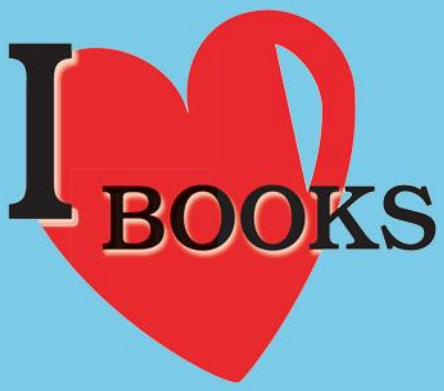


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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Setting: A forest outside Ancient Athens

This play is a comedy, set in an enchanted forest in Ancient Greece. There are three separate stories that all connect – it can seem a little complicated. A celebration is taking place because the Duke of Athens is marrying Queen Hippolyta, and all the action takes place around this event. There are lots of fabulous and funny characters including a fairy king and queen, a mischievous fairy called Puck, four young lovers and a group of clueless actors.



Egeus wants his daughter Hermia to marry Demetrius, but she prefers Lysander. Duke Theseus tells Hermia to obey her father or become a nun. She must make her choice before the Duke marries Queen Hippolyta in a few days' time.



Hermia and Lysander run away to the forest. Demetrius's ex-girlfriend, Helena, who still loves him, tells Demetrius their secret. He goes to find Hermia, with Helena following. Meanwhile, a group of workmen rehearse a play in the forest for the wedding.



In the forest, Oberon, the fairy king, decides to trick his wife Titania by putting a magic potion on her eyes while she sleeps. The potion will make her fall in love with the first thing she sees when she wakes up. Oberon also sees that Demetrius is rejecting Helena's love. So, he tells his servant Puck to find Demetrius and put the potion on the man's eyes. Oberon believes that when Demetrius wakes up and sees Helena, he will fall in love with her again, which will make Helena happy.

FIND THESE CHARACTERS OVER THE PAGE



Theseus | Lysander & Hermia | Oberon & Titania | Puck | Bottom | The Actors



Puck mistakes the sleeping couple, Lysander and Hermia, for Demetrius and Helena, and puts the potion on Lysander's eyes. Helena, lost in the forest, wakes Lysander and he falls in love with her. Oberon discovers the mistake and orders Puck to use the potion on Demetrius. He too sees Helena and falls in love, and the two men start fighting over her.



Meanwhile, as the workmen rehearse their play, the mischievous Puck plays a trick on the star actor, Bottom, turning his head into that of a donkey. His fellow actors run away in fright, leaving Bottom alone with the fairy queen Titania. When she wakes up, the first thing she sees is Bottom, and the magic potion makes her fall in love with him.



Finally, Oberon frees Titania and Lysander from the spell so that Lysander is free again to love Hermia, but Demetrius stays in love with Helena. When Theseus sees this, he ignores Egeus's wishes, and declares a joint wedding. After the wedding feast, the workmen perform their play. Although it's supposed to be a tragedy, their bumbling performance is very funny. Puck asks the audience to remember the play as if it had been a dream.

