

Glossary

Prologue

Puck: an imp or sprite

Revels: entertainment, festivity
(Puck/Robin).

Baseless fabric: substance without
foundation (Puck/Robin).

Rack: wisp of cloud (Puck/Robin).

Act 1 Scene 1

Nuptial: relation to marriage
(Theseus).

Feigning: a pun playing on the
definitions deceitful, desiring (faining),
and soft music (Egeus).

Abjure: renounce (Theseus).

Blood: passion, lineage, nobility,
ranking (Theseus, Lysander).

Diana: Greek Artemis. Virgin goddess
of the hunt and twin sister to Apollo
(Theseus).

Protest: vow (Theseus).

For aye: forever (Theseus)

Austerity: severity (Theseus).

Title: claim (Demetrius).

Estate: bestow (Egeus).

Avouch: guarantee (Lysander).

Made love to: wooed (not sexual)
(Lysander).

Spotted and inconstant: fickle
(Lysander).

Schooling: Advice (Theseus).

Extenuate: mitigate, alleviate
(Theseus).

Belike: probably (Hermia).

Beteem: grant (Hermia).

Misgraffèd: badly matched, improperly
grafted (Lysander).

Sympathy: agreement (Lysander).

Momentary: momentary (Lysander).

Ever: always (Hermia).

Dowager: widow with her late
husband's inheritance (Lysander).

Some o'er other some: in comparison
with others (Helena).

Eyne: eyes (Helena).

Dear: costly (Helena).

Act 1 Scene 2

Quince: carpenter's wedges

Snug: when two pieces of something
fit firmly together

Bottom: a piece of wood on which
thread is wound on a loom, an ass

Flute: referring to the sound bellows
make when they are in need of repair

Snout: the spout of a kettle

Starveling: in Shakespeare's time,
tailors were proverbially thin

Interlude: brief play (Quince).

Grow to a point: draw to a conclusion
(Bottom).

Condole: lament (Bottom).

Humor: inclination, the humors of the
body (blood, yellow bile, black bile,
phlegm) were said to affect one's
disposition (Bottom).

Ercles: Hercules, a heroic stock-role (Bottom).

Rarely: excellently (Bottom).

Tear a cat: rant (Bottom).

Split: go to pieces (Bottom).

Shocks: blows (Bottom).

Phibbus: Apollo, Greek god who carried the sun across the sky in his chariot (Bottom).

One: irrelevant (Quince).

Small: high-pitched (Quince).

An: if (Bottom).

A play fitted: A well cast play (Quince).

Extempore: without preparation (Quince).

An 'twere: as though it were (Bottom)

Proper: handsome (Quince).

Perfit: perfect (in memorizing) (Bottom).

Hold or cut bowstrings: be present or quit (the troupe) (Bottom).

Act 2 Scene 1

Robin Goodfellow: an imp or sprite in folklore who would do housework if the wife was kind to him.

Thorough: through (Mustardseed).

Moon's sphere: it was thought that the moon and other planets of the solar system were fixed in hollow transparent globes (Cobweb).

Orbs: fairy rings. Superstition states that if you step into a fairy ring you

can be kidnapped by the fairies. They are actually created by mushrooms and decay (Moth).

Lob: bumpkin (Mustardseed).

Passing fell and wrath: fierce and angry (Robin).

Changeling: usually a child left by fairies in exchange for a stolen one. In this case, a stolen child (Robin).

Trace: range (Robin).

Perforce: forcibly (Robin).

Shrewd: mischievous (Peaseblossom, Helena 3.2).

Knavish: crude (Peaseblossom).

Wanton: impetuous creature, undisciplined (Oberon).

Henchman: page of honor (Oberon).

Set your heart at rest: abandon that idea (Titania).

Vot'ress: woman who has taken a vow to serve (usually religious) (Titania).

Spare: avoid (Titania).

Chide: quarrel (Titania).

Cupid: Greek Eros. God of love (Oberon).

Love-shaft: golden arrow used by Cupid (Oberon).

Love-in-idleness: pansy (Oberon).

Girdle: circle (Robin).

Wood: insane (Demetrius).

Adamant: hard, magnetic stone (Helena).

Speak you fair: speak kindly of you (Demetrius).

Brakes: thickets, bushes (Demetrius).

Oxlips: primrose and cowslip hybrid (Oberon).

Woodbine: honeysuckle (Oberon).

Muskroses: large, white roses (Oberon).

Eglantine: sweetbriar rose (Oberon).

Act 2 Scene 2

Roundel: circle dance (Titania).

Philomel: nightingale. In classical mythology a woman raped by her brother-in-law and transformed into a bird (Chorus).

Aloof: at a distance (Fairy).

Ounce: lynx (Oberon).

Pard: leopard (Oberon).

Troth: pledged faith (Lysander).

Human: courteous (Hermia).

Eyes be pressed: a good rest (Hermia).

Approve: test (Robin).

Churl: rude fellow (Robin).

Sleep his seat on thy eyelid: prevent him from sleeping (Robin).

Darkling: in darkness (Helena).

On thy peril: in risk of death (Demetrius).

Grace: reward (Helena).

Attractive: magnetic (Helena).

Keen: sharp (Helena).

An if: if (Hermia).

Of all: for the sake of all (Hermia).

Act 3 Scene 1

Pat: on the dot (Quince).

Tiring-house: dressing room (Quince).

Bully: jolly (Quince).

By 'r lakin: "By our ladykin." A mild oath referring to the Virgin Mary (Snout).

Parlous: perilous (Snout).

Pity of: a threat to (Bottom).

Casement: hollow opening (Bottom).

Disfigure: a blunder for figure (Quince).

Present: represent (Quince).

Loam: clay (Bottom).

Roughcast: mix of lime and gravel (Bottom).

Hempen homespun: peasants dressed in coarse, homemade fabrics (Robin).

Toward: in preparation (Robin).

Ninny: fool (Flute).

Nunus: mythical founder of Nineveh whose wife founded Babylon (Quince).

Fair: handsome (Bottom).

Were: would be (Bottom).

You see an ass-head of your own: you see a figment of your own imagination (Bottom).

Translated: transformed (Quince).

Ouzel cock: male blackbird (Bottom).

Throstle: song thrush (Bottom).

Fair virtue's force: power of beauty (Titania).'

Turn: purpose (Bottom).

Rate: rank (Titania).

Mote: moth, speck (Titania).

Enforcèd: violated (Titania).

Act 3 Scene 2

Night-rule: revels (Oberon).

Close: drowsy (Robin).

Consecrated: sacred (Robin).

Patches: fools, known for wearing patchwork (Robin).

Mechanicals: rough workmen (Robin).

Athenian stalls: market stands (Robin).

Barren sort: witless lot (Robin).

Presented: acted (Robin).

Scene: stage (Robin).

Noll: head (Robin).

Mimic: burlesque actor (Robin).

Latched: anointed (Oberon).

Force: necessity (Robin).

Rebuke: reprimand (Demetrius).

O'er shoes in blood: having waded so far (Hermia).

Therefore: for that (Demetrius).

Look: be sure (Oberon).

Against: in readiness for when (Oberon).

Tartar: dark skinned "savages" from Asia Minor famous for their archery (Robin).

Apple: pupil (Oberon).

Fee: reward (Robin).

Fond: foolish (Robin).

Prepost'rously: ass backward (Robin).

Gentle: well-born (Helena).

Superpraise my parts: over praise my qualities (Helena).

Artificial: artfully skilled (Helena).

Incorporate: of one body (Helena).

Sad: serious (Helena).

Make mouths upon: make faces at (Helena).

Hold the sweet jest up: keep up the joke (Helena).

Argument: subject of merriment (Helena).

Hang off: let go (Lysander).

Sooth: truly (Helena).

Erewhile: a while ago (Hermia).

Juggler: trickster (Hermia).

Cankerblossom: worm that eats flower blossoms (Hermia).

Puppet: imitation (Helena).

Painted: over use of cosmetics (Hermia).

Something: somewhat (Helena).

Keen: sharp (Helena).

Knotgrass: creeping weed (Lysander).

Cheek by jowl: side by side (Demetrius).

Coil: turmoil (Hermia).

Long: because (Hermia).

Fray: fight (Helena).

Still: always (Oberon).

Shadows: fairy spirits (Robin).

Hie: hurry (Oberon).

Wrong: insults (Oberon).

Virtuous: potent (Oberon).

Wonted: normal (Oberon).

Recreant: coward (Robin).

Act 4 Scene 1

Amiable: loveable (Titania).

Coy: caress (Titania).

Provender: fodder (Bottom).

Woodbine: here meaning a different plant than honeysuckle (Titania).

Favors: love tokens (Oberon).

Peradventure: perhaps (Bottom).

Vaward: earliest part (Theseus).

Solemnity: ceremony (Theseus).

Saint Valentine: birds are said to choose their mates on this day (Theseus).

Jealousy: suspicion (Theseus).

Enmity: hostility (Theseus).

Amazèdly: confusedly (Lysander).

Gaud: worthless trinket (Demetrius).

Parted eye: double vision, crossed eyes (Hermia).

Act 5 Scene 1

Toys: trifles (Theseus).

Apprehend: conceive (Theseus).

Compact: composed (Theseus).

Toiled: taxed (Philostrate).

Unbreathed: unexercised (Philostrate).

Against: in preparation for (Philostrate).

Wretchedness: incompetence (Hippolyta).

O'ercharged: overburdened (Hippolyta).

Capacity: judgement (Theseus).

Prologue is addressed: the speaker of the prologue is ready (Philostrate).

Minding: intending (Quince).

Stand upon points: bother with niceties, respect punctuation (Theseus).

Government: control (Hippolyta).

Scorn: disgrace (Quince).

Hight: is called (Quince).

Stones: stones that make up wall, punning on testicles (Bottom).

Sensible: capable of feeling (Theseus).

Again: back, in return (Theseus).

'Tide: betide, to happen (Flute).

Shadows: likenesses without substance (Theseus).

Fell: fierce, skin (Snug).

Hornèd: crescent (Starveling).

Worries: gnaws on (Stage direction, Snug).

Dole: grid (Bottom).

Fates, Sisters Three: three Fates in Greek mythology spun and cut the threads of life (Bottom, Flute).

Thrum: a weaver term for part of a loom (Bottom).

Quail: overpower (Bottom).

Quell: kill (Bottom).

Pap: breast (Bottom).

Passion: passionate speech (Theseus).

Imbrue: stain with blood (Flute).

Bergomask dance: a rustic dance
originating in Italy (Bottom).

Fordone: exhausted (Robin).

Sprite: ghost (Robin).

Hecate: goddess of moon, night, and
the hearth. Often appeared in three
forms: Cynthia as Heaven, Diana as
Earth, and Proserpine as Hell (Robin).

Frolic: merry (Robin).

Gait: way, walk (Titania).

Several: separate (Titania).

Serpent's tongue: audience hissing
(Robin).

Give me your hands: give me
applause (Robin).

Definitions from *The Norton
Shakespeare*, ed. Stephen Greenblatt
et al, *W. W. Norton & Company*, 2016

And

The Oxford English Dictionary,
www.oed.com