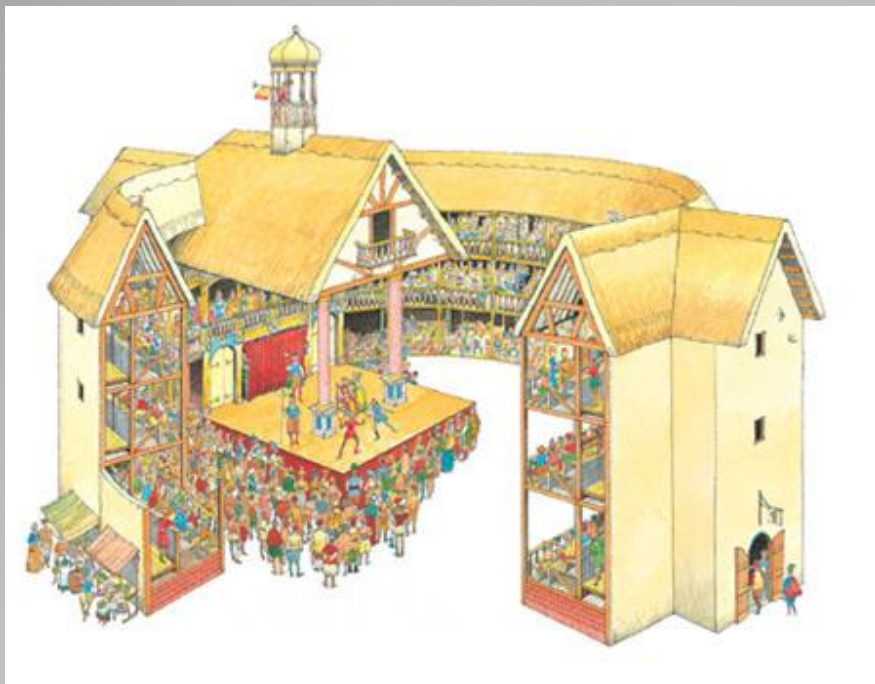


A Midsummer Night's Dream





A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

- Timeless stories.
- He was a literary and dramatic genius.
- Shakespeare is a master of plot.
- Shakespeare is LOGICAL (he presents a knot and then he unties it).

Why do we study the works of William Shakespeare today?

- Have a broader view of the world in general and of important historical events.
- Have a greater understanding of human nature.
- Appreciate other art forms as well.
- Usually can better judge what a good book is.
- Do well in logic and philosophy.
- Have little trouble in other language classes.
- Understand the concepts of character, plot, irony, universal truth; have advanced vocabulary; etc.

**People who have studied
Shakespeare ...**



1. Shakespearean insults can be very useful 😊.
2. Walt Disney's fairy characters are probably derived from the fairies in MSND 😊.
3. Felix Mendelssohn's famous "Wedding March" music comes from his musical rendition of MSND 😊.
4. Even though it was written over 400 years ago, the themes are still relevant today.
5. It has funny characters and a humorous plot.
6. Shakespeare introduced about 3,000 new words into the English language!
7. Shakespearean English doesn't differ much from the English we speak today.
8. There are some books that you just have to read 😊.
9. Because we know you will enjoy it!

[Felix Mendelssohn's famous "Wedding March"](#)

**Top 9 reasons
why you should read it...**



Some basic information about
A Midsummer Night's Dream...

A Midsummer Night's Dream was written by William Shakespeare in approximately 1595.

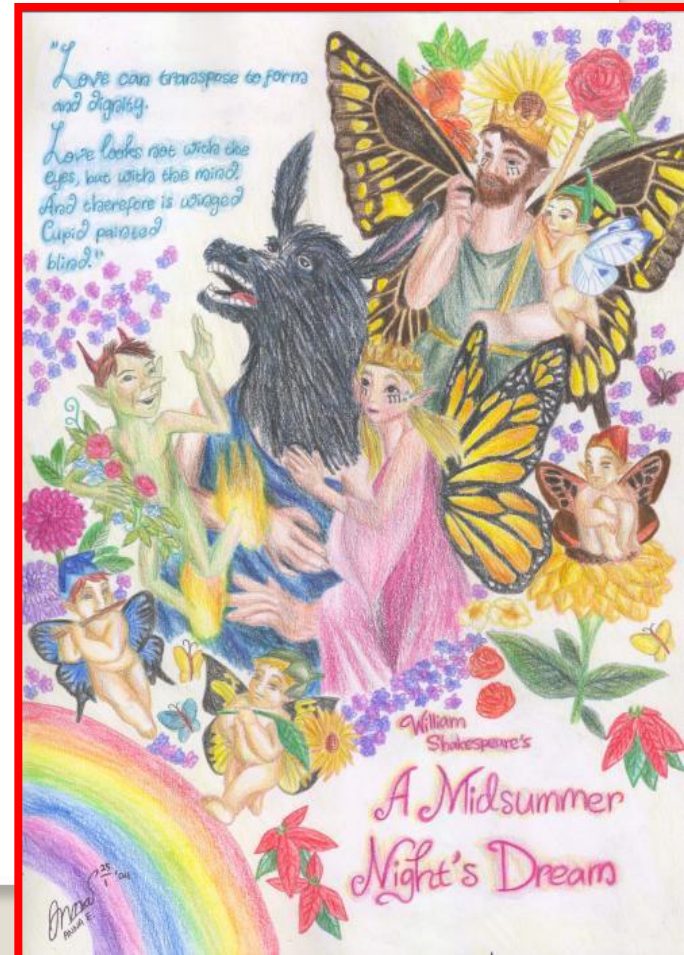
A Midsummer Night's Dream is a **comedy** which portrays the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of amateur actors in a moonlit forest, and their interactions with the fairies who inhabit it.

Comedy - in simple terms means that the play will end happily.

☺ Comedy – despair to happiness

☹ Tragedy – happiness to despair

Shakespeare's comedies often end with a wedding.



The title draws on the summer solstice, **Midsummer Eve**, occurring **June 23** and marked by holiday partying and tales of fairies and temporary insanity.





The
lovers



The
fairies



The
actors



The main characters

THE THREE WORLDS of

a midsummer night's **dream**

1. THE ATHENIANS:

- Theseus and his bride, Hippolyta
(Theseus represents law and order.)
- The four lovers: Hermia, Helena, Demetrius, Lysander
(They represent adolescent rebellion.)
 - Egeus (Hermia's father)



Left to right: Helena, Demetrius,
Lysander, Hermia

The Athenians



Helena and Demetrius



Theseus and Hippolyta

2. THE ACTORS:





3. THE FAIRIES:

Their realm is the woods where they interact with the humans who wander there. This setting is outside the walls of Athens.

- Titania (Queen)
- Oberon (King)
- Puck (a.k.a. Robin Goodfellow) – Oberon's loyal helper

Bottom and Titania

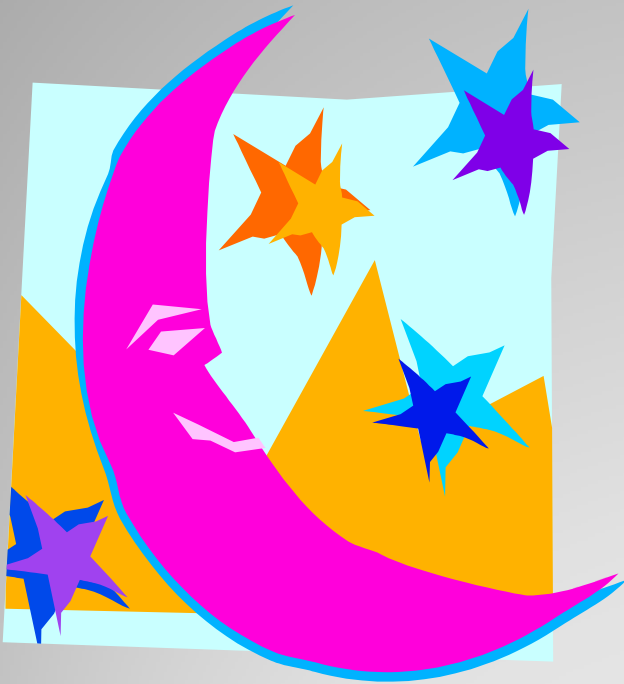


Puck and Oberon



The three worlds come together in the **woods** at night:
a place of **magic** and **mystery** where **illusion** reigns!





- **Moon:** *night/ confusion... "lunacy" ("Luna" is Latin for moon)*
- **Dreams/Sleep:** *illusion, the fickle nature of love*
- **Athens:** *law and order*
- **The Woods:** *imagination, dreams, chaos*
- **Day/Night:** *order/chaos*

Symbols/Motifs

The play is a study in

CONTRASTS

The contrasts add balance to the play.

Some of the contrasts in the play:

Reality vs. Illusion (Dreams, Magic), Ethereal vs. Earthy

Athens (city) vs. the forest

Day vs. Night

Order vs. Confusion & (Love's) Difficulty

Aristocrats vs. Workmen

Tall vs. Short, Beautiful vs. Ugly, Clumsy vs. Graceful

True love vs. False love

Lyrical language vs. Rough prose



Enjoy 

Astronomy



In 1787, British astronomer [William Herschel](#) discovered two new moons of [Uranus](#) that he named after characters in the play: [Oberon](#), and [Titania](#). Another Uranian moon, discovered in 1985 by the [Voyager 2](#) spacecraft, has been named [Puck](#).^[96]



Meaning of **midsummer** in English



midsummer

noun [U]

UK /ˌmɪdˈsʌm.ə/ US /ˌmɪdˈsʌm.ə/



the period in the middle of summer:

- *I don't normally take my holiday in midsummer.*
- *a midsummer evening*



An Introduction to A Midsummer's Night Dream

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