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

*By William Shakespeare*

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|  | Act One, Scene One |
| Lines | Events |
| 1-1920-4546-9091-127128-155156-179180-225226-251 | 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)
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|  | **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
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