**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.