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

*By William Shakespeare*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Act Three, Scene One |
| Lines | **Events** |
| 1-71  72-196 | Actors meet in the woods for rehearsal   * Problems w/ play discussed   1. Pyramus kills himself   2. Lion might frighten the ladies   3. Stage props      + Moonlight      + Wall * Solutions for problems   1. Write a prologue (in eight and eight) to explain that the sword is a prop and does not, in fact, kill him and that Pyramus is, in fact, Bottom the weaver (3.1.16-24)      + a chance for Shakespeare to make comedic commentary on the ridiculous nature of the theatre, actors, craft, ignorance of the common audience, his tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*   2. costume should expose the bottom half of the face as well as the neck and another prologue will be written to explain that the lion is not a lion to be feared and that Snug the joiner is the actor (3.1.34-43)      + another stab at the audience (especially women)   3. Stage props      + Use a calendar/almanac to determine if the moon will shine on the night of the play so they can open a window or an actor hidden by a bush will hold a lantern (3.1.44-57)        - Anachronism (a prop or mention of an item out of the appropriate time period) – no almanacs or calendars at this time, nor lanterns (candles only)      + Wall will be represented by an actor in costume and will hold fingers to be circles through with Pyramus and Thisbe will place their lips to talk (3.1.57-67)        - Another opportunity for Shakespeare to display the ridiculous of the theatre   Bottom’s transformation   * Puck visits the actors and wishes to take a role when appropriate (3.1.72-75) * Puck transforms Bottom into a man with a donkey’s head (3.1.97.1-114)   + Bottom exits the stage at 3.1.82 as Pyramus, returns on cue at 3.1.97.1 with a donkey head   + Bottom returns with the line about his handsome form attracting Thisbe (3.1.98) – verbal irony – not handsome but a donkey * Actors are scared away by Bottom’s appearance (3.1.99-100, 109, 113-114) and Puck’s interference (3.1.101-106) * Bottom has no idea why they are scared (3.1.107-108, 111-112, 115-117) and will sing to bring them back (3.1.117-119, 120-123, 126-131)   + The fact that Bottom has no idea that he has changed and believes that he is the same as he has always been goes to further show his arrogance and how much of an ass/donkey he is – the joke is on Bottom here (recall 1.2 when Shakespeare develops Bottom’s character to be arrogant and controlling; Shakespeare takes this time to amplify Bottom’s true character by turning him into an ass/donkey) * Titania wakes to find Bottom (a donkey) and falls in love with him instantly (3.1.124, 132-136, 142) * Titania gives orders to her fairies to care for Bottom, her love (3.1.151-196)   + Transforms Bottom into “fairy size” (3.1.154-155)   + Titania has fallen in love with an ass (the vile thing that Oberon was wishing for) and will make an ass of herself in the process – Shakespeare’s humor |
|  | **Act Three, Scene Two** |
| 1-42  43-87  88-121  122-176  177-344  345-400  401-464 | Puck tells Oberon of the transformation of Bottom   * Summary of Act Three, Scene One (3.2.6-34)   + Actors rehearsing (3.2.7-12)   + Notices Bottom’s arrogant persona (3.2.13-14)   + Changes Bottom (3.2.15-19)   + Scares away actors (3.2.19-31)   + Bottom wakes Titania and she falls in love (3.2.32-34) * Oberon approves of Puck’s actions (3.2.35) * Report on Athenian with potion (3.2.36-42)   + Puck completed task (3.2.38-40)   + Oberon sees Demetrius, Oberon’s intended Athenian (3.2.41)   + Puck admits that Hermia is the lady that was near the Athenian that he anointed but not the man (Demetrius) (3.2.42)   Demetrius and Hermia find another in the woods   * Demetrius wants to know why her anger is so great toward him (3.2.43-44) * Hermia thinks Demetrius killed Lysander (3.2.46-73)   + Lysander wouldn’t have left her   + Demetrius accuses Hermia of killing his heart (3.2.58-61) * Demetrius says he didn’t do it (3.2.74-76) * Hermia says good bye forever to Demetrius even if Lysander is dead (3.2.79-81)   + She leaves Demetrius there * Demetrius will stay and sleep out of sadness (3.2.82-87)   Oberon and Puck fix mistake   * Oberon lays a plan to anoint Demetrius and lead Helena back to Demetrius (3.2.94-99) * Oberon anoints Demetrius (3.2.101.1-109) * Puck leads Helena to Demetrius (3.2.110-113) with Lysander in tow   + Realizes that Demetrius and Lysander will be in love with Helena(3.2.118), interested in watching the events that will happen   Helena versus Lysander and Demetrius   * Lysander tries to convince Helena that he loves her, not Hermia (3.2.122-136) * Demetrius wakes to be in love with Helena, praises her beauty (3.2.137-144) * Helena accuses BOTH of mockery (3.2.145-161)   + Lysander scold Demetrius for mocking Helena (3.2.162-167) * Lysander and Demetrius verbally argue over Helena (3.2.169-176)   Helena vs. Hermia and Demetrius vs. Lysander – CHAOS!   * Lysander says he doesn’t love Hermia (3.2.177-191) * Helena thinks Hermia is part of the mockery (3.2.192-244) * Arguments (3.2.245-344)   + Hermia and Lysander – she doesn’t understand his hate for her     - He HATES Hermia, no longer loves her (3.2.270-281)   + Lysander and Demetrius – fighting over Helena   + Hermia and Helena argue – throw personal insults (3.2.282-344)     - Hermia tries to physically harm Helena while Lysander and Demetrius physically hold her back     - Hermia alludes to her dream in 2.2.151-162 * Helena confesses her wrongs to Hermia and Lysander (3.2.307-321)   + Helena wants to return to Athens to be a fool there and leave her heart with Demetrius in the woods * Lysander and Demetrius want to fight for Helena (3.2.335-338)   + Leave the ladies to fight in the forest * Helena runs from Hermia into the forest (3.2.343)   Oberon and Puck again devise a plan to correct the problem   * Placing blame (3.2.345-354)   + Oberon asks if it was an accident or one of Puck’s jokes (3.2.345-346)   + Puck insists it was an accident and partially blames Oberon for not being clear (3.2.347-353)   + Oberon doesn’t think it funny since Demetrius and Lysander seek to kill one another (3.2.354) * Planning the solution (3.2.355-377)   + Oberon sends Puck to find the lovers using a thick fog as well as voice and lead them back to the “meeting place” (3.2.355-362)   + Exhaust them in their wandering (3.2.363-365)   + Crush the remedy in Lysander’s eye (3.2.366-369)   + All will be corrected when the wake the next morning and return to Athens without punishment (3.2.370-373)   + Oberon will go to Titania and wake her from the love of an ass (3.2.374-377) * Discussion of dark spirits vs. fairies and joking vs. seriousness (3.2.378-400)   Fixing the problem   * Puck leads Lysander and Demetrius by pretending to be the other (3.2.401-430)   + Lysander (3.2.401-404, 413-420)   + Demetrius (3.2.404-412, 421-430) * Puck leads the ladies by fog only (3.2.431-447)   + Helena (3.2.431-436)   + Puck apologizes on a rhyme about making the ladies mad/sad (3.2.437-441)   + Hermia (3.2.442-447) * Puck applies the remedy to Lysander’s eyes (3.2.448-457) * Puck blesses the four lovers for correction when they awake (3.2.458-464) |