the audience to demonstrate their appreciation if they enjoyed the show.