



A Midsummer Night's Dream

William Shakespeare



free Audiobook



A Midsummer Night's Dream

William Shakespeare



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The CD contains an audio section (the recording of the text) and a CD-ROM section (additional games and activities that practise the four skills).

- To listen to the recording, insert the CD into your CD player and it will play as normal. You can also listen to the recording on your computer, by opening your usual CD player program.
- If you put the CD directly into the CD-ROM drive, the software will open automatically.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS for CD-ROM	
PC: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pentium III processor• Windows 98, 2000 or XP• 64 Mb RAM (128Mb RAM recommended)• 800x600 screen resolution 16 bit• 12X CD-ROM drive• Audio card with speakers or headphones	Macintosh: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power PC G3 or above (G4 recommended)• Mac OS 10.1.5• 128 Mb RAM free for the application
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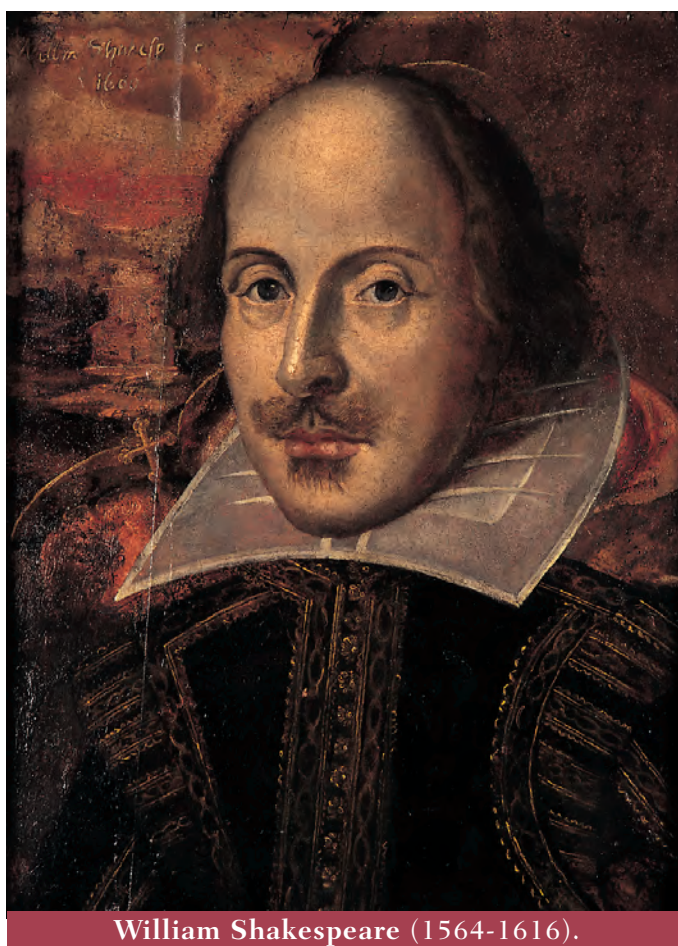


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The text is recorded in full.





These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



William Shakespeare (1564-1616).

William Shakespeare

 Most people think that William Shakespeare is the greatest writer in the English language, but we don't know much about his life. He was born in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon in central England, probably on 23 April 1564. His father was a glove-maker and his mother was the daughter of a rich farmer. William had seven brothers and sisters. He went to school and studied Greek and Latin and the works of many famous poets.



When he was eighteen, he married Anne Hathaway, who was eight years older than him. They had three children. Susanna was born in 1582 and Hamnet and Judith, who were twins, were born in 1585.

William went to live in London a few years later, but Anne and the children stayed in Stratford-upon-Avon. In London, Shakespeare became an actor, and later he became a writer. He wrote forty plays and many poems between 1592 and 1613. Some of his most famous plays were *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *King Lear*. He wrote *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1595.


Shakespeare's plays were popular, and he became rich. He bought a good house in Stratford-upon-Avon for his family. But there were sad times as well. His son Hamnet died in 1596 when he was only eleven years old. Some people also think that Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway were not happy together.

Near the end of his life Shakespeare moved back to his home in Stratford-upon-Avon. He died there on 23 April 1616, on his birthday.

Now people read and study Shakespeare's plays and poems everywhere. People still perform his plays all over the world, and there are also hundreds of films of Shakespeare's plays.

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Shakespeare's parents were both farmers. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Shakespeare's wife was older than him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Shakespeare lived away from his family for several years. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Everyone agrees that Shakespeare loved his wife very much. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Shakespeare died in London. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Shakespeare's plays are still very popular. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- 

The Characters



From left to right: Duke¹ Theseus of Athens, Hippolyta, Lysander, Demetrius, Hermia,

1. **Duke** : a member of the royal family; here he is the most important person in Athens.



Helena, Egeus, Hermia's father, Bottom, Oberon, Puck and Titania



BEFORE YOU READ

1 THE CHARACTERS' NAMES

Some of the characters' names may be difficult to say. Look at the pictures and letters. Each one shows how to say a character's name. Write the name of the character next to each group. The green border shows the stress.



--CKET

0

ti

+



S--D

tan

+

E + A = ...Titania....



1

+



+

ER =

DE

+



2

+



+



=

.....



3

+





+

A

=

.....

3 +  +  =

4

 +  + TA =

5

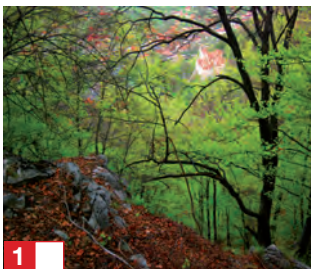
 Now listen and check. Practise saying each of the names.

2 WHERE AND WHEN

A This story happens a long time ago in the city of Athens in Greece.
What did the buildings in the city look like? Choose the best picture.



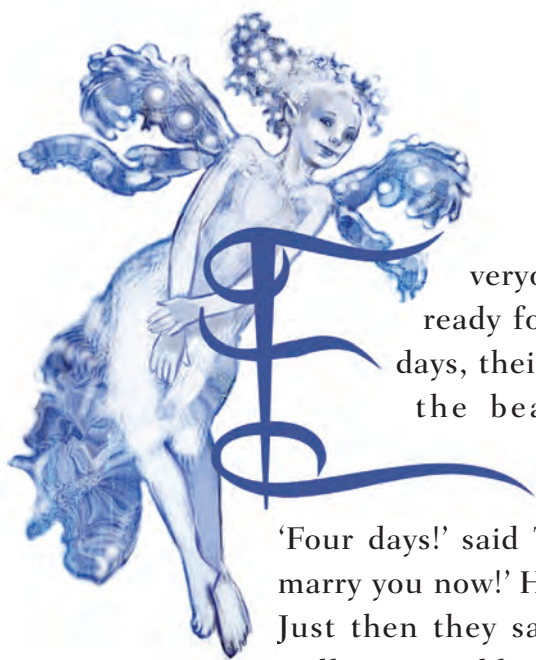
B Many of the scenes in the story happen in a wood near Athens.
Which one of these pictures shows a wood?





CHAPTER ONE

Trouble in Athens



everyone in the city of Athens was getting ready for a wonderful celebration. ¹ In a few days, their duke, Theseus, was going to marry ² the beautiful Hippolyta. Theseus and Hippolyta walked through the city streets together, hand in hand.

‘Four days!’ said Theseus. ‘It’s a long time. I want to marry you now!’ Hippolyta smiled at him.

Just then they saw Theseus’s friend, Egeus. He was walking quickly towards them, and he looked very angry. He was holding his daughter, Hermia, by her arm. She didn’t want to go with him. Hermia was quite short with blonde hair. She was small and very pretty, but she was a strong person inside.

1. **celebration** : a party or special occasion.

2. **marry** :







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Two young men followed Hermia and her father. They were Lysander and Demetrius, and they both loved Hermia. Lysander didn't have much money, but he was very handsome³ and kind. Demetrius was also handsome, and he was rich, but sometimes he was unkind and he often got angry easily.

'Duke Theseus, you must help me!' said Egeus. 'It's my daughter, Hermia! I chose this man, Demetrius, for her. He wants to marry her, but she won't do it!'

'Why, Hermia?' asked Theseus. 'Demetrius is a good man.'

'Lysander is a good man, too,' said Hermia, 'and I love him. I don't love Demetrius and I will never marry him.'

'I agree,' said Lysander. 'Hermia's father likes Demetrius. That's fine. He can marry him. I'll take Hermia.'

'I'll fight you for that!' said Demetrius.

'Demetrius, you're forgetting about Helena!' said Hermia. Helena was Hermia's best friend. A few months before, Helena and Demetrius were in love. Then Demetrius suddenly fell in love with Hermia instead. Now Demetrius never talked to Helena. 'Helena still loves you very much,' said Hermia. 'You broke her heart.'

'That was a long time ago,' said Demetrius. 'It was a mistake. You're going to marry me, Hermia! Your father wants it and I want it.'

Egeus turned to Theseus. 'Duke, please help me.'

'I'm sorry, Hermia. You must listen to your father,' said Theseus.

Later, Hermia and Lysander were alone together on a quiet street. Hermia felt afraid and sad. She began to cry. 'Lysander, I can't marry that man! I want to be with you.'

3. **handsome** : good looking. We describe women as 'beautiful' and men as 'handsome'.





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Lysander put his arms around her. He had a plan. 'We can run away together,' he told Hermia. 'I have an aunt who lives far away. We can go there. We'll be safe with her. Then, I can marry you. Meet me tomorrow night. We'll leave this city and we'll never come back!'

'Of course I'll be there!' said Hermia. 'I'll go anywhere with you!'

Just then they saw Helena. Helena was a tall, pretty girl with red hair. She often looked sad, because she thought about Demetrius day and night.

'You're so lucky, Hermia,' Helena said. 'Demetrius loves you, and he doesn't even want to look at me. And now he's going to marry you.'

'Don't worry,' said Lysander. 'That will never happen.' They told Helena about their plan.

'I'll miss you, Helena,' Hermia said. 'But think of it! I'll be far away. Demetrius will forget about me. He'll love you again!' But Helena was not so sure.

Hermia and Lysander walked away, hand in hand. They were smiling and talking about their new life together. Helena sat alone and watched them. She thought about Demetrius for a long time. Then, she had an idea.

'I'll tell Demetrius about Hermia's plan. He'll go to her, but he'll thank me. He'll talk to me. He'll smile at me. I'll tell him now!'

Helena ran to Demetrius's house.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT



1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Read the sentences about Chapter One and choose the correct answer (A, B or C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Theseus will marry Hippolyta
A ☐ tomorrow night.
B ☒ in four days.
C ☐ today.
- 1 Egeus is angry because
A ☐ Hermia will not listen to him.
B ☐ Hermia doesn't want to go with him.
C ☐ Helena loves Demetrius.
- 2 Hermia doesn't want to marry Demetrius because
A ☐ she doesn't want to marry anyone.
B ☐ Demetrius is not handsome.
C ☐ she loves someone else.
- 3 Lysander plans to
A ☐ live in the wood with Hermia.
B ☐ go to his aunt's house with Hermia.
C ☐ fight Demetrius.
- 4 Helena is unhappy because
A ☐ she loves a man who doesn't love her.
B ☐ Hermia is going to marry Lysander.
C ☐ her family has no money.
- 5 Helena decides to tell Demetrius about Hermia's plan because
A ☐ he will not love Hermia anymore.
B ☐ he will fight Lysander.
C ☐ he will thank her for it.

2 LISTENING



Listen to the sentences. Who is talking? Write the number of the sentence next to the right character. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|-----------------|---|--------------|
| A | Theseus | B | Egeus | C | Hermia |
| D | Lysander | E | Demetrius | F | Helena |



3 THE CHARACTERS – LOVE STORIES

Look at the names of the characters below. Match each character to the person they love.

1 Lysander

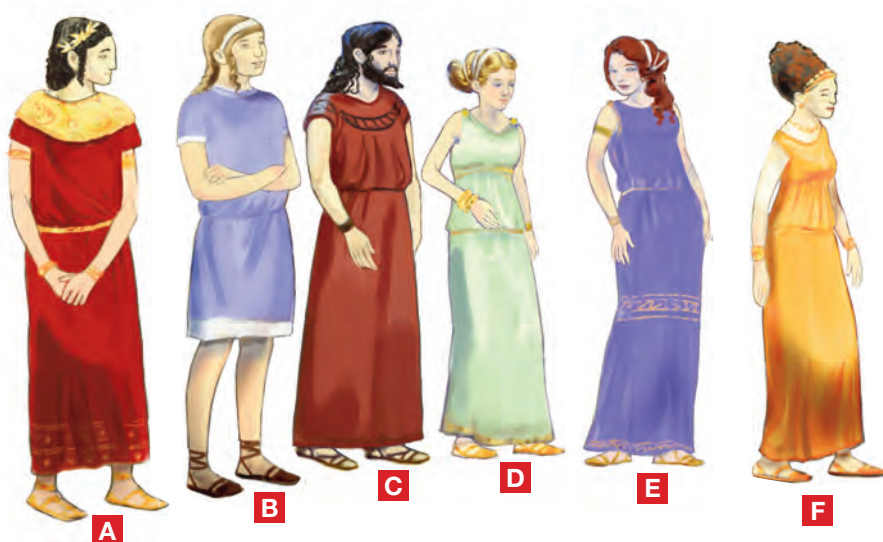
3 Helena

5 Demetrius

2 Hermia

4 Theseus

6 Hippolyta



4 VOCABULARY – LOVE AND MARRIAGE

What do you know about love and marriage? Read this summary of a traditional example and complete the spaces with the words from the box. You may want to use a dictionary.

rings	bride	wedding	fall in love	groom
	get married	husband	wife	

First, two people meet and (0) fall in love Then they may decide to (1) This means they promise to be together for life. On the day they get married, they will have a (2) Usually family members and friends will come. The man and the woman wear special clothes on this day. Usually the woman wears a white, or almost white, dress. On this day, the woman is called the (3) and the man is called the (4) They give each other (5) After this day, the man is called the woman's (6) and the woman is called the man's (7)

5 CONVERSATIONS

Complete the conversation between Helena and Hermia. What does Hermia say to Helena? Choose from A-H. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Helena: Are you really going to run away with Lysander? When are you going to go?

Hermia: 0 **B**

Helena: Where are you going to meet him?

Hermia: 1

Helena: Are you sure about this?

Hermia: 2

Helena: The wood is dangerous! Please be careful!

Hermia: 3

Helena: Where will you go after that?

Hermia: 4

Helena: I'll miss you.

Hermia: 5

A Of course I am!

B We're planning to go tomorrow night.

C I'll be safe. Lysander will be with me.

D I won't miss my father.

E I feel the same way. Write to me! Don't forget me.

F I'm going to meet him in the wood.

G Because I won't marry Demetrius.

H We'll go his aunt's house.

BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

Look at the pictures below. Match a word from the box to each picture. You can use your dictionary to help you.

servant fairy argue magic juice



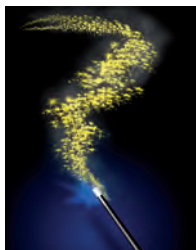
1



2



3



4



5