

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

A Mid-Summer Night's Dream

Shakespeare | Discussion Questions | Study Guide

Directions: You will be expected to answer these discussion questions from the book. I suggest that you complete a few each day as you read. However, I understand that you each have other classes and extracurricular commitments. Therefore, you can manage your time and complete them as you wish. However, they will be collected at the end of our unit. If you have questions or do not understand something, please ask. It will save your time and your grade. **USE COMPLETE SENTENCES for each response. USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER for your answers.**

Act I

1. What are the three main groups of people in the play?
2. What kind of father relationship does Egeus have with his daughter Hermia? What critique might Shakespeare be making by creating a father figure in such a way?
3. What is the situation between Hermia, Helena, Lysander, and Demetrius?
4. Why is Helena envious of Hermia?
5. What is Helena's initial plan to win Demetrius back?
6. How would you describe Nick Bottom's acting abilities? How does he view himself?
7. What is the plot background for the workmen's play *Pyramus & Thisbe*?
8. Describe Theseus' ultimatum for Hermia. Which writer and story does the appeal to Diana reflect?

Act II

9. Why are Titania and Oberon fighting?
10. How does Oberon Titania to get what he wants?
11. By the end of Act II, what makes the relationships of Helena & Demetrius, Lysander & Hermia, and Oberon & Titania so similar?
12. Describe Puck as a character. What are his qualities?
13. Describe the significance of the "mermaid on a dolphin" reference. How does this support Shakespeare could be the true writer of his works?
14. While Scene II is written in end-rhymed couplets, the rhyming stops and blank verse ensues when Helena and Hermia are fighting. What effect does writing technique have on the reader's response and experience when reading those sections?

Act III

15. Some critics believe that Nick Bottom is a fool. Others believe that he is wiser than he may seem. What is your opinion?
16. Explain the situation and how Nick Bottom transforms into an ass.
17. What does Oberon realize when he sees Demetrius following Hermia around?
18. What causes Helena to be angry with Hermia?

Act IV

19. How do most of the lovers respond after waking up from the love potion?
20. Which character is changed permanently even after the dream experience?
21. How does Theseus' current decision contradict an earlier edict?
22. Explain and support the following proposal: Nick Bottom is the foil character of Theseus.

Act V

23. Consider our discussions of frame stories last semester when we read Life of Pi. Why did Shakespeare include a play within a play? What critique might he be making or what purpose would a play within a play serve?
24. What does Theseus think of the lovers' adventure?
25. Why does Snug (the lion) make a big fuss in regards to his true identity?