

William Shakespeare's

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Level 3



Waiting for Midsummer



*Egeus pointed to the unhappy woman with him.
"I'm angry with my daughter, Hermia."*

Preview:

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentences under the picture.
4. Read the first six paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Hippolyta

- ☐ a. will become Amazon Queen.
- ☐ b. is angry with Egeus.
- ☐ c. will marry Theseus.
- ☐ d. is fighting with Theseus.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read on to find out how the Duke will answer Egeus.

Voices in the Woods

"How now, spirit! Where are you headed?" It was the fairy, Puck, asking the question.

At first, the other fairy did not know who it could be. "I travel everywhere," said the second fairy. "I go over hill and dale, through flood and fire. I am very fast; I travel more quickly than the moon's circle around the Earth. And I serve the Fairy Queen, Titania, by watering all her fairy rings with dew. I must leave now to find some drops of dew. The Fairy Queen will come here very soon with all her elves."

"She better stay away!" spoke Puck strongly. "Oberon, King of Fairies, will be here tonight. He's very angry with the Queen. She has a young Indian boy serving her, and Oberon wants to train the boy to serve him. But Titania will not let the boy go. So the King and Queen are angry with each other, and they quarrel all the time. Their quarrels frighten the tiny elves who run and hide."

All this while, the second fairy was thinking, *I'm sure I know him*. "Don't you sometimes plays tricks on people, frightening ladies in the village and giving them trouble when they are working hard to turn cream into butter? People call you 'Puck,' don't they?"

"Yes, I am that merry spirit. I keep Oberon smiling with my jokes, and I play tricks on men and women. I change to look like a horse, or a fish, or a wooden seat. Fairy, make room! Here

comes my King."

"Oh, no!" cried the second fairy. "Here comes my Queen!"

Soon they were face to face. Oberon spoke first. "It's too bad that we have met in the moonlight, proud Titania."

"What! Jealous Oberon! Fairies, let us leave!"

"Wait, you proud thing! I am your King!"

"Then I must be your Lady," answered Titania. "But I know why you are here. You're jealous that Duke Theseus is marrying your old love, Hippolyta."

"You should talk, Titania!" answered Oberon angrily. "I know that you have always loved Theseus."

"You're just jealous!" cried Titania. "Since spring you have quarreled with me every time we have met -- on hill, or dale, in the fields, and in the woods. When they hear your angry voice, my fairies and elves run and hide. They cannot finish their circle-dances to the wind's song. Then, the whole Earth runs into trouble! The winds run wild. The rivers flood. The farmers' fields are empty. The sheep and cows die off. The people are cold and hungry. And it is all our fault!"

"You can change that, Titania," said Oberon. "Just give me your fine Indian boy to serve me."

"I will not! His mother served me, and when she died, I told her I would care for him. You shall not have him, Oberon!"

"How long will you stay here?" asked the King.

"I think I'll stay until after Theseus' wedding. If you will join our circle-dance and play in the moonlight, then come with us. If not, stay away from me. And I'll stay away from you."

"Give me that boy, Titania, and I'll go with you."

"Not for anything! Fairies, let's leave! We'll quarrel more if I stay." And Titania moved on with all her train.

"It's fine with me if you leave!" shouted Oberon.

Then Oberon turned to Puck and spoke quietly. "Remember when I saw Cupid's arrow miss a lady? It fell, instead, on a little white flower. Cupid's arrow changed its color to purple. Go! Get that magic flower for me. If its juice is rubbed on the eyelids of a sleeping man or woman, they will fall in love when they open their eyes. Ha! They'll fall in love with the first living thing they see!"

"I'll circle the Earth in minutes," answered Puck with a smile. "And I'll return with your flower before you know it." Then off he flew.

I'll watch Titania while she sleeps, thought Oberon. And I'll drop the magic juice on her eyelids. She shall love the next thing she sees when she wakes -- a lion, a bear, a wolf, or maybe a monkey. Ha! I'll make her give me her serving boy! But I hear someone traveling in these woods. People's eyes cannot see fairies, so I'll stay and listen.

Can You Imagine Worse?

VOCABULARY CHECK

body	chuckle	gun	imagine	indeed	shoot
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I. Sentences to Finish

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.

1. Can you _____ what would happen if it snowed every day?
2. Judith was not strong enough to pull the bow-string and _____ the arrow.
3. Just when Julius saw a wild duck, his _____ would not shoot.
4. "I run every day to make my _____ stronger," said Manuel.
5. People began to _____ when the lost kitten climbed onto Jack's chair.
6. "That was a silly dream, _____!" said Angela.

II. Matching

Write the letter of the correct meaning from Column B next to the key word in Column A.

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. indeed | a. to laugh quietly |
| ___ 2. gun | b. all the parts that a person or animal is made of |
| ___ 3. body | c. an object that fires bullets through a long metal tube |
| ___ 4. shoot | d. showing the feeling of not believing or surprise |
| ___ 5. chuckle | e. to picture in your mind; to have an idea of |
| ___ 6. imagine | f. to fire a gun; to hit or kill with a bullet, arrow, etc. |

Check your answers with the Key on page 70.

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