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

Questions About A Midsummer Night's Dream. by William Shakespeare. Reader Q&A. To ask other readers questions about A Midsummer Night's Dream, please sign up. Answered Questions (9). mine is 103 pages :/ why ? 3 likes · like. Ask and answer questions about books! You can pose questions to the Goodreads community with Reader Q&A, or ask your favorite author a question with Ask the Author. See Featured Authors Answering Questions. Learn more. A huge collection of Midsummer Night's Dream trivia quizzes in the literature category. Over 90 trivia questions to answer. Play our Midsummer Night's Dream quiz games now! How much do you know? ‘A Midsummer Night's Dream’ features human lovers, fairies, and let's not forget the mechanicals preparing to produce their version of 'Pyramus and Thisbe'. There are 9 Midsummer Night's Dream quizzes and 90 Midsummer Night's Dream trivia questions in this category. Free to play! Play this hour's "Trivia About Midsummer Night's Dream" mixed quiz game A new Midsummer Night's Dream quiz every hour! Over 90 quiz questions in rotation. Recent Scores. Trivia Questions. Free Literature Trivia Questions. 1. How much do you know about Shakespeare’s play A Midsummer Night’s Dream? This section takes you step by step through the play, helping you to identify key plot points. Part of. What does Puck say the audience should do if they haven't enjoyed the play? Complain. Pretend it was a dream. Go to sleep. Check score.
A Midsummer Night's Dream is a play about love. All of its action—from the escapades of Lysander, Demetrius, Hermia, and Helena in the forest, to the argument between Oberon and Titania, to the play about two lovelorn youths that Bottom and his friends perform at Duke Theseus's marriage to Hippolyta—are motivated by love. But A Midsummer Night's Dream is not a romance, in which the audience gets caught up in read analysis of Love. Plays Within Plays. A Midsummer Night's Dream is a play containing other plays. They're like having in-class notes for every discussion! Download. Get the Teacher Edition. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS for A Midsummer Night's Dream FOR UNIVERSITY OR HIGH SCHOOL AUDIENCES 1. Why do you think Shakespeare took mythological and folklore tales and put them all in the same world? Does this seem to work? Why? 2. What do you think are Oberon's intentions of the cruelty of making Titania falling in love with Bottom with the Ass's head? Does he win the battle? Why or Why not? Do you think Titania completely loses control when under the spell? Study Questions. 1. A Midsummer Night's Dream is set in three different locations. What are these locations? How do they differ? 3. 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. Shakespeare is a comedy that works on different levels, focusing on the events leading up to the wedding of the Athenian lord Theseus to the Amazonian queen Hippolyta. There are three main plots: First, the plan of the couple Lysander and Hermia to wed against the wishes of the courtier Demetrius. Well, since you've asked the question I guess you've been struck by similarities. Both plays are about the delights and dangers of young love that is conducted in defiance of parental wishes. Therefore in both plays the rebellion of youth against age is a catalyst for the plot. A Midsummer Night's Dream. What will happen in the fairy forest? Watch this story, one of our 'Shakespeare Lives' videos, and find out! Discussion. Did you like this play? Write a comment and tell us what you think. Do you remember your dreams? Write a comment and tell us about a dream that you remember. Average: 3.994595.