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

*By William Shakespeare*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Act Five, Scene One |
| Lines | **Events** |
| 1-27  28-105  106-365  366-433 | 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 |