



The Young Shakespeareans

“A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM” SYNOPSIS

The play takes place in Athens, Greece and begins in the court of the Duke **Theseus** and his bride-to-be **Hippolyta**, the Queen of the Amazons who are to marry the next day.

Egeus, a nobleman, angrily brings his daughter **Hermia** to the court; he wants her to marry **Demetrius**, but she loves **Lysander**. Theseus declares that, according to the law of Athens, fathers decide whom their daughters must marry and therefore Hermia must either marry Demetrius, or become a nun, or be put to death. Lysander and Hermia decide to runaway to his Aunt’s where they can marry outside of Athenian law, and tell Hermia’s best friend **Helena** of their plans. Helena loves Demetrius and thinks that if she tells him of Hermia's plan to run away with Lysander, that Demetrius will forget Hermia and fall in love with her.

In another part of Athens, a group of workers, the **Rude Mechanicals**, gather to prepare a play to perform on Theseus and Hippolyta’s wedding day. **Peter Quince**, the director, assigns the parts; **Nick Bottom**, thinks he should play all of them; **Francis Flute** doesn’t want to play a girl; though **Snug**, **Snout**, and **Starveling** complain as well, they all make a plan to rehearse later in the woods.

The **Fairies** that live in the woods are also having problems. **Titania**, the Queen of the fairies, has adopted a little human boy who **Oberon**, the King of the fairies, wants as his servant. But when Titania refuses and leaves, Oberon commands his fairy, **Puck**, to fetch a magical flower whose nectar makes someone fall in love with the next thing they see.

Soon, the lovers from Athens are all lost in the fairy woods. Demetrius searches for Hermia and Lysander; Helena chases Demetrius, begging him to love her; Demetrius is cruel and runs away. Feeling sorry for Helena, Oberon tells Puck to find Demetrius, and put the magic nectar in his eyes so that he will fall in love with Helena.

Titania returns and commands her Fairies to sing her to sleep; Oberon puts the nectar in her eyes casting a spell so that, when she wakes, she will fall in love with something vile. Hermia and Lysander arrive and, tired from their journey, lie down to sleep. Puck arrives and, mistaking Lysander for Demetrius, puts the magic nectar in Lysander's eyes. Demetrius arrives followed by Helena; not noticing Hermia and Lysander, he runs out again leaving Helena behind. Helena spots Lysander who, upon waking, falls instantly in love with her. She runs away with Lysander in pursuit; Hermia wakes alone, and fearing Lysander hurt or dead, goes in search of him.

Meanwhile searching for Demetrius, Puck comes upon the Rude Mechanicals rehearsing in the woods, and decides to play a trick by turning Nick Bottom into a donkey; Titania then wakes, and falls instantly and madly in love with him.

When Puck returns to Oberon, Demetrius has discovered Hermia lost in the woods and tries to convince her to love him; seeing this, Oberon yells at Puck to bring Helena while he puts the nectar in Demetrius’ eye. Pursued by Lysander, Helena returns; Demetrius wakes and, in love with Helena, vows to fight Lysander. Helena is hurt thinking they are mocking her; Hermia arrives and angrily accuses Helena of stealing Lysander’s heart.

Oberon orders Puck to remove the spell from Lysander so he’ll fall back in love with Hermia; Oberon removes the spell from Titania; Puck removes the spell from Nick Bottom. Nearing dawn, the Lovers are discovered in the forest by Theseus, Hippolyta, and Egeus. On waking, Lysander loves Hermia, and Demetrius loves Helena. All return to Athens to marry and at the wedding, the Rude Mechanicals perform their play “The Death of Pyramus and Thisbe” (a spoof of “Romeo & Juliet”).

As sunrise nears, the play comes to an end with Puck telling the audience that it was all but a dream.

“If I Can Do Shakespeare, I Can Do Anything!”
theyoungshakespeareans@gmail.com