

Tuesday 2nd
June

Cast List



Hermia

In love with Lysander



Helena

Friend to Hermia
In love with Demetrius



Demetrius

Betrothed to Hermia



Lysander

In love with Hermia



Oberon

King of the Fairies



Titania

Queen of the Fairies



Puck

An Elf



Bottom

A Weaver

The Scene

In and around Athens, Ancient Greece.

*Ay me, for aught that I could ever read,
Could ever hear by tale or history,
The course of true love never did run smooth.*

Lysander; I.i.



A Midsummer Night's Dream



When the path of true love runs smoothly,
the world seems a wonderful place – all
bright skies and smiling faces.

Unfortunately, true love has a habit of
wandering off the path and getting lost,
and when that happens people's lives get
lost too, in a tangle of misery.

Take the love
of Duke Theseus
of Athens and
Hippolyta, Queen
of the Amazons, for
instance. They were to
be married, and their happiness spread
through the whole of Athens. People had
decorated their houses with flowers, and
left lamps burning in their windows at
night, so that the streets twinkled like a
city of stars. Everybody
was joyful and excited
as they prepared to
celebrate the Duke's
wedding day.
Well, almost
everybody...



* * *

On the day before the royal wedding, two
friends met by chance in the market square:
golden-haired Hermia, and black-haired
Helena, both beautiful and both with
secrets that made their hearts ache.



For a while, the two friends chatted about nothing in particular. Then Helena noticed a look in Hermia's deep blue eyes that made her ask, "Is everything all right, Hermia?"

Hermia looked so sad and serious.

"I am to marry Demetrius tomorrow," she replied.



"Demetrius!" said Helena softly. Now her heart was aching worse than ever. Night after night she had cried herself to sleep, whispering Demetrius's name, knowing that her love for him was hopeless.

Many years ago the families of Hermia and Demetrius had agreed that, when they were of age, their daughter and son should marry. "You must be the happiest young woman in Athens!" sighed Helena.

"I've never been so miserable in my life!" Hermia declared. "You see, I don't love Demetrius."

"You don't?" cried Helena, amazed.





"I'm in love with Lysander," Hermia confessed, and she began to describe all the things that made Lysander so wonderful.

Helena thought about Lysander, with his curly brown hair and broad smile. He was *quite* handsome, she supposed, but he didn't have Demetrius's dark, brooding good looks. Why on earth did Hermia find him so attractive?

"Of course, I told my father that I didn't wish to marry Demetrius," Hermia said, "and he went straight to him to

explain – but you know how stubborn Demetrius can be. He lost his temper and said it didn't matter who I loved, our marriage had been arranged and it must go ahead, no matter what. His stupid pride's been hurt, that's all – he doesn't love me a bit."

"Then who does he love?" Helena enquired eagerly.

"No one, except for himself," said Hermia.

"I *can't* marry someone I don't love, and I know it will cause a scandal, but Lysander and I are going to run away together!"

"When?" Helena asked.



"Tonight," Hermia told her. "I'm meeting him at midnight in the wood outside the city walls. We plan to travel through the night, and in the morning we'll find a little temple where we can be married. Oh, Helena, it will be so *romantic*! Please say that you're happy for me!"

"Of course I am," said Helena. "I'm overjoyed."



And she was overjoyed – for herself.
'At last, this is my chance!' she thought.

'If I visit Demetrius tonight and tell him that Hermia and Lysander have gone off together, he'll forget about his pride...and then...when

I tell him how I feel about him, he'll be so flattered, he'll fall in love with me. Love always finds a way!

Which is true, but love doesn't always find the way that people expect, as Helena was about to find out. For it was not only in the human world that love was causing unhappiness; although Helena and Hermia did not know it, two different worlds would meet in the wood outside Athens that night, and the result would be chaos.

* * *



Tuesday 2nd June

- Vocabulary:

What do the following words mean?

Betrothed

Brooding

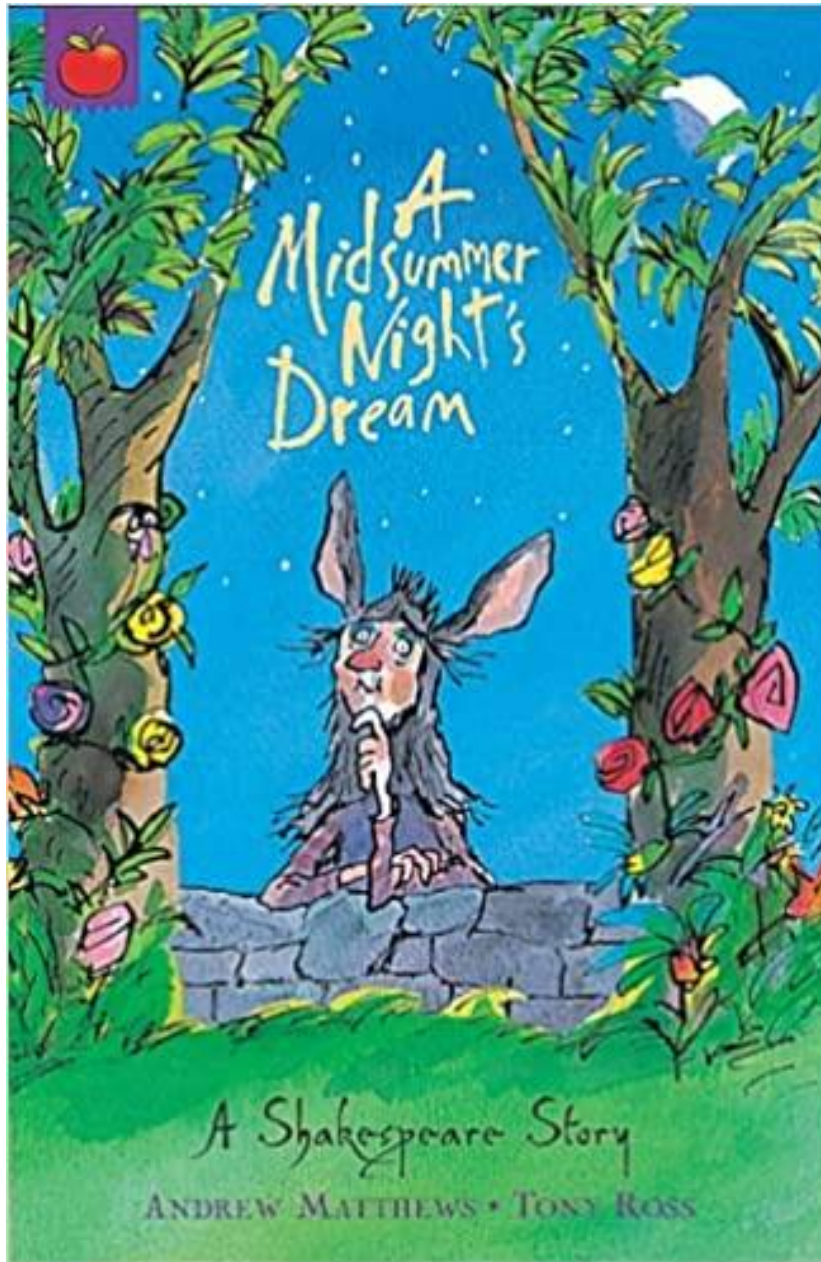
Scandal

- Make a prediction:

What other world might they meet in the woods? Why?

Think about that character list!

- Summarise which characters are in love with each other so far!



Wednesday
3rd June

Oberon, King of the Fairies, was a creature of darkness and shadows, while his wife, Queen Titania, was moonlight and silver. The two loved each



other dearly, but they had quarrelled bitterly. Titania had taken a little orphan boy as a page, and made such a fuss of the lad that Oberon had become very jealous. He wanted the page for himself.



That midsummer's night, in a clearing in the wood, Titania was singing to her page, while fairy servants fluttered around her like glittering moths.

When Oberon appeared, Titania's silvery eyes darkened. "Fairies, let us leave this place at once!" she said haughtily.



"Wait, Titania!" snapped Oberon.
"This quarrel of ours has gone on long
enough. You say I have no reason to be
jealous of the boy – very well, prove it!
Give him to me!"



"Not for all your fairy kingdom!"
hissed Titania. She raised her left hand,
and sent a ball of blue fire roaring across
the glade, straight at Oberon's head.



Oberon spoke a word of magic, and the fire turned to water that burst over him, drenching his clothes. By the time he had rubbed the water from his eyes, the glade was empty and Oberon was alone. "I'll make you sorry for this, Titania!" he vowed. Then, lifting his dripping head, he called out, "Puck? Come to me, now!"



A breeze sighed in the branches, as an elf dropped out of the air and landed at Oberon's feet.

The elf was dressed in leaves that had been sewn together. His hair was tangled, his skin as brown as chestnuts, and when he smiled, his white teeth flashed mischievously. "Command me, master!" Puck said.

"I mean to teach the Queen a lesson," said Oberon. "Go, search the Earth and fetch me the flower called Love in Idleness."

"I will fly faster than a falling star!" said Puck, and with that he had vanished.





A cruel smile
played on Oberon's
lips. "When Titania
is asleep, I will drop
the juice of the flower in
her eyes," he said to himself.

"Its magic will make her fall in love with
the first living thing she sees when she
wakes – perhaps a toad, or even a spider!
She will make herself seem so ridiculous,
that she will beg me to break the spell, and
I will...after she's given me the page!"

This plan pleased Oberon so much that
he began to laugh – but his laugh was cut
short when he heard human voices
approaching. With a wave of his fingers,
Oberon made himself vanish among the
shadows.

* * *

Demetri
halted in
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Helena
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Today's task (Wednesday 3rd June)

- Vocab check - What does **haughtily** and **quarrelled** mean?
- Today you need to write a character description about one of the following 3 characters.

Think about their personality as well as their appearance.

Try to use WOW words!

There have been many versions of this play, so you could draw and label what your version of these characters would look like.

Oberon



Circle some words that describe your character.

mean horrible grumpy polite cross scary evil pretty wicked nasty
kind ugly happy honest helpful handsome smart shy moody rude
angry calm furious caring unkind beautiful fierce friendly bold

Using the words circled above, write some sentences to describe your character.

Titania



Circle some words that describe your character.

mean horrible grumpy polite cross scary evil pretty wicked nasty
kind ugly happy honest helpful handsome smart shy moody rude
angry calm furious caring unkind beautiful fierce friendly bold

Using the words circled above, write some sentences to describe your character.

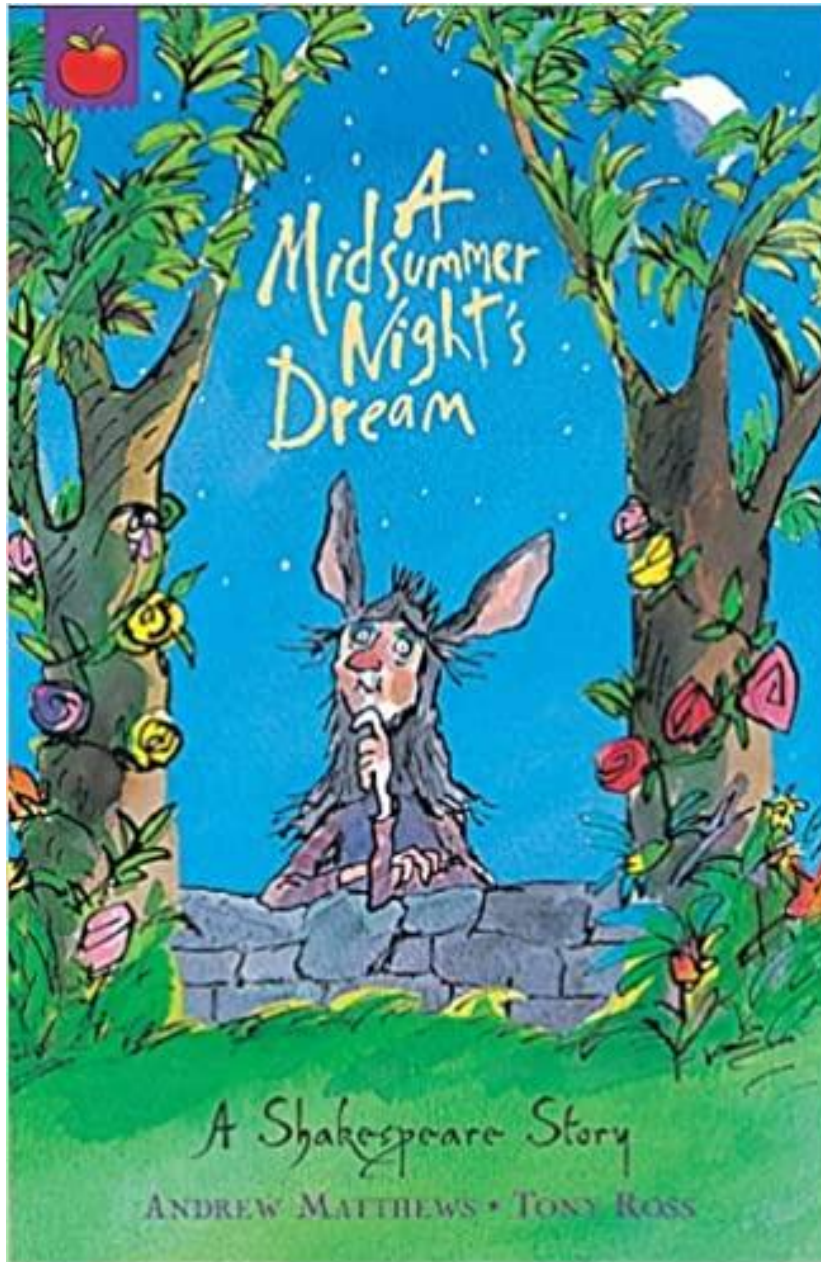
Puck



Circle some words that describe your character.

mean horrible grumpy polite cross scary evil pretty wicked nasty
kind ugly happy honest helpful handsome smart shy moody rude
angry calm furious caring unkind beautiful fierce friendly bold

Using the words circled above, write some sentences to describe your character.



Thursday 4th
June

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Oberon's
Titania
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Demetrius, out searching for Hermia,
halted in the middle of the glade, while he
considered which path to take. This gave
Helena a chance to catch up with him.
"Wait for me, Demetrius!" she pleaded.

Demetrius scowled at her. "For the last
time, Helena, go home!" he shouted
angrily. "I can find Lysander and Hermia
without your help."



"But you don't understand!"
Helena exclaimed.
"I love you! I've always loved you!"

She tried to put her arms around Demetrius, but he ducked away. "Well I don't love you!" he said roughly. "So go away and leave me alone!"
And he ran off through the moonlight.



"Oh, Demetrius!"
sobbed Helena,
running after him.
"I would follow
you through
fire, just to be
near you!"

* * *

When the glade was once more still and silent, Oberon came out of the darkness. His face was thoughtful. "I must help that lovely maiden!" he whispered. "I know how cruel it is to love someone whose heart is so cold."

A wind brushed the Fairy King's cheek, and there stood Puck, holding a sprig of glimmering white flowers.



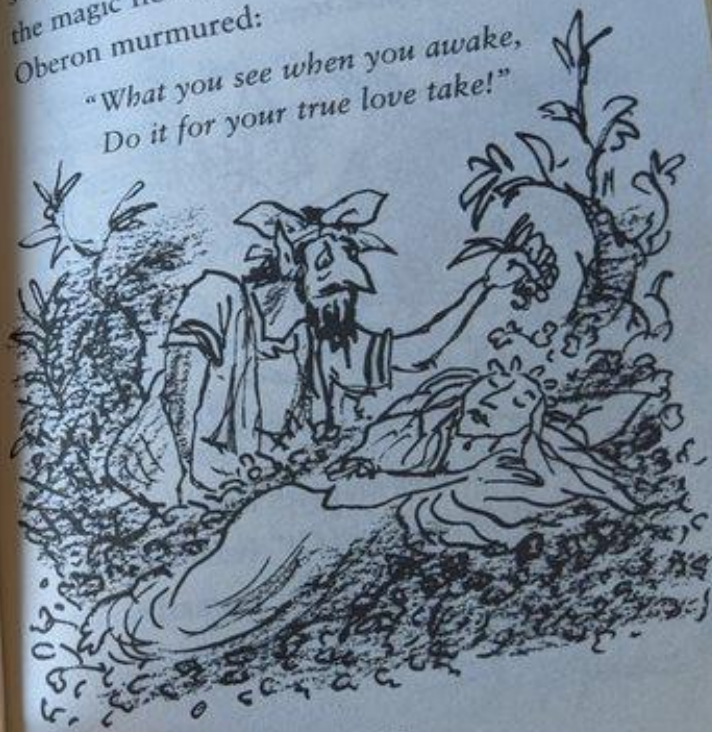
"Take two blossoms and search the woods for a young human couple," Oberon said to him. "Squeeze the juice of the petals into the young man's eyes, but do it when you are sure that the maiden will be the first thing he sees."



"At once, master!" Puck said with a bow, and then he was gone.

Then Oberon went to find Titania. He found her sleeping alone on a bank of violets, and the air was heavy with their sweet perfume. As he dropped juice from the magic flowers on to Titania's eyelids, Oberon murmured:

*"What you see when you awake,
Do it for your true love take!"*



* * *

At that very moment, in another part of the wood, Puck was putting magic juice into the eyes of a young man he had found sleeping next to a young woman at the foot of a pine tree.



"When he wakes and sees her, his love for her will drive him mad!" Puck giggled, and he leapt into the air, like a grasshopper in a summer meadow.

But, as bad luck would have it, Puck had found the wrong couple. Those sleeping under the tree were Lysander and Hermia, who had got lost in the wood and exhausted themselves trying to find the way out.

And as bad luck would also have it, a few seconds after Puck had left them, Helena wandered by, searching for Demetrius. Blinded by tears, Helena did not notice Lysander and Hermia until she stumbled over Lysander's legs.



He woke, saw her, and his eyes bulged like a frog's as the magic went to work.

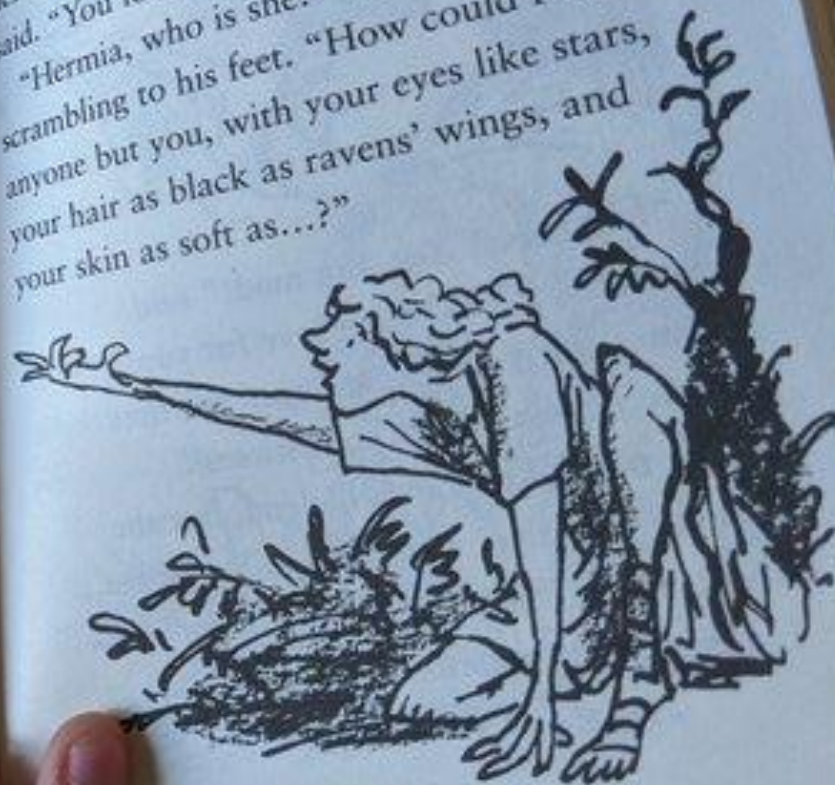
"Lysander?" gasped Helena.

"What are you doing here? I mean, you mustn't be here! Get away quickly!

Demetrius is looking for you, and if he finds you..." Her voice trailed off - there was a strange look about Lysander, and it made her feel uncomfortable. "Why are you staring at me like that?" she asked.



"Because at last I have found my own true love," said Lysander. "Helena, can't you see how much I love you?" Helena stepped back, laughing nervously. "Don't be silly, Lysander!" she said. "You love Hermia...don't you?" "Hermia, who is she?" scoffed Lysander, scrambling to his feet. "How could I love anyone but you, with your eyes like stars, your hair as black as ravens' wings, and your skin as soft as...?"



"That's quite enough of that!" said Helena. "This is some sort of midsummer madness!"



"Madness? Yes, I'm mad!" said Lysander. "Mad with love for you! Come to my arms, and cool the fires of my passion with your kisses!"

He moved towards Helena, but she turned and fled. Lysander followed her, shouting, "There's no escape from love, Helena! This was meant to be!"

Their loud voices and pounding footsteps woke Hermia. "Lysander, where are you?" she muttered sleepily. "Don't wander off on your own, my love. You might be eaten by a lion, or a bear..." The very thought made her wide awake, and she sat up. "Or I might be eaten, come to that!" she said with a shudder. "I'm coming to find you, Lysander, so we can be eaten together!"



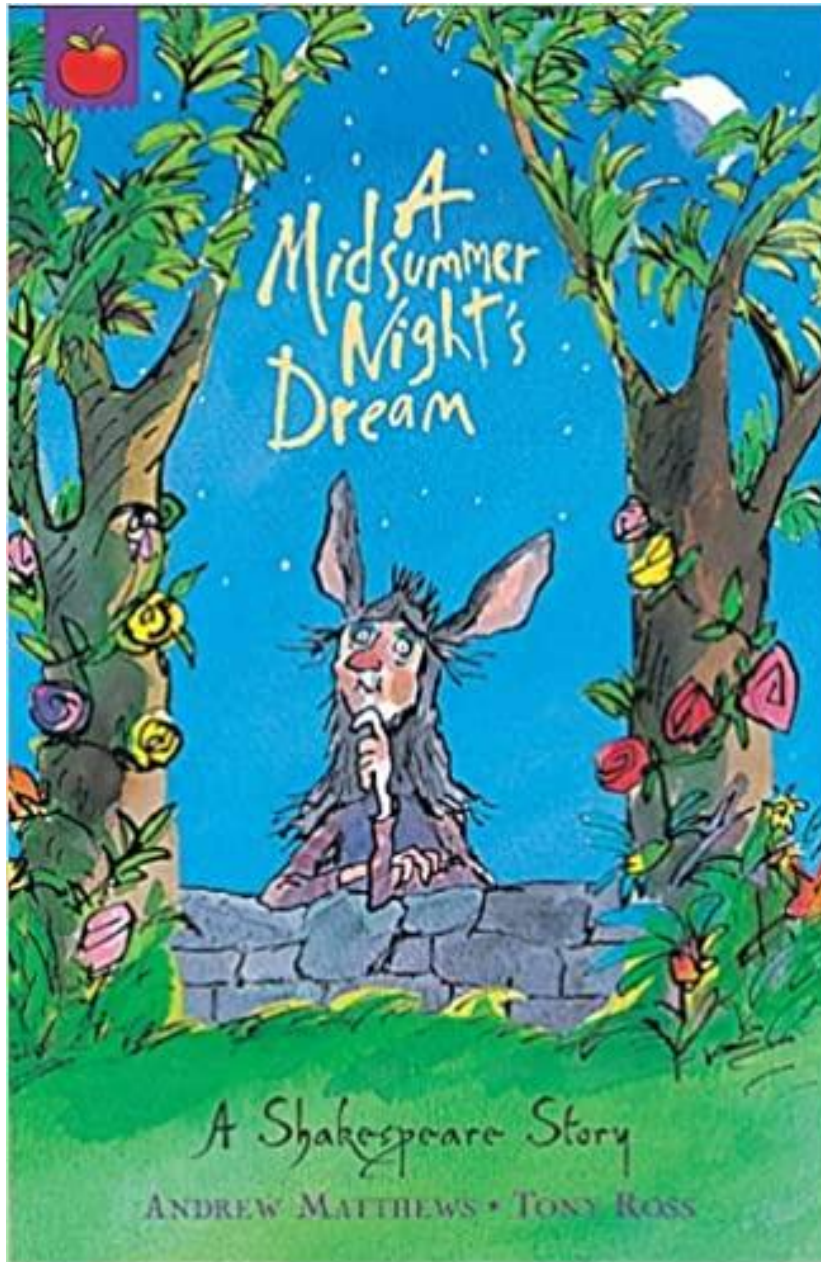
Today's Task (Thursday 4th June)

- Vocab check - What does **scowled** and **scoffed** mean?
- What does the simile 'bulged like frogs' mean when describing Lysander's eyes?
- Summarise what has happened so far!

This is when it gets a little complicated. Who should be with who, but what has actually happened?

- Extension - Can you create your own love potion? (It doesn't have to be nice!)

What would you put in it and what would be the magic spell for it?



Monday 8th
June

* * *
Not five paces from the bank of
violets where Titania lay asleep, a group
of Athenians had gathered in secret to
rehearse a play that they meant to perform
for Duke Theseus after his wedding. One
of the actors, a weaver called Bottom, was
behind a tree, waiting to appear
when he heard his cue.



"I'll show them how
it's done!" Bottom
said to himself.
"When the Duke
sees what a fine
actor I am, he'll
give me a purse
of gold, or my
name's not
Nick Bottom!"

He glanced up,
and saw a strange
orange light
circling the tree.
"Now what's
that, I wonder?"
he muttered.
"A firefly
perhaps?"

It was Puck.
He had noticed
the actors as he
flew by on his
way back to
Oberon, and had seen
a chance to make mischief.
"Behold, the Queen's new love!" he said.
Magic sparks showered down from his
fingertips on to the weaver.



Immediately Bottom's face began to sprout hair, and his nose and ears grew longer and longer. His body was unchanged, so Bottom had no idea that anything was wrong, until he heard his cue and stepped out from behind a tree.



Bottom had meant his entrance to be dramatic, and it certainly was. The other actors took one look at the donkey-headed monster coming towards them, and raced away screaming and shouting.



"What's the matter with them?" said Bottom, scratching his chin. "My word, my beard has grown quickly today! I'll need a good shave before the performance tomorrow!" He paced this way and that, puzzling out why his friends had left in such a hurry. "O-o-h! I see-haw, hee-haw!" he said at last. "They're trying to frighten me by leaving me alone in the wood in the dark! Well it won't work! It takes more than that to frighten a man like me-haw, hee-haw!"

And to prove how brave he was, Bottom began to sing. His voice was part human, part donkey and it sounded like the squealing of rusty hinges. It woke Queen Titania from her sleep on the bank of violets. "Do I hear an angel singing?" she said, and raised herself on one elbow and gazed at Bottom. "Adorable human, I have fallen wildly in love with you!" she told him.



"Really?" said Bottom, not the least alarmed by the sudden appearance of the Fairy Queen. He was sure it was all part of the trick his friends were playing.

"Sit beside me, so I can stroke your long, silky ears!" Titania purred. "My servants will bring you anything you desire."

"I wouldn't say no to some supper," said Bottom. "Nothing fancy – a bale of hay or a bag of oats would suit me fine!"

From up above came the sound of Puck's laughter, like the pealing of tiny bells.

* * *



Today's Task!

- Create dialogue between characters.

Choose one of the following:

What might Oberon say to Puck?

What might Titania now think of Oberon and say to him?

What might Titania and Bottom say to each other next?

Remember the rules of speech!

New speaker, new line.

“Inverted commas around what is said.”

Correct punctuation **inside** the inverted commas.

Make it clear who is speaking.

On the next slide have a practice before you write your own dialogue.

Correctly Punctuate the Speech

Below are all examples of incorrectly punctuated speech.
Tell your partner why they are incorrect and correct them on
your whiteboard.

You need to get off the bus here” said the driver.

Stop annoying me! shouted Sophie.

“Who goes there” grumbled the troll.

“What a beautiful day it is! rejoiced Sheila.”

“That’s all the money I have, explained Frank.

Answers!

Correctly Punctuate the Speech

Did you manage to correct these sentences?

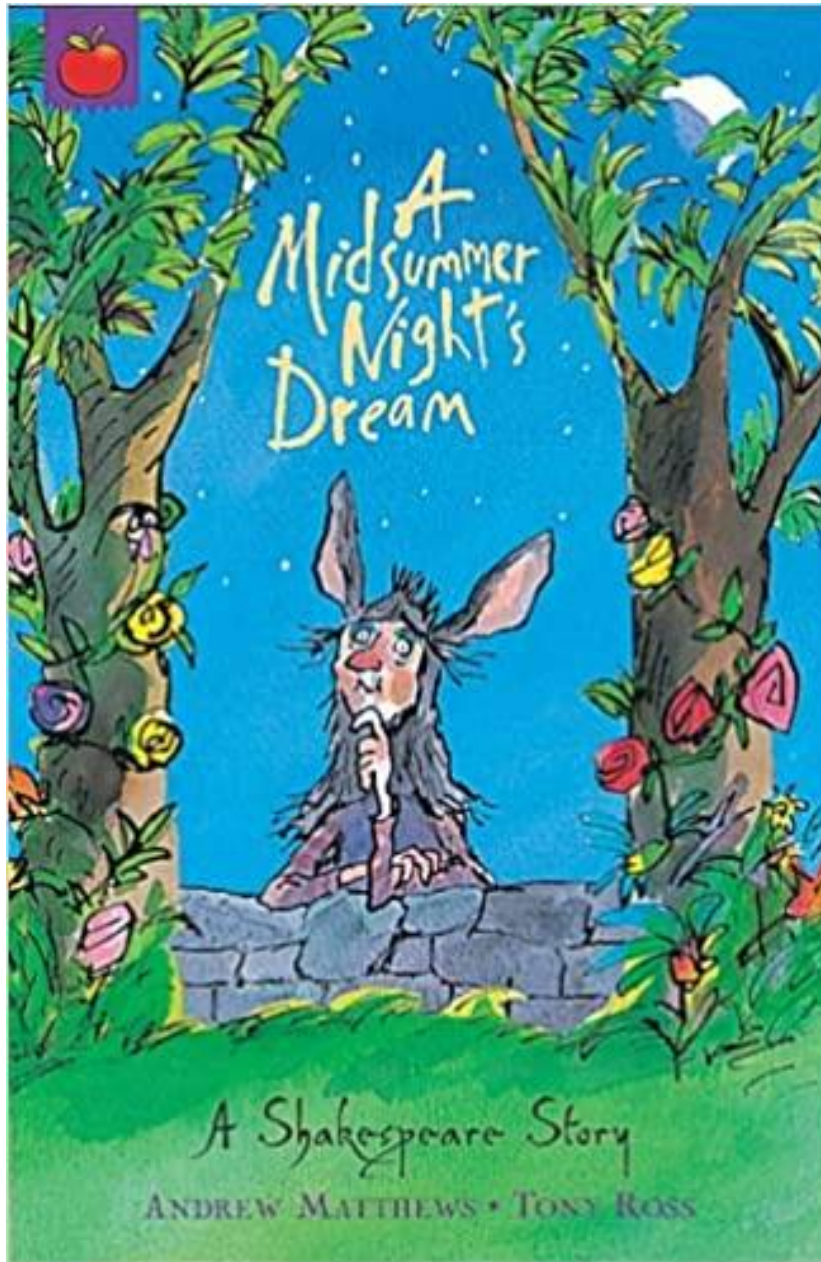
"You need to get off the bus here," said the driver.

"Stop annoying me!" shouted Sophie.

"Who goes there?" grumbled the troll.

"What a beautiful day it is!" rejoiced Sheila.

"That's all the money I have," explained Frank.



Tuesday 9th
June

Oberon's laughter set every owl in the wood hooting. "My proud Queen, in love with a donkey?" he cried. "Well done, Puck! Titania will think twice before she defies me again! But what of the humans?"



"I did as you commanded, master," said Puck. "I found them..."

A voice made him turn his head, and he saw Demetrius stamping along the path, dragging Hermia by the arm.

"That is the fellow!" said Oberon. "But who is that with him?"

"He is not the one I cast the spell on!" Puck yelped.

"Quickly," said Oberon. "Make yourself invisible before they see us!"

* * *

Hermia was thoroughly miserable. Everything had gone wrong: she had found Demetrius instead of Lysander, and Demetrius was in such a foul temper that she feared the worst. "Oh, where is Lysander?" she wailed. "You've killed him, haven't you, you brute?"



With a weary groan, Demetrius let Hermia go and slumped to the ground.

"I haven't touched your precious Lysander!"

he yawned. "Now stop whining and get some sleep. When it's light, we'll find our way out of this accursed wood."

"I won't rest until I find Lysander!" Hermia said defiantly.

"Just as you wish," said Demetrius. "I'm too tired to argue any more."

He lay back among the ferns and closed his eyes. He heard Hermia walking away, and then he fell into a deep sleep.

Moonlight shifted and shivered as Oberon and Puck reappeared. "This is the man," said Oberon, peering down at Demetrius. "Search the wood for a black-haired maiden, and bring her here. When she is close by I will put magic juice in his eyes and wake him."

"Yes, master!

But tell me, is human love always so complicated?"

Puck asked curiously.

"Just do as I have commanded!" snapped Oberon.

* * *

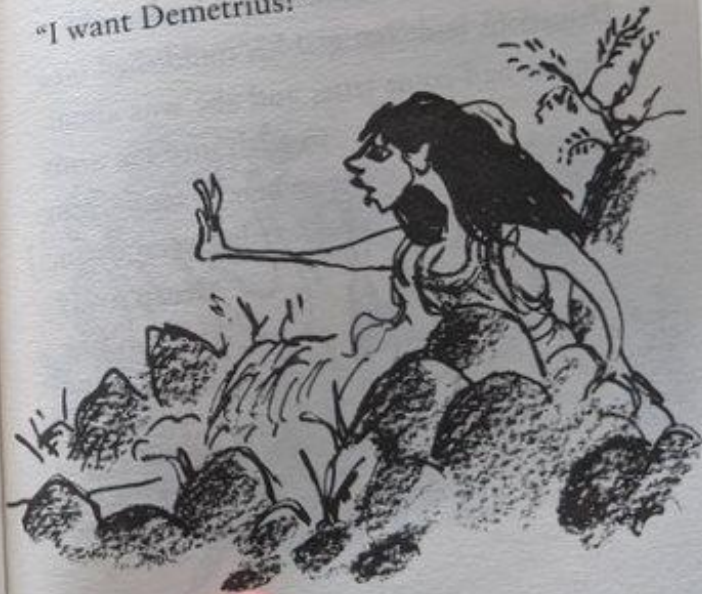


Helena was still running, with Lysander just a few steps behind her. So many bewildering things had happened to her, that when an orange light appeared above the path in front of her, she was not surprised – in fact, a curious idea suddenly popped into her mind – Puck's magic had put it there. Helena became convinced that if she followed the light, it would lead her



back to Athens, and sanity. Over streams and through clearings the light led her, until at last she came to a deep thicket of ferns, where she paused for breath. "Helena, marry me!" she heard Lysander shout.

"I don't want you!" she shouted back. "I want Demetrius!"



"And here I
am, my love!"
said Demetrius,
springing up out
of the ferns nearby, his
eyes glowing with magic.



"Hold me, let me melt in your sweetness!"

Helena did not bother to wonder why
Demetrius had changed his mind: her
dreams had come true, and she was about
to rush into his arms
when Lysander ran
between them.



"Keep away
from her,
Demetrius!"

Lysander
said hotly.

"Helena is mine!"

"Lysander...is that you?" called a voice,
and Hermia came stumbling out of the
bushes. Brambles had torn the hem of her
dress, and there were leaves and twigs
stuck in her hair. "Thank the gods you're
safe!" she said, weeping for joy. "Why did
you leave me, my only love?"

"Because I can't bear the sight of you!"
said Lysander. "I want to marry Helena."



"So do I!" Demetrius exclaimed. "And since she can't marry both of us, we'll have to settle the matter, man to man!" He pushed Lysander's chest, knocking him backwards, then Lysander pushed Demetrius.



Hermia stared at Helena, her eyes blazing. "You witch! You've stolen my Lysander!" she screeched.

"I haven't stolen anybody!" Helena replied angrily. "This is all some cruel trick, isn't it? The three of you plotted together to make a fool of me - and I thought you were my friend!"

"Our friendship ended when you took Lysander away from me!" snarled Hermia.

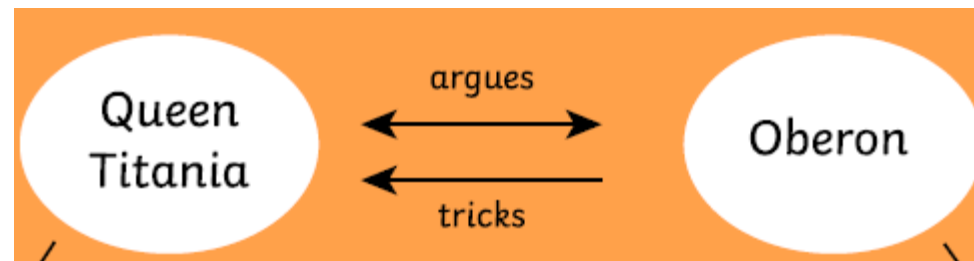


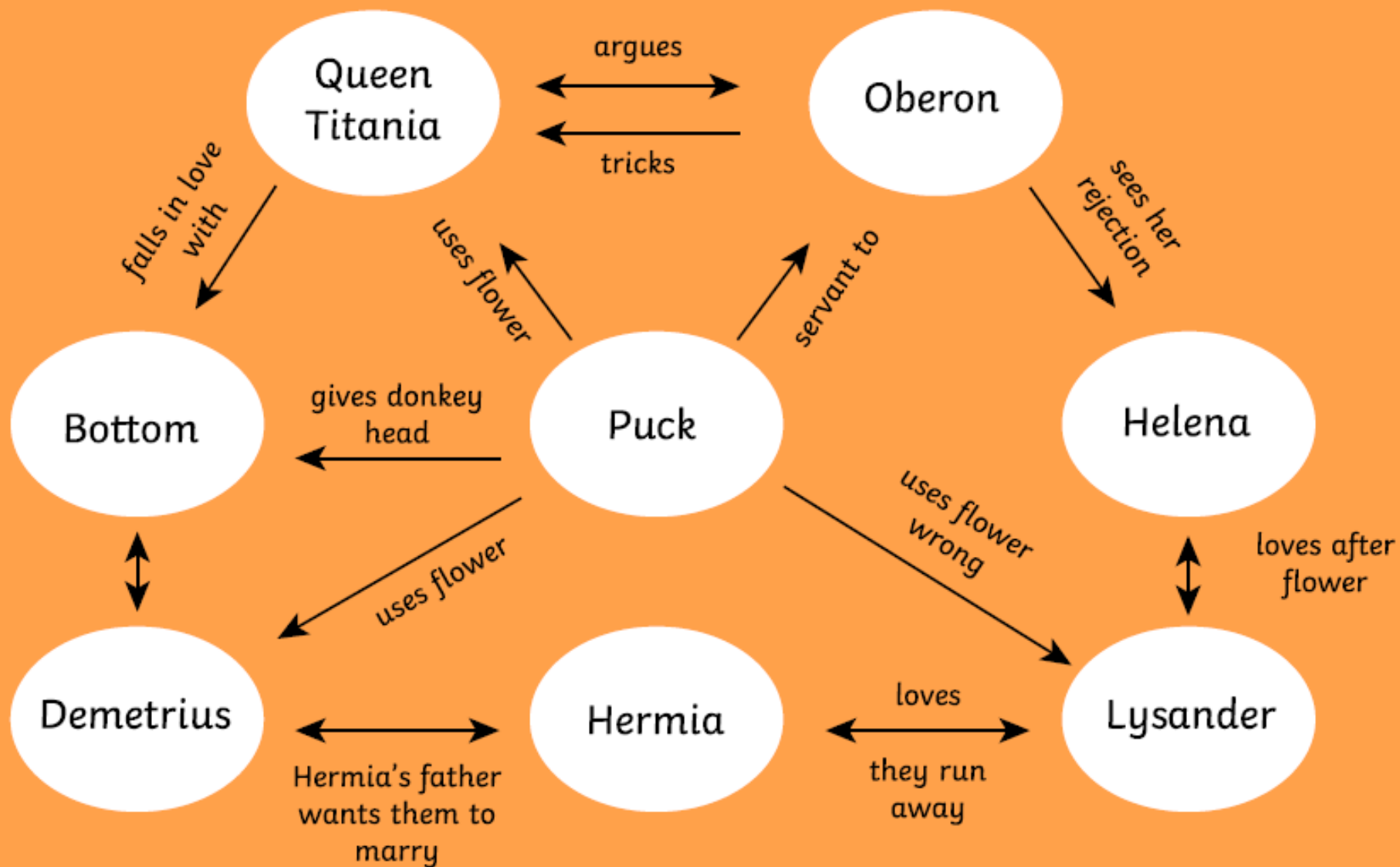
Today's Task

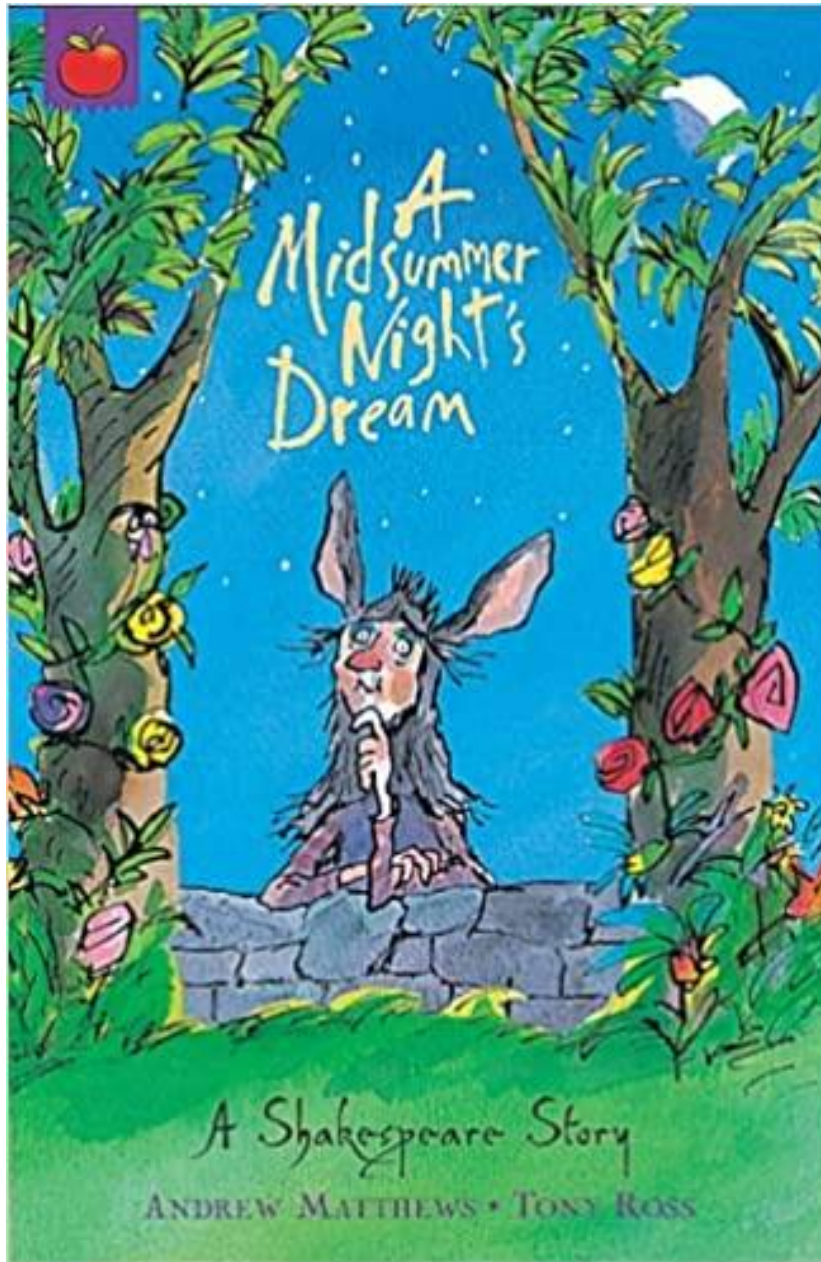
- Vocab check -

What does *defies*, *bewildering*, *sanity* and *defiantly* mean?

- Create a character web - how do all the characters link up?







Wednesday
10th June

And there might have been a serious fight, if Oberon had not cast a sleeping spell on all four of them. They dropped to the ground like ripe apples, Hermia falling close to Lysander and Helena collapsing at Demetrius's side.



Oberon and Puck appeared magically beside them. "Smear their eyes with fairy juice!"



said Oberon. "This knot of lovers will unravel when they wake." As Puck hurried about his task, the air was filled with the singing of fairy voices. "The Queen!" Puck muttered in alarm. "The Queen is coming!"

* * *

Titania did not notice Puck and Oberon, or the sleeping lovers. She could see nothing but Bottom, whose jaws were stretched open in a wide yawn. "Are you weary, dearest one?" she asked him tenderly. "Rest with me on these soft ferns."

"I feel a powerful sleep coming over me-haw, hee-haw!" said Bottom.
"Fairies, leave us!" ordered Titania.
The fairies flew away, leaving bright trails in the air. Titania cradled Bottom's head in her lap, and they both dozed.



Oberon and Puck crept close. Puck began to grin, but he stopped when he saw the sorrow in his master's eyes.



"There is no laughter in this!" Oberon sighed. "How I long for Titania to smile at me, as she smiled at this creature, and to feel her soft arms around me as I sleep! Break the spell on the human, Puck, while I deal with the Queen."

Oberon moved his hands, weaving
shadows into magic as he chanted:

*"Be the way you used to be,
See the way you used to see,
Wake, my Queen, and come to me!"*



Titania opened her eyes, and when she
saw Oberon she flew into his arms. "I am
so glad that you are here, my love!" she
said. "I had the strangest dream! I dreamed
that I had fallen in love with a..."

"We will never quarrel again," Oberon
promised. "Keep your page – have fifty
pages if you wish! What does it matter, as
long as we are together?"

Puck saw that the sky was getting lighter.
"It's almost dawn, master!" he warned.

"Then we must leave!" said Oberon,
and he, Titania and Puck faded into the
pale morning light.



* * *

When the sun rose, its light woke
Demetrius and Helena, who fell in love at
first sight, then Lysander and Hermia,
who fell in love all over again. There was
much smiling, sighing and kissing, and
soon Demetrius said, "Today is Duke
Theseus's wedding day, as well as mine
and Helena's. Come, my friends, the priest
can marry us all at the same ceremony!"



And the lovers hurried off towards
Athens, laughing every step of the way,
the paths of their true love running
smoothly at last.

* * *

And as for Bottom, he woke some time later and clambered stiffly to his feet. "I thought I was...!" He mumbled. "I thought I had...!" Anxiously, he felt his face and ears, and then sighed with relief.



"What a midsummer night's dream!" he exclaimed. "I'll write a poem about it, and read it to Duke Theseus and his bride, and the Duke will say: 'Well done, noble Bottom! Here's some gold for you!'"

And he stumbled away through the ferns, making up lines of poetry and reciting them out loud as he went.

*The eye of man hath not heard, the ear of
man hath not seen, man's hand is not able
to taste, his tongue to conceive, nor his
heart to report what my dream was.*

Bottom; IV.i.

Today's Task

- What did you think of the story?

Write a review – would you recommend it to other people? Which age group would it be appropriate for?

- Would it work well as a play? Why?

- Challenge:

Act out a section you like using yourself as the actor(s), or create puppets for the characters and act out a section.

If you do have a go at this, please send them to me – I would love to see!