

Name: _____

A Midsummer Night's Dream vocabulary part 1

1. (a) "Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour draws on apace."
(b) The members of the court will attend the nuptials of Theseus and Hippolyta.

Nuptials means . . .

Use *nuptial* or *nuptials* in your own sentence.

2. (a) "But, O, methinks how slow / This old moon wanes!"
(b) Demetrius's love for Helena has waned.

Wane means . . .

Use *wane* or one of its alternative forms (*waning*, *wanes*, *waned*) in your own sentence.

3. (a) "Thou hast by moonlight at her window sung / With feigning voice verses of feigning love . . ."
(b) First Demetrius loves Helena, and then he hates her. When he tells her that he loves her again, she thinks he is feigning.

Feign means . . .

Use *feign* or one of its alternative forms (*feigns*, *feigning*) in your own sentence.

4. (a) ". . . and she, sweet lady, dotes, / Devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry, / Upon this spotted and inconstant men."
(b) Helena dotes upon Demetrius; Demetrius dotes upon Hermia; Hermia dotes upon Lysander, who also dotes upon her.

Dote means . . .

Use *dote* or one of its alternative forms (*doting*, *dotes*, *doted*) in your own sentence.

5. (a) "But I beseech your Grace that I may know / The worst that may befall me in this case / If I refuse to wed Demetrius."
(b) Hermia beseeches her father to let her marry Lysander.

Beseech means . . .

Use *beseech* or one of its alternative forms (*beseeching*, *beseached*) in your own sentence.

6. (a) "What is Pyramus—a lover or a tyrant?"
(b) Hermia's father acts like a tyrant when he forces her to choose between marrying Demetrius or going to a convent.

Tyrant means . . .

Use *tyrant* or one of its alternative forms (*tyrannical*) in your own sentence.

7. (a) "Our play is 'The most lamentable comedy and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisbe.'"
(b) To Helena, it is lamentable that Demetrius does not love her.

Lament means . . .

Use *lament* or one of its alternative forms (*lamentable*, *lamenting*, *lamentably*) in your own sentence.

8. (a) "For Oberon is passing fell and wrath / Because that she, as her attendant, hath / A lovely boy . . ."
(b) Oberon is full of wrath because Titania will not give him the Indian boy.

Wrath means . . .

Use *wrath* or one of its alternative forms (*wrathful*, *wrathfully*) in your own sentence.

9. (a) "The more you beat me I will fawn on you."
(b) Although Demetrius is unkind to Helena, she fawns on him and gives him compliments.

Fawn means . . .

Use *fawn* or one of its alternative forms (*fawning*, *fawns*, *fawned*) in your own sentence.

10. (a) "Content with Hermia? No, I do repent / The tedious minutes I with her have spent."
(b) Once Lysander falls out of love with Hermia, he finds her tedious and he leaves her.

Tedious means . . .

Use *tedious* or one of its alternative forms (*tedium*, *tediously*) in your own sentence.

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A Midsummer Night's Dream vocabulary part 2

Directions: Answer each question on a separate page, providing specific detail from the play for support and making your understanding the underlined vocabulary word.

1. Why is it ironic that "Pyramus and Thisbe" is a lamentable comedy?
2. Name one mortal who is doted upon by a fairy and explains how that happened.
3. Three nuptials are planned in the play. Whose?
4. Explain this statement with specific details: In the play, the moon wanes and so does the love of certain characters.
5. At times, two characters in the play fawn on two others. Who are they and why do they do so?
6. Oberon feels wrath toward Titania; Egeus feels wrath for Lysander. Why?
7. Why does Helena feel that the men's love for her is feigned?
8. Hermia flouts her father's wishes. How?
9. When does Hermia become odious to Lysander?
10. What are Oberon's motives for giving Puck the task of beguiling Titania? What are the consequences?
11. Are the characters who appear in Act Five an eclectic group? Why or why not?
12. Are Bottom's words and deeds intentionally jocular?
13. Why does Lysander's behavior become nonchalant toward Hermia?
14. Which character(s) acts most raucously?
15. Does Puck speak with candor at the end of the play? Why or why not?
16. Is Egeus an austere father? Do his actions and words towards his daughter change from Act 1 to Act 5?
17. Why does Helena accuse Hermia of being a shrew?
18. Describe at least three preposterous aspects of the play that the Athenian workers perform for the nuptials.
19. Which of Puck's actions could be described aptly as knavish?
20. Theseus offers Hermia another option besides death for refusing to marry Demetrius: "to abjure forever the society of men." What is her option?