

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

### Questions for Act 4

- Which of the following best identifies Titania's words to Bottom in lines 1-4 of the first scene? (Look up words in the dictionary that you do not know.)
  - sarcasm and hyperbole
  - understatement
  - metaphor
  - irony and farce
  - puns and other word play
- When Bottom says "I am marvailous hairy," or "Methinks I have a great desire to a bottle of hay," the effect is \_\_\_ and refers to \_\_\_.
  - dramatic irony....Bottom's transformation
  - understatement....the fairies to whom he is speaking
  - farce and humor....the play that he is about to perform
  - underlying tragedy....Bottom's appearance and appetite
  - hyperbole....Bottom's transformation
- Which of the following is the best word to describe Oberon's mood on seeing Titania's doting on Bottom?
  - hilarity
  - disgust
  - pity
  - chagrin
  - surprise
- Before they depart, Oberon's and Titania's lines to each other are spoken in \_\_\_.
  - iambic pentameter, acatalectic
  - dactyls, acatalectic
  - trochaic tetrameter, catalectic
  - anapestic trimeter
  - spondees
- How did Theseus and the others find the errant lovers?
  - They had gone out hunting in the forest.
  - They had been out observing the rites of May.
  - They had gone out looking for them.
  - Theseus's courtiers had told the duke of their whereabouts.
  - The faired had led them into the forest.
- According to Demetrius's metaphor or conceit, what is his "natural taste"?
  - Hermia
  - the woman whom he first loved
  - Helena
  - Both a and b
  - Both b and c
- Why are the lovers allowed to marry whom they will?
  - On a whim Egeus has changed his mind.
  - Demetrius has convinced Egeus to relent and have a change of mind.
  - Helena has once more told Egeus how much she loves Lysander.
  - Lysander has proven to Egeus his faithfulness.
  - Theseus has overruled Egeus's harsh command.
- What is the reaction of the lovers at the end of scene 1 to the turn of events?
  - They are bewildered.
  - They are sorrowful and contrite about their behavior toward one another.
  - They are overjoyed, yet anxious about Egeus.
  - They feign madness.
  - They have doubts of Theseus's integrity.
- What is Quince's reaction when Bottom reappears?
  - He becomes frightened and asks for courage.

- b) He shows disappointment that Bottom has arrived so late.
  - c) He is angry that Bottom has arrived so late.
  - d) He responds with genuine gladness.
  - e) None of the above
10. Which of the following is NOT true concerning the fourth act of this play?
- a) The Athenians wake up to what they think is a dream.
  - b) Every character has returned to what he or she was before the Midsummer Night.
  - c) All the major conflicts introduced in the first act of the play have been resolved.
  - d) Bottom is transformed from an enamored ass to an abhorred “foolish” (Puck’s words) man.
  - e) The Athenians, fairy and Bottom wake up in wonderment at their “dream” existence in the forest.
- We find an anachronism in Act 4, Scene 1, lines 102-106 in the *forester*. What other anachronisms are found in the play?
  - The lovers think that their reality is in fact a dream, as their dream has become a reality. Discuss how this can be applied to most everyone in everyday life?
  - Discuss Flute’s comment that a “paramour” (or lover) is a *thing of naught* (nothing).

### Topics for Writing and Class Discussion

- Discuss how Scene 1 a sort of travesty of court life where the courtiers are serving a donkey.
- Oberon calls Titania’s love-sickness a *hateful imperfection*. In what way is infatuation a hateful imperfection?
- In what ways does Bottom represent humanity in this play? (Example in this scene: He is unable to grasp the dream world.)
- Puck expresses his assessment of man in the statement “What fools these mortals be.” He continues this assessment in the comment regarding Bottom: “With thine own fool’s eyes peep.” Bottom represents the very mortality of mortals, or the humanity of man in his foolishness. Titania, however, represents the more noble soul—the ethereal world. Discuss how it is strange that Titania should love such a creature as Bottom