

1º & 2º SECONDARY EDUCATION STAGE

# Midsummer's Night Dream



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## SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

### Activity 1. The synopsis



#### WORDS OF LOVE!

Match the English and Spanish translations of the following love expressions:

1. to be in love with somebody

2. to fall in love with somebody

3. to be crazy about somebody

4. to have feelings for somebody

5. to fall head over heels for somebody

6. to only have eyes for somebody

7. lovers

8. beloved

A. estar loco/a de alguien

B. solo tener ojos para alguien

C. amantes

D. estar enamorado/a de alguien

E. enamorarse de alguien

F. querido

G. tener sentimientos por alguien

H. enamorarse hasta las trancas de alguien



#### • Now read the synopsis of the play:

The play begins as a lady enters a second-hand shop, filled with interesting objects. The shop employees are frustrated because business is not going very well, but luckily one of them has an idea... why not invent a story for each object in the shop so that their customers will not just be buying a second-hand object, but an object with an interesting history? They decide to present the story to their customers as a play, and the play they choose to recreate is the famous A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare. The story is a story about love and it goes like this...



## SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

In Athens there lives a beautiful, young, noble girl called Hermia, but she is miserable as she cannot marry the man she loves, Lysander. You see, in those times, marriage for the noble class was not about love, it was about convenience and very often your parents chose your husband or wife for you. In the case of Hermia, her father wants her to marry Demetrius whom she does not love. Demetrius, however, is crazy about Hermia. To make the situation even more complex, Demetrius' ex-girlfriend, Helena, is still in love with him but Demetrius no longer has feelings for Helena as he only has eyes for Hermia now.

Because they cannot be together, Hermia and Lysander decide to run away through the forest and find another place where they can live happily. Their plan is ruined when Helena tells Demetrius that his beloved Hermia has run away with Lysander, and so both Demetrius and Helena follow them into the forest.

The forest is a magical place inhabited by *fairies*, elves, gnomes, *goblins* and unicorns and ruled by a king and queen. The four lovers don't know it yet, but the magic of the forest is about to cause them some trouble!

The king of the forest, Oberon, is *quarrelling* with his wife, Titania. To teach her a lesson, he orders his right-hand fairy, Puck, to teach her a lesson by casting a spell over her. At the same time Oberon overhears a conversation between Helena and Demetrius... Demetrius is being very unkind to Helena, insulting her and telling her to leave him alone. So, Oberon decides to teach Demetrius a lesson too. He tells Puck to put some magic perfume on Demetrius so that he will fall madly in love with the next woman he sees... Helena.

Puck's magic spell doesn't go according to plan though! He confuses Demetrius with Lysander and puts the perfume on Lysander while he is sleeping. The first woman Lysander sees is Helena and he falls head over heels for her instantaneously. Soon, Oberon realises Puck's mistake and tries to rectify it by putting the perfume on Demetrius, who is still sleeping, as well. The first woman Demetrius sees when he awakes is Helena. So now, both Lysander and Demetrius are in love with Helena, but what will happen to poor Hermia? Will Oberon and Puck be able to reverse the spell and make Lysander fall in love with Hermia again?

\**quarrelling* – *peleando*  
\**goblin* - *duende*

\**fairy* – *hada*  
\* *to cast a spell* -- *embruja*



- **Discuss the following questions with your classmates:** Are you interested in seeing the play? Why, or why not? How do you think the play will end?



## SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

### Activity 2. The characters



- After reading the synopsis, you already know about three of the main characters from the play.

HERMIA  
DEMETRIUS

LYSANDER  
HELENA

OBERON  
TITANIA  
PUCK

- The following sentences give information about each character. Write questions using the sentences as the answers. The information you need to ask for is highlighted in bold. Use the words - *what, where, who, whom, how, why*.

The first example has been done for you.

#### 1. HERMIA

**Her father** is forcing her to marry Demetrius.

**Who is forcing her to marry Demetrius?**

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#### 2. DEMETRIUS

He is the noble gentleman who loves **Hermia**.

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#### 3. LYSANDER

He will run away with Hermia **to start a new life together**.

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#### 4. HELENA

She follows Demetrius **into the forest** to look for Hermia and Demetrius.

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#### 5. OBERON

He teaches his wife a lesson **by casting a spell on her**.

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#### 6. TITANIA

She doesn't always agree with **her husband**, Oberon.

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## SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

### Activity 3. Shakespeare



. What do you know about William Shakespeare?  
Take this quiz to find out more about him...

1. William Shakespeare was...
  - ☐ a famous English poet and playwright
  - ☐ a famous English singer and songwriter
  - ☐ a famous English scientist and inventor
2. Shakespeare lived...
  - ☐ from 1664 to 1716
  - ☐ from 1864 to 1916
  - ☐ from 1564 to 1616
3. He was born in a town in England called...
  - ☐ London
  - ☐ Stratford-upon-Avon
  - ☐ Oxford
4. How many plays did Shakespeare write?
  - ☐ 37
  - ☐ 27
  - ☐ 17
5. Shakespeare's play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is...
  - ☐ a tragedy
  - ☐ a history
  - ☐ a comedy
6. At the time when Shakespeare lived...
  - ☐ only women were allowed to be actors
  - ☐ only men were allowed to be actors
  - ☐ both men and women were allowed to be actors

**SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS**

7. How many common English words did Shakespeare invent?

- ☐ more than 170
- ☐ more than 700
- ☐ more than 1700

8. What is the name of the famous theatre in London where many of Shakespeare's plays were performed?

- ☐ The Globe Theatre
- ☐ The World Theatre
- ☐ The Earth Theatre

**William Shakespeare** is believed to have influenced the English language more than any other writer in history. He invented over 1700 common words by changing nouns into verbs, changing verbs into adjectives, connecting words never before used together, adding prefixes and suffixes, and introducing completely original words too.



- Below are some of the words that Shakespeare invented. Do you know their meanings?

bedroom	_____
blanket	_____
elbow	_____
fashionable	_____
luggage	_____
lonely	_____



## SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

### Activity 1. Listening



Listen to this extract from Scene 7 of the play (TRACK 8) and choose the correct answer to the following questions.

1. Who is Demetrius looking for in the forest?

- ☐ Lysander
- ☐ Helena
- ☐ Hermia

2. Why is Helena following him?

- ☐ because she is in love with him
- ☐ because she is lost
- ☐ because she wants to help him

3. Helena tells Demetrius that...

- ☐ she is his little cat
- ☐ she is his little bird
- ☐ she is his little dog

4. Demetrius wants Helena to...

- ☐ keep quiet
- ☐ leave him alone
- ☐ hide in the bushes

5. Demetrius threatens Helena that he will...

- ☐ put a spell on her
- ☐ kill her
- ☐ run away and leave her with the wild animals in the forest

6. Helena tells Demetrius that his behaviour is...

- ☐ an insult to all humans
- ☐ an insult to all women
- ☐ an insult to all men

7. Who does Oberon think needs to learn a lesson?

- ☐ Demetrius
- ☐ Helena
- ☐ Puck

8. What spell does Oberon cast on Titania?

- ☐ She will never wake up
- ☐ She will fall in love with the first thing she sees when she wakes up
- ☐ She will love Oberon more than before





## SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

### Activity 2. Find the mistake!



Below is the script from the scene of the play when Titania wakes up from a sleep and falls in love with the first thing she sees... a donkey!

- There are 8 grammar mistakes in the script. The parts containing the mistakes are highlighted in bold. See if you can spot all of them!

#### SCENE 8

*(A DONKEY passes by and brays.)*

**TITANIA:** What angel is this **who's** waking me up?

**DONKEY:** Ee-haw!

**TITANIA:** Please speak again, sweet creature. I love **to** listen to your voice, and I love to look **at** you! I know this is the first time I've ever **seen** you, but you're so wonderful that I can't help loving you!

**PUCK:** *(To OBERON)* It worked! My poor Queen Titania is in love **with** a donkey!

**OBERON:** Shhhh!

**DONKEY:** *(Trying to escape from TITANIA's harassment)* Ee -haw!

**TITANIA:** Don't bother trying to leave this forest, because **you're** going to stay here with me. I'm no ordinary fairy. I rule here, and I love you. So, come with me. I'll give you anything you need and more!

**OBERON:** *(Gives the perfume to PUCK)* Now you take this, Puck, and look around in this part of the forest. A sweet lady, her name is Helena, is in love with a young man called Demetrius, who rejects her with no mercy. Put **some** of this perfume on him so that he smells it, and make sure to do it in such a way that the next thing Demetrius sees is the lady. Do it carefully, so that he'll end up loving her more **than** she loves him. And then make sure to meet me here again.

**PUCK:** At your service, sir!



## SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

### Activity 3. Cast your own spell!



Read the following extract from the play...

**OBERON:** Enough talking, Puck! I need you to bring me the perfume I keep among my magic potions...

**PUCK:** Great idea, sir, you could use some perfume...

**OBERON:** It's not for me, you fool! If someone smells that perfume while they're asleep, that person will fall in love with the next living creature he or she sees. I'll put some of it on Titania while she's sleeping. She'll fall madly in love with the first thing she sees when she wakes up - even if it's a bear, a wolf, a bull, or a monkey... and when I make her normal again with another potion, she will feel so embarrassed that she won't be able to act in such an arrogant way with me. Hurry up! And get back here quickly with my perfume!

**PUCK:** I could go around the world in forty minutes!



Imagine you have magical powers and the ability to cast spells on people. Think about the following:

- What would be the purpose of the spell?
- How would you cast it?
- Who would you cast it on?
- Would the spell be reversible and, if so, how?



Use your imagination and be as creative as possible, then share your ideas with the rest of your class.



## SESSION 3: THE ENDING

### Activity 1. Missing words



The following extract (TRACK 14) is from a scene near the end of the play. Try to guess the missing words, you have been given the first letter to help you.

Demetrius and Lysander are both in love with Helena but she thinks that they are playing a game with her. Hermia is also very confused because the two men who used to love her now love Helena. Oberon tells Puck to fix the mess that he that he made when he put the magic perfume on the wrong person...

**OBERON:** (*To PUCK.*) This is all your \_\_\_\_\_. You make \_\_\_\_\_ constantly, when you are not joking around...

**PUCK:** But, my great Oberon! Didn't you tell me to put \_\_\_\_\_ on a human that was nearby in the forest? So far, I've done exactly what you told me! How was I supposed to know that there was \_\_\_\_\_ man walking around? You should thank me, my Lord! I have given you a very entertaining \_\_\_\_\_ to watch, with all this commotion!

**OBERON:** As you can see, these \_\_\_\_\_ are looking for a place to fight. Confuse them. Imitate their voices. That way you'll get them away from each other until they're so \_\_\_\_\_ that they'll only want to rest. When they're \_\_\_\_\_, spray this antidote on Lysander, so that the effect of the love potion disappears. While you're busy with that, I'll go see Queen Titania and see how she's doing. And then I'll undo the \_\_\_\_\_ that I cast over her, so she won't be in love with that donkey anymore. Then everything will be peaceful again. You should hurry anyway. Don't delay. We still have time to get all of this done before daybreak.

Now listen to the extract and check your answers.



## SESSION 3: THE ENDING

### Activity 2. What happens next?



- Think about the extract from the previous activity...

The extract in summary:

*Oberon has ordered Puck to reverse the spell he cast on Lysander. He should do this by imitating Lysander and Demetrius' voices and confusing them so that they become exhausted from looking for each other in the forest and only want to sleep. When they are asleep Puck should give Lysander an antidote to make him love Hermia again.*



- Complete the following sentences using the appropriate modal verb / modal expression from the choices below. (In two of the sentences there is more than one possible answer)

*have to      must      don't have to      mustn't*

- A. Puck \_\_\_\_\_ reverse the spell that he cast on Lysander.  
 B. Puck \_\_\_\_\_ make another mistake.  
 C. Puck \_\_\_\_\_ listen to Oberon because he is the King of the Forest.  
 D. Puck \_\_\_\_\_ worry about confusing Lysander with Demetrius this time.



Now choose the correct function for each modal verb (two of the modal verbs have the same function).

**PROHIBITION      LACK OF OBLIGATION      OBLIGATION**

have to \_\_\_\_\_  
 must \_\_\_\_\_  
 don't have to \_\_\_\_\_  
 mustn't \_\_\_\_\_

## SESSION 3: THE ENDING

[illegible]



## SESSION 3: THE ENDING

### Activity 3: Creating opinions



As Puck sets off to perform the task that Oberon has given him, he sings this tune...

*Up and down, up and down,  
I will lead them up and down.  
The people fear me in the country and the town.  
Puck will lead them up and down.  
Here comes one of them now.*



Discuss with the rest of the class what you think will happen next.  
Use the following expressions to help you:

- In my opinion, ...
- From my point of view, ...
- I believe (that)...
- I suppose (that)...
- I reckon (that)...
- It is likely (that)...
- There is a possibility (that)...
- (Puck) will probably...



In groups, take the ideas you have discussed and write a script for the final scene of the play. Then, perform it for the rest of the class!





## SESSION 4: EXPRESS YOURSELF

### Activity 1. What did you think?

Now you have seen *A Midsummer Night's Dream*! Did you enjoy it?  
Look back at **Activity 3 in Session 3** when you wrote your own ending for the play.



- Which ending did you prefer, your version or the actors' version?  
Use the table below to answer the question and don't forget to give reasons for your answers.

I prefer	
my version / the actors' version	
because it was.....	
... more ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• original</li> <li>• entertaining</li> <li>• boring</li> <li>• exciting</li> <li>• romantic</li> </ul>
...less...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emotive</li> <li>• creative</li> <li>• realistic</li> <li>• ingenious</li> </ul>



## SESSION 4: EXPRESS YOURSELF

### Activity 2. Write a review!



Imagine you are one of the customers of the second-hand shop who has just watched the play. Did the play make you want to visit the shop to buy something exotic? Write a review of the play giving your opinion about the following ...

- *The plot*
- *The actors*
- *The script*
- *The costumes*
- *The scenery*
- *The music*

*Yesterday I was lucky enough to watch a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, the famous play by William Shakespeare...*

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## SESSION 4: EXPRESS YOURSELF

### Activity 3. Your turn!



Choose one of the following scenes from the play and in groups, act it out for your classmates.

#### OPTION 1 - SCENE 2 [Athens] - TRACK 8

**HERMIA:** *My sweet love, Theseus supports my father's wish... he says I should marry Demetrius... or I could be condemned to death!!! And I would rather be dead than lose you! What are we going to do?*

**LYSANDER:** *My love... "the course of true love never did run smooth" Right now, I only see one way out of this: let's run away! Let's escape from this city and its rules! We will live somewhere else, and we will live happily ever after, for we will take care of each other.*

**HERMIA:** *Let's do it, Lysander, let's start a new life, far away from here.*

*(HELENA appears.)*

**HERMIA:** *Helena! Long-time no see! How are you my friend!*

**HELENA:** *Oh, Hermia, you could say I'm fine... for I breathe, I walk, I see you and hear you clearly, but I don't want these eyes anymore, if they won't see Demetrius again... I don't want my ears anymore, if they won't hear Demetrius saying, "I love you" one more time... I've just found out that Demetrius loves you now... I beg you, tell me what you did to win his love!*

**HERMIA:** *Helena, please believe me, I didn't do anything! I don't love him! I never gave him any sign of love! I don't know where his interest comes from! He is crazy! It's not my fault! The more I hate him, the more he follows me.*

**HELENA:** *The more I love him, the more he hates me! If only he could see me again like he used to! Like he sees you now!*

**HERMIA:** *Well, he won't see me anymore, Helena... I'm running away with the man I do love...*

**LYSANDER:** *That's right Helena, and that means you can fight for Demetrius again! I hope you win back his love, and are as happy as we will be... (They leave.)*



## SESSION 4: EXPRESS YOURSELF

### OPTION 2 - SCENE 4 [Athens] - TRACK 4

**DEMETRIUS:** *Hermia? Hermia my love!*

**HELENA:** *"My love"? Your love's name used to be mine, Helena... and now I have to hear another name coming from those lips that used to say my name, that used to kiss my lips...*

**DEMETRIUS:** *Oh, Helena, I didn't see you...*

**HELENA:** *Now I'm invisible to you, but not so long ago your eyes used to look at me as if they couldn't see anything else...*

**DEMETRIUS:** *Helena, I don't have time for this, I'm looking for...*

**HELENA:** *Hermia, I know, you love her now... why? What did I do to lose you like this? What is wrong with me? Why would you prefer her company?*

**DEMETRIUS:** *Helena, please, there's nothing you can do about this. Love is unpredictable, unstable, inconstant.*

**HELENA:** *Your love is capricious! You promised to love me forever!*

**DEMETRIUS:** *Helena, leave me alone!*

**HELENA:** *I won't! And once Hermia is gone, I know you will come back to me!*

**DEMETRIUS:** *What are you talking about? Gone where?*

**HELENA:** *Hermia doesn't love you! She loves Lysander!*

**DEMETRIUS:** *Gone where? Tell me where Hermia is going!*

**HELENA:** *She is running away through the forest with Lysander...*

**DEMETRIUS:** *I have to reach them before it's too late (Exits.)*

**HELENA:** *Demetrius wait!*



## SESSION 4: EXPRESS YOURSELF

### OPTION 3 - SCENE 8 [Forest] - TRACK 9

*(A DONKEY passes by and brays.)*

**TITANIA:** *What angel is this who's waking me up?*

**DONKEY:** *Ee-haw!*

**TITANIA:** *Please speak again, sweet creature. I love to listen to your voice, and I love to look at you! I know this is the first time I've ever seen you, but you're so wonderful that I can't help loving you!*

**PUCK:** *(To OBERON.) It worked! My poor Queen Titania is in love with a donkey!*

**OBERON:** *Shhhh!*

**DONKEY:** *(Trying to escape from TITANIA's harassment.) Ee -haw!*

**TITANIA:** *Don't bother trying to leave this forest, because you're going to stay here with me.*

*I'm no ordinary fairy. I rule here, and I love you. So, come with me. I'll give you anything you need and more!*

**OBERON:** *(Gives the perfume to PUCK.) Now you take this, Puck, and look around in this part of the forest. A sweet lady, her name is Helena, is in love with a young man called Demetrius, who rejects her with no mercy. Put some of this perfume on him so that he smells it, and make sure to do it in such a way that the next thing Demetrius sees is the lady. Do it carefully, so that he'll end up loving her more than she loves him. And then make sure to meet me here again.*

**PUCK:** *At your service, sir!*

## OTHER SHOWS

1º & 2º SECONDARY EDUCATION STAGE

Nobody's Perfect *(In English)*

A Christmas Carol *(In English)*

El lazarillo de Tormes

Bodas de sangre

Oliver Twist

Notre Dame de Paris *(En Français)*

## Midsummer's Night Dream

Didactic Project elaborated by  
Nawaf Numen González



The lightest, most fun-loving Shakespeare comedy, now adapted for you. A musical full of special effects and surprises which will cast a spell on your. Fairies, elves, comedians and crazy plots, are awaiting you at the theatre to help you enjoy the most magical English class of the year.

