**A Midsummer Night’s Dream Discussion Questions**

1. Critic and poet W.H. Auden explains that “In A Midsummer Night’s Dream, mythological characters are used to describe certain universal experiences that we cannot control” (Auden 56). Are the fairies figments of the characters’ imagination?

2. Critic Marjorie Garber say that “the wood functions...as a mirror as well as a lens” (Garber 218). Is this true?

3. Garber also discusses the “three parallel worlds” in the play: the court of Athens, the fairy world, and the world of the “rude mechanicals,” saying that “each of these ‘worlds’ is a reflection and refraction of the others” (Garber 221). Is this true?

4. Actor and Shakespeare scholar Ben Crystal says, “On the surface, it all seems pretty simple. Love mixed with love. Egotistical clown shamed and used, but unharmed. Wannabe actors succeed. Love reunited with love. Happy ending... But unpack it a bit...and a more complicated, carefully crafted piece glistens” (Crystal 86). Is it true that the play is less straightforward than it seems?

5. Crystal also says, “If there’s no sense of genuine threat, there’s no threat of genuine comedy” (Crystal 86). Does a genuine threat exist in the play?

6. In Act 1, Lysander says, “The course of true love never did run smooth” (Shakespeare 1.1.136). In Act 5, Theseus compares lovers to madmen (5.1.7-8). What does this play suggest about love?

7. Critic Harold Bloom says that “Lysander and Demetrius are interchangeable,” and while some have argued that Hermia and Helena are also interchangeable, Bloom argues that “Hermia has considerably more personality than Helena” (Bloom 153). Are the lovers interchangeable? If so, what does this suggest?

**Works Cited**
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Demetrius had already won Helena's heart, then kicked her to the curb to pursue Hermia. By the end of the play, he's back in love with Helena and they're together, but that's only because Demetrius remains under the influence of P Study Questions. 1. A Midsummer Night's Dream is set in three different locations. What are these locations? How do they differ? What type of atmosphere is created in each of the different settings, and how does this come across? 2. One of the play's major themes is love, and this theme is explored through the various relationships of the couples in the play. What aspects of love are presented in each of the different pairings? 3. In what ways do Theseus and Hippolyta parallel Oberon and Titania? 1. The characters in A Midsummer Night's Dream have various ways of speaking. What are some of the characteristics of how the four young lovers speak? Of how Bottom speaks? Of how Titania and Oberon speak? Analyze the language of the play. Only RUB 220.84/month. Midsummer Night's Dream Discussion Questions. STUDY. Flashcards. A4 What happens to Bottom by the end of the scene. Bottom awakens and decides he will have a ballad written about his dream. A4 How does the audience at the wedding react to the play put on by the craftsman. They are amused; they feel like the actors do not have a clue what they are doing. -1A Midsummer Night's Dream. By William Shakespeare Context Question I. Given below is an extract from A Midsummer Night's Dream. Read the excerpt carefully and answer ALL questions that follow on the next page. Do not refer to the play for answers. Context. EGEUS Full of vexation come I, with complaint 1. Against my child, my daughter Hermia. Stand forth, Demetrius. My noble lord, This man hath my consent to marry her.