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

*By William Shakespeare*

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|  | Act One, Scene One |
| Lines | Events |
| 1-19  20-45  46-90  91-127  128-155  156-179  180-225  226-251 | Marriage of Theseus and Hippolyta is discussed   * (1.1.16-19) reference to capturing Hippolyta from the Amazon   Egeus comes w/ complaint that Hermia refuses to marry Demetrius – instead she loves  Lysander (1.1.22-27)   * (1.1.41-45) He wants to go by the old law of Athens – choose Demetrius or die   Theseus tries to reason w/ Hermia   * “your father should be as a god” (1.1.47) * Hermia argues w/ Theseus about following her father’s plea (1.1.53-57) * Theseus gives 3 options:   + Marry Demetrius   + Die   + Become a nun * Hermia chooses death (1.1.80) * Theseus encourages Hermia to think, don’t make rash decisions (1.1.83-90)   Lysander defends himself against Demetrius   * Measures his qualities vs. Demetrius – he’s better than Dem * Demetrius had an affair with Helena (1.1.106-110)   + Helena worships Demetrius   Theseus reminds Hermia of her choices   * Hippolyta not happy w/ verdict (1.1.122)   Egeus and Demetrius called to business w/ Theseus (1.1.114-115, 123-127)  Egeus announces his willingness and devotion to Theseus which in turn announces Hermia’s  disobedience of her father, Egeus (1.1.127)  Hermia is upset w/ verdict, decision   * Lysander tries to comfort Hermia * Lysander reminds Hermia that love is difficult (1.1.134) * Lysander view of love (1.1.140-149)   + Brief, swallowed by human nature * Hermia encourages patience and understanding in trials (1.1.150-155)   Lysander and Hermia plan to run away   * Meet in the woods at midnight * Go to Lysander’s aunt’s house 21 miles outside of Athens – out of the reach of the law * Hermia agrees (1.1.168-178)   + Comparison of her devotion to Cupid’s best arrow, Venus’s doves, Carthage Queen’s passion, men who regularly break vows   Helena meets Lysander and Hermia   * Helena questions her own beauty (1.1.181-201) * Hermia and Lysander tell of their plan (1.1.202-219)   Helena’s soliloquy   * She is as pretty as Hermia. * Demetrius loves Hermia as she loves Demetrius * Sad view of love (1.1.232-241)   + Changes, unfair   + Compares to a young boy who plays mischievous games * Demetrius said he was only Helena’s = love to Helena (1.1.242-243) * Will tell Demetrius of “the plan” (1.1.246-248) * Willing to sacrifice her friendship w/ Hermia (1.1.248-249) to have Demetrius (1.1.250-251) |
|  | **Act One, Scene Two** |
| 1-102 | Actor’s meet to receive parts in a play for the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta   * Bottom – character developed   + Arrogant – wants to play all of the important parts (1.2.21-35, 45-58, 64-67)   + Likes control (1.2.2-3, 8-10, 13-15, 98-99, 102)   + Thinks his opinion matters (1.2.13-14)   + Encourager (1.2.98-99, 102) but for selfishness (1.2.98-99, 102) * Practice in the woods near where Lysander and Hermia will meet and also where Helena is sending Demetrius to find them |