**A Midsummer Night’s Dream Act Five Notes**

*By William Shakespeare*

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|  | Act Five, Scene One |
| Lines | **Events** |
| 1-2728-105106-365366-433 | Hippolyta and Theseus speak of “fairies”/dream* Hippolyta believes the story (5.1.1, 23-27)
* Theseus doesn’t believe (5.1.2-22)
	+ Lunatics, lovers, and poets have strong imaginations and easily mislead others (5.1.5-22)

Entertainment decided * Theseus wants entertainment, calls Philostrate (5.1.31-43)
* Theseus goes over options, choose “Pyramus and Thisbe” (5.1.44-57)
	+ Philostrate tries to talk Theseus out of hearing “Pyramus and Thisbe” because it is poorly done and funny, very pathetic (5.1.61-81)
* Hippolyta doesn’t want to hear the play chosen, doesn’t like to see pathetic performances (5.1.85-86, 88)
	+ Theseus calms her nerves (5.1.87, 89-105)

“Pyramus and Thisbe”* Story of Pyramus and Thisbe
	+ Summary of the play (5.1.128-150)
	+ Play w/o commentary (5.1.108-117, 126-150, 154-163, 169-180, 187-204, 217-224, 235, 240-241, 253-255, 259-260, 268-283, 287-302, 321-344)
* Commentary by aristocrats throughout the play
	+ Inability of actors
	+ Silliness of play and situations
	+ Usually full of puns and Shakespearean humor
	+ Continued discussion of social separation between aristocrats and “mechanicals”/actors/low class/uneducated

 Fairies’ final address* Puck (5.1.366-385)
	+ - Time to go to bed
		- Time for the spirits of the dead to arise (reference back to 3.2.378-387)
		- His responsibilities (5.1.382-385)
	+ Oberon and Titania (5.1.386-417)
		- Give orders to fairies/servants
		- Blessings given (5.1.396-415)
			* Bridal bed
			* Babies
			* True love forever for lovers
			* Healthy, beautiful babies
			* Theseus’ house will rest in safety
	+ Puck (5.1.418-433)
		- Goodbyes
		- Apologizes for any offense
		- Says it was a dream
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