

A Midsummer Night's Dream Plot Synopsis

Act 1 Scene 1

Hermia, daughter of Egeus, wishes to marry Lysander, but her father prefers Demetrius. Duke Theseus tells Hermia she must marry Demetrius, go to a nunnery, or be sentenced to death. Hermia and Lysander decide to run away.

Act 1 Scene 2

Six Athenian workers plan to put on a play for Theseus' wedding. They agree to meet in the woods for a rehearsal tomorrow night.

Act 2 Scene 1

Oberon, King of Fairies, dispatches Puck to find a flower that will make someone love the first thing they see to have revenge on his wife, Titania. As they talk, he sees Demetrius and Helena fight then tells Puck to use the flower on Demetrius.

Act 2 Scene 2

While Titania sleeps, Oberon uses the flower to make her fall in love with the next vile thing she sees. Lysander and Hermia enter and Puck, mistaking Lysander for Demetrius, uses the flower on Lysander, who falls in love with Helena.

Act 3 Scene 1

As the Mechanicals rehearse and discuss their play, Puck turns Bottom into an ass. Titania wakes and falls in love with Bottom.

Act 3 Scene 2

Puck and Oberon realize that they have used the flower on the wrong Athenian as the Lovers argue. They use the flower of Demetrius, causing Helena to think they are playing a cruel joke. Hermia and Helena fight then Puck returns to the Lovers to sleep and their rightful partners.

Act 4

Oberon restores Titania's feelings and Puck fixes Bottom. Outside the forest, Theseus, Hippolyta, and Egeus find the Lovers and learn that they have resolved the confusion. Theseus declares that they will marry with him and Hippolyta.

Act 5

The Mechanicals perform their play for Theseus and Hippolyta