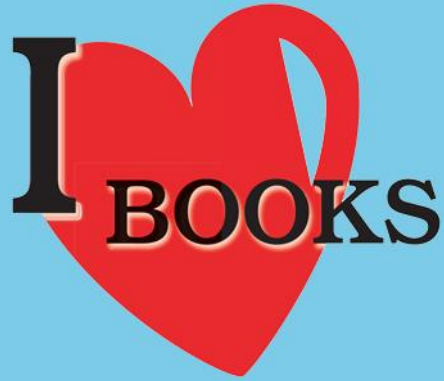




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Opening extract from
Where's Will: Find Shakespeare

Written by
Anna Claybourne

Illustrated by
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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, love young lovers and a group of cluckish actors.



Theseus wants his daughter Hippolyta to marry Demetrius, but she prefers Lysander. Duke Theseus tells Hippolyta 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 grandfather, Helius, who still loves him, tells Demetrius that night. He goes to find Hermia, with Helius 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 her with 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 Helius's love. So, he tells his servant Puck to lead Demetrius and put the potion on the man's eyes. Oberon

believes that when Demetrius wakes up and sees Helius, he will fall in love with her again, which will make Helius happy.

FIND THESE CHARACTERS OVER THE PAGE



Titania



Lysander & Hermia



Oberon & Titania



Puck



Bottom



The Actors



Puck mistakes the sleeping couple, Lysander and Hermia, for Demetrius and Helius, and puts the potion on Lysander's eyes. Helius, 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 Helius 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 finds Titania and Lysander from the spell so that Lysander is free again to love Hermia, but Demetrius stays in love with Helius. When Theseus sees this, he

ignores Ignorant'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.

