

A Midsummer Night's Dream

CHARACTERS

- Theseus:** Duke of Athens; represents authority in the play, but because the play is a comedy his eagerness to be wedded is amusing.
- Egeus:** Father of Hermia; a domineering and overbearing man who insists that his daughter marry the man whom he has chosen for her. He would have his daughter put to death rather than marry a man whom he thoroughly disapproves of.
- Lysander:** Man Hermia loves. Egeus believes Lysander cannot be trusted as a suitor for his daughter. He is truly in love with Hermia and will treat her well.
- Demetrius:** Choice of Egeus for Hermia's suitor; not a model lover. Pursued by Helena but does not return her affections. He wishes to marry Hermia, but finally realizes his true love is Helena.
- Philostrate:** Master of the Revels to Theseus, he serves little purpose than to arrange entertainment for the wedding.
- Hippolyta:** Queen of the Amazons, she is to marry Theseus. Once a war-like creature, tamed by her love for Theseus and abides by his every word.
- Hermia:** Daughter of Egeus, in love with Lysander. She is a tiny, young woman of dark complexion. Her deep love for Lysander has made her willing to do anything to be with him.
- Helena:** In love with Demetrius, she is a tall, lovely young blonde woman. She is determined to have her love.
- Oberon:** King of the Fairies. He can make himself invisible. Like Puck, his jester, he can sail around the globe in minutes, but he is not a mere fleet-winged fairy. He can be envious, capable of revenge, and great anger.
- Titania:** Queen of the Fairies, she is most concerned with beauty, sweetness, and pleasantness. Her bewitched love for Bottom shows her ability to offer devotion to him is boundless.
- Puck or Robin Goodfellow:** Oberon's jester who is never still a moment. He is the spirit of mischief and irresponsibility. He is capable of good deeds but prefers to play practical jokes. Love is a joke to him as are mortals in love.
- Fairies:** Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Moth, Mustardseed

Actors in the play within the play "Pyramus and Thisby."

Peter Quince: A carpenter; author of "Pyramus and Thisby." His most remarkable virtue is his patience.

Nick Bottom: A weaver. "Pyramus" More than any of the other characters in the play, Bottom is the best realized. He is a master of wit. He carries his talents to such extremes he at times seems to be an "ass." So, when Puck gives him an ass's head it is very appropriate.

Francis Flute: A bellows-maker. "Thisby" He does not want to be the heroine of Quince's play. He deals with Bottom the best.

Tom Snout: A tinker. A "Wall" The most comic figure in the play.

Snug: A joiner; "Lion" We never know Snug's given name.

Robin Starveling: A tailor, "Moonshine" Like Snout, he is very shy, and he attempts to explain to the audience who he is; he forgets his lines and tries Hippolyta's patience.