

The 15 Minute *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Directions: This is a fun activity that the students will enjoy and will involve the entire class. This activity will involve the whole class in acting out a short version of the play.

1. Run off a copy of the director's script and the lines below.
2. If you have the time, cut out the lines and tape each line on a separate large index card. If you do not have the time to do this, then just cut out the lines into separate slips of paper. director's script.
3. Hand out one card or slip of paper to each student. If you have less than 30 students in your class, ask for volunteers to read more than one line. If you have more than 30 students in your class, then divide the director's script up among them and have them read it. If there are 30 students or less, the teacher can read the script.
4. Give the students a few minutes to look over their lines and allow them to ask you any questions about what the line means and to help with defining and pronouncing unfamiliar vocabulary.
5. Arrange all the students in a large circle, and with some masking tape, put a large "X" in the middle of the circle.
6. Tell the students that you will read a script of the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and when you read out the number of their line, they are to step in the middle of the circle, put at least one foot on the taped "X", and act out the line. Be sure to insist that the student be standing on the "X" when he says the line, or the more shy students will just take a quick step forward and say the line quickly.
7. In all likelihood, the first time that you go through the script, the students may be hesitant to really act out the line. You can go through the script with them a few times, each time adding something to make their delivery of the line more impressive. For example:
 - 2nd time through, ask each student to choose **ONE** word in his line that will receive extra emphasis (different inflection, louder, etc.)
 - 3rd time through, ask each student to choose **TWO** words in her line that will receive extra emphasis
 - 4th time through, ask each student to make a corresponding facial expression that furthers the meaning of the line
 - 5th time through, ask each student add some type of physical movement that would add to the meaning of the line (point, fall to knees, put hand on heart, shake fist, etc.)

HAVE A BALL LEARNING THE BASIC PLOT OF *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* !!!

DIRECTOR'S SCRIPT

AS DUKE THESEUS AND HIPPOLYTA PLAN THEIR WEDDING, EGEUS APPEARS BEFORE THEM WITH A COMPLAINT ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER, HERMIA (#1). HE WANTS HER TO MARRY DEMETRIUS, BUT SHE LOVES LYSANDER. THESEUS SAYS TO HERMIA, (#2). HERMIA PROTESTS AND SAYS (#3).

THESEUS TELLS HERMIA THAT SHE MUST OBEY HER FATHER, BECOME A NUN, OR DIE. HERMIA AND LYSANDER SECRETLY PLAN TO RUN AWAY AND GET MARRIED. HELENA, WHO IS IN LOVE WITH DEMETRIUS, SEES HER OLD FRIEND HERMIA AND COMPLAINS THAT DEMETRIUS DOES NOT RETURN HER LOVE. HERMIA SAYS, (#4). ATTEMPTING TO REASSURE HELENA, HERMIA TELLS HER THE PLANS SHE AND LYSANDER HAVE MADE (#5). IN ORDER TO GET DEMETRIUS TO LOVE HER, HELENA DECIDES (#6).

IN THE MEANTIME, A GROUP OF POOR WORKINGMEN DECIDE TO PUT ON A PLAY FOR THESEUS'S WEDDING DAY. ONE OF THEM DOES NOT WANT TO PLAY A WOMAN (#7). THE HAM ACTOR IN THE GROUP, NICK BOTTOM, WANTS TO PLAY ALL THE PARTS AND SAYS, (#8).

AND IN THE FOREST FAIRIES ARE WANDERING ABOUT (#9), DEMETRIUS IS TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM HELENA (#10), AND THE CLOWNS ARE REHEARSING THEIR PATHETIC PLAY (#11). THE MISCHIEVOUS FAIRY, PUCK, WATCHES THE REHEARSAL AND PUTS A SPELL ON NICK BOTTOM THAT TURNS HIS HEAD INTO THAT OF AN ASS, SCARING HIS FRIENDS (#12).

TITANIA, THE QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES AWAKENS AFTER A LOVE POTION WAS PUT INTO HER EYES BY OBERON, AND SHE WAKES AND SEES NICK BOTTOM (#13) AND FALLS INSTANTLY IN LOVE WITH HIM (#14). TITANIA ALSO SAYS TO BOTTOM, (#15).

PUCK TELLS THE OBERON, THE KING OF THE FAIRIES WHAT HAPPENED (#16).

IN THE MEANTIME, PUCK REALIZES THAT THE LOVE JUICE HE WAS SUPPOSED TO PUT IN DEMETRIUS'S EYES WAS PUT IN LYSANDER'S EYES BY MISTAKE (#17). ALL THE YOUNG LOVERS ARE CONFUSED (#18). HELENA IS MAD (#19), DEMETRIUS AND LYSANDER ARE ARGUING (#20), HELENA INSULTS HERMIA (#21), AND DEMETRIUS AND LYSANDER ARE CHASING EACH OTHER (#22).

IN THE ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST, NICK BOTTOM IS BEING ATTENDED BY FAIRIES (#23) AND FALLS ASLEEP. OBERON BREAKS THE SPELL ON TITANIA, AND SHE FALLS OUT OF LOVE WITH NICK BOTTOM (#24).

IN THE MORNING, AFTER PUCK CORRECTS HIS MISTAKE WITH THE LOVE POTION, THE FOUR YOUNG LOVERS, NOW IN LOVE WITH THE RIGHT PERSON, ARE DISCOVERED BY THESEUS AND A HUNTING PARTY (#25). NICK BOTTOM WAKES UP AND THINKS EVERYTHING HAS BEEN JUST A DREAM (#26) AND JOINS HIS FRIENDS AND THEIR PLAY IS SELECTED BY THESEUS FOR PERFORMANCE (#27). THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA AND THE YOUNG LOVERS ENJOY THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE PLAY (#29) AND THEN WHEN IT IS OVER THESEUS SAYS, (#29) AND THE FAIRIES ENTER TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE AUDIENCE (#30).

THE END!

LINES

1. THIS MAN HATH BEWITCHED THE BOSOM OF MY CHILD.
2. TO YOU YOUR FATHER SHOULD BE AS A GOD.
3. I WOULD MY FATHER LOOKED BUT WITH MY EYES.
4. I FROWN UPON HIM, YET HE LOVES ME STILL.
5. LYSANDER AND MYSELF WILL FLY THIS PLACE.
6. I WILL GO TELL HIM FAIR HERMIA'S PLIGHT.
7. NAY, FAITH, LET ME NOT PLAY A WOMAN; I HAVE A BEARD COMING.
8. LET ME PLAY THE LION TOO.
9. I AM THAT MERRY WANDERER OF THE NIGHT.
10. I LOVE THEE NOT, THEREFORE PURSUE ME NOT.
11. IF YOU THINK I COME HITHER AS A LION, I AM NO SUCH THING.
12. O, BOTTOM, THOU ART CHANGED!
13. WHAT ANGEL WAKES ME FROM MY FLOWERY BED?
14. THOU ART WISE AS THOU ART BEAUTIFUL.
15. I'LL GIVE THEE FAIRIES TO ATTEND ON THEE.
16. TITANIA WAKED AND STRAIGHTWAY LOVED AN ASS.
17. THIS IS THE WOMAN, BUT NOT THIS THE MAN.
18. DEMETRIUS LOVES HER, AND HE LOVES YOU NOT.
19. INJURIOUS HERMIA! MOST UNGRATFUL MAID! O, IS ALL FORGOT?
20. I SAY I LOVE THEE MORE THAN HE CAN DO.
21. O, WHEN SHE'S ANGRY, SHE IS KEEN AND SHREWD!
22. THOU COWARD, ART THOU BRAGGING TO THE STARS?
23. I AM SUCH A TENDER ASS, IF MY HAIR DO BUT TICKLE ME, I MUST SCRATCH.

24. O, HOW MINE EYES DO LOATHE HIS VISAGE NOW!

25. I NEVER HEARD SO MUSICAL A DISCORD, SUCH SWEET THUNDER.

26. METHOUGHT I WAS--- THERE IS NO MAN CAN TELL WHAT.

27. I WILL HEAR THAT PLAY; GO, BRING THEM IN: AND TAKE YOUR PLACES,
LADIES.

28. SHE WILL FIND HIM BY STARLIGHT... AND HER PASSION ENDS THE PLAY.

29. SWEET FRIENDS, TO BED, 'TIS ALMOST FAIRY TIME.

30. HAND IN HAND, WITH FAIRY GRACE, WILL WE SING, AND BLESS THIS PLACE.