

***A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare**

English Language Arts, 10th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

One of Shakespeare's most commonly performed comedies, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is the story of love's folly. Hermia runs away with Lysander to avoid a marriage (forced by her father) to Demetrius. Helena, Hermia's best friend, tells Demetrius of the plot in hopes that he will see how much she loves him. The four wind up in the woods outside Athens. Also in the woods is a group of mechanicals who are rehearsing a play for Duke Theseus' wedding. There, Puck, the mischievous servant of Oberon, King of the Fairies, turns one of the mechanicals, Bottom, into an ass. Titania, under the spell of Oberon, sleeps nearby, and when she wakes, Oberon's spell causes her to fall madly in love with Bottom. The same spell is haphazardly applied to Lysander and much mayhem and confusion occurs. Eventually all is righted, and the play ends with the mechanicals performing their play for the Duke and the lovers at their weddings.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Environment and Identity**
 - Essential Question: "How do adversity and environment influence an individual's behavior and identity?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RL.10.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development. RL.10.2
- Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. RL.10.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RL.10.4
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. RL.10.5
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature. RL.10.6
- Analyze and evaluate the representation of a subject or a key scene in multiple mediums-- including media, artistic, and other visual formats. RL.10.7
- Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work. RL.10.9
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.10.12