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Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” Study Guide

Answer true or false for the following:

1. Shakespeare’s plays were originally produced at the Globe Theatre where everyone in the audience was referred to as “groundlings.” False
2. Shakespeare’s plays are written primarily in unrhymed iambic pentameter called blank verse. True
3. The love potion in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is a symbol of the erratic and undeniably powerful nature of love. True
4. A Shakespearean sonnet is four quatrains each ending with a couplet. False
5. Ballad is a rhyme scheme in which each sonnet line is made up of ten syllables. False
6. A metrical unit made up of one unstressed syllable followed by one stressed syllable is called an iamb. True
7. The complaint Egeus brings before Theseus in Act I, scene i is that he feels he is paying too much in dowry to Demetrius to marry Hermia. False
8. Theseus decrees that Hermia’s fate, should she refuse to marry Demetrius, is to become a nun or be killed. True
9. Hermia and Lysander agree to meet in the woods and escape to Lysander’s aunt’s house to be married. True
10. The play *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is one of Shakespeare’s tragedies False
11. Shakespeare’s plays were the first to mix tragedy and comedy True

Write the answers in the space provided.

1. Who are the characters in Act I, scene ii, and what do they plan?

They are six craftsmen of Athens who plan to perform the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisby as an entertainment to honor the duke’s wedding day.

1. Why is Oberon angry with Titania?

She keeps a young boy as her attendant, and Oberon wants the boy for himself.

1. Which of the young Athenians is first affected by the love potion?

Lysander

1. What part of her appearance does Hermia believe Helena has exploited to win Lysander’s love?

Her height

1. Why does Pyramus, in the craftsmen’s play, kill himself?

He believes his love, Thisbe, has been killed by a lion when he finds her tattered clothes at their meeting place.

1. Why is the flower whose juice Oberon seeks so special?

One of Cupid’s arrows struck it causing anyone affected by it to fall in love with the first person/animal they see.

1. What hope does Helena have by telling Demetrius of Lysander and Hermia's flight?

She anticipates the sweet pain of following him to and from the forest/wood while he pursues Hermia.

1. Why does Oberon remove the spell he cast over the queen?

He has received the boy and pities the love Titania has over the beast. He wants her back to her true self.

1. What is a quatrain?

a set of four lines with alternating rhyme found in sonnets

1. When someone or something is not in its correct chronological time in a text, it is called an?

anachronism

1. The following quote is an example of what literary device: “Don’t act like a Romeo in front of her.”

allusion

1. What rhetoric appeal deals with emotion?

pathos

1. When reading a passage the reader is brought to tears, this is an example of what rhetoric appeal?

Logos

1. Which rhetoric appeal is an appeal to ethics, and it is a means of convincing someone of the character or credibility of the persuader?

ethos

Use the following lines to answer the questions in the space provided.

***A Midsummer Night’s Dream***-  William Shakespeare - Act I, Scene i

 HELENA:

1.     How happy some o'er other some can be!

2.     Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.

3.     But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;

4.     He will not know what all but he do know.

5.     And as he errs, doting on Hermia's eyes,

6.     So I, admiring of his qualities.

7.     Things base and vile, holding no quantity,

8.     Love can transpose to form and dignity.

9.     Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;

10.  And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind.

11.  Nor hath love's mind of any judgment taste;

12.  Wings and no eyes figure unheedy haste:

13.  And therefore is love said to be a child,

14.  Because in choice he is so oft beguil'd.

15. As waggish boys in game themselves forswear,

16.  So the boy Love is perjur'd everywhere:

17.  For ere Demetrius look'd on Hermia's eyne,

18.  He hail'd down oaths that he was only mine;

19.  And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,

20.  So he dissolv'd, and showers of oaths did melt.

21.  I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight;

22.  Then to the wood will he to-morrow night

23.  Pursue her; and for this intelligence

24.  If I have thanks, it is a dear expense:

25.  But herein mean I to enrich my pain,

26.  To have his sight thither and back again.

1. What can we infer about Demetrius’s affections?

He used to love Helena

1. What is Helena’s attitude about the situation?

Feels hurt but determined to win Demetrius’ heart

1. In line 25, the word “enrich” most probably means what?

Increase

1. In line 16, love is “perjur’d,” which means what?

Lied to- think of perjury

1. What is a quatrain?

a set of four lines with alternating rhyme found in sonnets