

A Midsummer Night's Dream in pictures

Student worksheets

Warmer – the plot of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

How much do you remember about *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? Ask and answer questions about the words in the box using the five *w-* and the one- *h* question words.

For example:

- *Where does most of the play take place?*
- *What are the fairy queen and her husband fighting about?*
- *Who uses a magic potion?*
- *Why does the fairy queen fall in love with a donkey?*
- *When does Demetrius fall in love with Helena?*
- *How does the play end?*

Woods A donkey A fairy Queen Marriage A play Two couples A magic potion

Task 1 – pictures of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Look at the three pictures. Which moments in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* do they represent?



Match each painting to its painter and title.

- The Reconciliation of Oberon and Titania (1847) by Joseph Noel Paton
- Titania and Bottom (1790) by Henry Fuseli
- The Quarrel of Oberon and Titania (1850) by Joseph Noel Paton

What do you remember about Shakespeare's play from the three scenes painted here?

Task 2 – reading for gist and detail

- a. Read the first four lines of the dialogue from Act IV Scene I and match it to one of the paintings above.
- b. Now read the rest of the dialogue.

TITANIA Come, sit thee down upon this flowery bed,
While I thy amiable cheeks do coy,
And stick musk-roses in thy sleek smooth head,
And kiss thy fair large ears, my gentle joy.

BOTTOM Where's Peaseblossom? Scratch my head Peaseblossom.

Where's Mounsieur Cobweb?

COBWEB Ready.

BOTTOM Mounsieur Cobweb, good mounsieur, get you your
weapons in your hand, and kill me a red-hipped
humble-bee on the top of a thistle; and, good
mounsieur, bring me the honey-bag. Where's Mounsieur Mustardseed?

MUSTARDSEED Ready.

What's your Will?

BOTTOM Nothing, good mounsieur, but to help Cavalery Cobweb
to scratch. I must to the barber's, monsieur; for
methinks I am marvellous hairy about the face; and I
am such a tender ass, if my hair do but tickle me,
I must scratch.

TITANIA What, wilt thou hear some music,
my sweet love?

Sleep thou, and I will wind thee in my arms.

Fairies, begone, and be all ways away. *Exeunt fairies. They sleep.*

- c. Look at the painting again. Read the whole text slowly and answer the questions.
1. Who are Peaseblossom, Cobweb and Mustardseed? What does Bottom ask them to do?
 2. Can you find any of the characters from the dialogue in the painting?
 3. Can you see any characters in the painting which are not in the dialogue? Describe them.
 4. Find something in the painting which symbolizes the triumph of youth over old age.
 5. Do you like the painting? Why/Why not?

Task 3 – vocabulary

Find and underline the words (1-5) in the extract in **Task 2**. Match them with their definitions (a-e).

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|------------|---|
| 1. sleek | a. smooth, soft and shiny |
| 2. weapons | b. to touch someone in a way which makes them laugh |
| 3. barber | c. a hairdresser for men |
| 4. tender | d. a thing which you can hurt or kill with |
| 5. tickle | e. soft and sensitive |

Task 4 – describing a painting

Read the description of the painting and fill in the gaps with words and phrases from the box.

beside In the foreground In the centre
 To his right a symbol of



(1) of the painting, Bottom is sitting on the ground, We can see he has the body of a man and the head of a donkey.

Titania is (2) him. She is calling upon her fairies to look after Bottom and get him everything he needs. One fairy scratches Bottom's head; Mustard-seed perches on his hand and Cobweb has killed a bee and is bringing him the honey-bag. (3) , a young woman offers him a basket of dried peas. (4) , a young woman is leading a dwarf-like creature by a string. She is (5) the triumph of youth over old age.

Task 5 – speaking about a painting

Choose one of the other paintings from Task 1. Describe the painting to your partner. Your partner should listen and guess which moment you are describing.