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***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Study Guide**

**Act I, Scene i**

1. Who is Theseus? Why is he anxious for the rising of the new moon? What does he tell Philostrate to do?
2. Why is Egeus angry? Why has he come to see Theseus?
3. What are your impressions of Hermia? Whom does she love?
4. What alternative(s) does Thesus offer Hermia?
5. How does Hermia change during her time alone with Lysander? Where do Lysander and Hermia agree to meet that night? Why?
6. What is the relationship between Hermia and Helena? (inference)
7. How does Helena betray the secret Hermia tells her? Why?
8. Why do you think Egeus prefers Demetrius to Lysander? (inference)
9. Do you think a father has the right to interfere in his daughter’s love life? (inference)
10. Do you think Egeus would actually have his daughter killed if she continued to refuse Demetrius? Why or why not? (inference)

**Prediction**

Do you think that Hermia and Lysander will succeed in their plans for elopement? Why or why not?

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***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Study Guide**

**Act I, Scene ii**

1. What is the purpose of meeting at Peter Quince’s house?
2. Who is Nick Bottom? How does he make trouble at the meeting?
3. Briefly, what is the plot of *Pyramus and Thisbe*? Do you think this is an appropriate choice of entertainment at a wedding? Why or why not?
4. What part will Bottom play?
5. What part will Snug play? What is funny about his asking whether his lines will be written out?
6. When and where do the tradesmen plan to rehearse?
7. What do the others seem to think of Bottom? How does he seem to feel about himself? (inference)

**Prediction**

Do you think the tradesmen will end up with a polished performance? Why or why not? Will Theseus and Hipployta be pleased with it? (inference)

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***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Study Guide**

**Act II, Scene i**

1. By what other name is Puck known?
2. What does the fairy tell Puck? What warning does he give her in turn?
3. Why is Oberon angry with Titania? Why does he want the boy?
4. What sorts of tricks does Puck play on humans? Why?
5. Why is Titania jealous of Hipployta? Of whom is Oberon jealous?
6. Who do Titania and Oberon blame for recent storms and floods?
7. According to Oberon, how did the pansy become magical? Why does he tell Puck to fetch the flower?
8. Who races after Demetrius into the woods? How does he try to stop her? What is Oberon’s reaction when he sees the pursuit? With whom do you feel more sympathy? Why?
9. Oberon tells Puck to dab whom on the eyelids with the magic nectar? Why? What does Oberon intend to do with the rest of the nectar?

**Prediction**

Do you think Oberon’s plan for the magic nectar will work? Why or why not?

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***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Study Guide**

**Act II, Scene ii**

1. What jobs does Titania send her fairies off to do?
2. Why does Oberon pronounce a spell over Titania?
3. Why does Lysander move away from Hermia before they sleep?
4. On whose eyelids does Puck press the magic nectar? Why?
5. What happens when Helena wakes Lysander? What does she think of his flattery?
6. What has Hermia been dreaming about?
7. Why does Hermia run off at the end of the scene?

**Prediction**

With whom will Titania fall in love, thanks to the magic nectar? (inference)

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***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*Study Guide**

**Act III, Scene i**

1. Why is Bottom worried about the ladies in the audience? What solution does he offer?
2. What problem worries Snout? What solution does Bottom come up with?
3. Why does Bottom propose looking in an almanac?
4. Why does Quince decide to have Starveling carry sticks and a lantern?
5. How does Bottom propose that Snout make the part of the wall more realistic?
6. How does Puck play tricks on the actors in the woods?
7. How does Bottom react when he realizes that he has the head of an ass?
8. How does Titania react when she sees Bottom?

**Prediction**

Who will “win” Helena – Lysander or Demetrius? Why?

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***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Study Guide**

**Act III, Scene ii**

1. How does Oberon learn that Titania is in love with Bottom? How does he feel about that?
2. How does Oberon realize that Puck has made a mistake?
3. What does Hermia think has happened to Lysander? Why?
4. On whom does Oberon press the magical nectar now? Why?
5. How does Helena react when Demetrius declares his love? Why?
6. Why do Hermia and Helena argue?
7. Who challenges whom to a duel? Why?
8. What does Oberon order Puck to do to set things right on earth?
9. How does Oberon plan to set things right in the fairy world?

**Prediction**

Will Oberon succeed in “setting things right” on earth and in the world of the fairies? Why or why not?

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**A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Study Guide**

**Act IV, Scene i**

1. How is Titania showing her affection for Bottom at the beginning of this scene?
2. What sort of music and food does Bottom request?
3. How does Oberon get the little boy?
4. Why does Oberon return Titania to normal?
5. How do Theseus, Egeus, and the others happen to find the four lovers? Why is Theseus surprised by their appearance?
6. What does Theseus do about the young lovers?
7. When everyone wakes up, how much do they remember about the previous night?
8. What does Bottom plan to have Peter Quince write? Why? How do you feel toward Bottom, now that he is back to “normal”? Do you pity him? Why or why not?

**Prediction**

What have Bottom’s fellow craftsmen been doing since he disappeared? Have they missed him?

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***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Study Guide**

**Act IV, Scene ii**

1. Why are the tradesmen upset? Why don’t they just assign someone else the role of Pyramus?
2. What news does Snug bring? How does this make the tradesmen feel?
3. How do the tradesmen find out that their play has been put on the “preferred list”?
4. What does Bottom tell the others to do in preparation of the play?
5. Why do you suppose this scene is so short? What do you find funniest about this scene? (inference)

**Prediction**

Will the three marriages take place without a “hitch”? Why or why not?

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***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
Study Guide**

**Act V, Scene i**

1. Who is married in this scene?
2. Why does Theseus choose *Pyramus and Thisbe* over the other shows he might watch?
3. How does Quince manage to make the Prologue to the play unintentionally funny?
4. How is Hippolyta’s reaction to the play different from Theseus’, at first?
5. Why does “Pyramus” (Bottom) curse the wall?
6. How does the audience react as the suicides of Pyramus and Thisbe are being enacted?
7. What choices does Bottom give Theseus at the end of the play? What does Theseus choose?
8. Who enters as the married couples go off to bed? What does Oberon give to each fairy? Why?
9. What is Puck doing at the end as he describes the night? For what does he apologize?