A Midsummer Night's Dream
By William Shakespeare
Act II Questions

Scene 1

1. What do the following have in common: skimming milk, frightening village maidens, preventing cream to churn into butter, and getting people lost.
   a) They are the mischievous activities of Puck.
   b) They happen on a Midsummer day.
   c) Oberon has accused Titania of doing these things.
   d) They all happen in the night.
   e) Robin Goodfellow prevents these things from happening.

2. According to Titania in her speech to Oberon, what or who is the cause of the disruption of the seasons ("climate change")?
   a) Theseus
   b) Oberon and Titania's argument
   c) greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide
   d) the purple flower called "love-in-idleness"
   e) an Indian princess

3. What is the cause of both Oberon's and Titania's jealousy? (Of whom or what are they jealous?)
   a) a flower
   b) an Indian boy
   c) the rule of Athens
   d) the rule of the forest
   e) powers of enchantment

4. What is Oberon's ORIGINAL plan regarding the purple love flower?
   a) set aright the relationship between Demetrius and Helena
   b) make a magic potion with which to kill Titania
   c) make Egeus fall in love with Hippolyta
   d) make the seasons aright
   e) take revenge through a potion made to effect mad love

5. Shakespeare does all the following with the metaphor of "steel" and "adamant" (magnet) in Helena's first speech to Demetrius except ___.
   a) show Helena's faithfulness
   b) show Demetrius powerful charm on Helena

c) give an example of the virtue of Demetrius
d) show Demetrius coldness toward Helena
e) talk about the *strange and invisible* attraction of Helena to Demetrius.

6. Hermia's use of the word "spaniel" (a dog) is intended to show ___.
   a) Hermia's ugliness
   b) Demetrius's lack of devotion
   c) Demtrius's love for hunting
   d) Helena's wish to be an animal rather than a human because of her suffering, as she believes a dog would be better treated
   e) Hermia's willingness to be treated unkindly just to be in Demetrius' presence

Act 2, Scene 2
7. What caused Lysander to change in affections toward Hermia?

8. What does Lysander mean when he says, "The will of man is by his reason swayed/And reason says you are the worthier maid…"?

9. What does Helena say regarding Lysander's changed affection? How does she explain it?

10. What does Hermia dream of when she awakes?

Topics for Writing and Class Discussion
1. What is the effect of Puck's rhyming verse in the first scene of this act?
2. Notice that the fairy world of the forest shares the theme of "love," present in the main plot and the "Pyramus and Thisby" play that the actors are putting on for Theseus' wedding. The King of the Fairies, Oberon, is angry at his beloved Queen, Titania and means to take revenge. What are the similarities and differences of the theme of love as presented in Act 2 scene 1 and Act 1? How are the fairies connected to Theseus and Hippolya?
3. Notice the love flower, struck by Cupid's arrow, has changed in color from white to purple, just as the berry of the mulberry tree of Ovid's story of "Pyramus and Thisby." Both incidents of change speak of the destructiveness

of love. The flower has the ability to make a lover abandon all judgment and passionately fall in love with the random person that he or she happens to see. Similarly, the purple berry is the fatal result of Pyramus and Thibe abandoning the judgment of their parents, and in their passion, making a forbidden tryst in the forest.

4. Even though she has not been affected by the love potion, Helena's affection for Demetrius seems very strange from an objective perspective. She states that she is willing to be beaten, spurned, neglected and abused by Demetrius who says that he loathes her and would coolly leave her to be devoured by wild beasts. Helena's devotion seems very unnatural, but dramatically presents the strange psychological state of lovers. Do you know of any story like this, that illustrates a man or woman who, though his or her love is not requited, is willing suffer abuse?