A Midsummer Night's Dream JOURNAL

Acts 1 & 2

How are the Athenians putting on the play like the members of our class? What do you have in common?

Relying on your memory of our reading of the play alone, compose a summary of Act 1, Scene 2.

In 1.1. 21-131, we learn that Egeus, Hermia's father, does not like Lysander and tries to stop him from seeing Hermia. If you had a friend of whom your parents did not approve, what arguments would you present to change their minds? Explain.

- Read Bottom's lines (1.2.74-79).
- How are they different from those of Puck that we discussed earlier?
- Why is prose an appropriate vehicle for Bottom and the other mechanicals? Why is verse apt for the fairies and other mortals?

AMND has several references to dreams; the word itself appears 16 times in the play. In 2.2.1-163, Hermia dreams of a snake, then wakens to find Lysander has abandoned her. Strange dreams can be the most profound, predictive, and helpful when they seem most bizarre. Describe a weird dream you've had. Did this dream become useful or predictive in your life? Could you relate this dream to anything that happened in your life?

In Act 1, Hermia says, "Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind; / And therefore is the winged Cupid painted blind." We have seen several examples of blind love in *AMND*.

- List as many examples as you can.
- Explain whether you agree with Hermia's statement and support your perspective with examples from history and popular culture. Use <u>counter argument</u>.