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

*By William Shakespeare*

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|  | Act Two, Scene One |
| Lines | Events |
| 1-59  60-145  146-187  188-244  245-268 | Introducing Fairies   * King Oberon and Queen Titania (of the fairies)   + Fighting over an Indian child (2.1.20-31) * Introduced to Puck (2.1.32-57)   + See background notes for Act Two for additional information about Puck   King Oberon and Queen Titania’s meeting   * Separated from one another (2.1.62) * King Oberon – came to give Theseus and Hippolyta happiness in marriage (he has a crush on Hippolyta) – (2.1.68-73) * Queen Titania has a crush on Theseus despite his “misbehaviors” (2.1.74-76) * Queen Titania points out the chaos of the world due their argument (2.1.81-117) * King Oberon says the chaos could be corrected if she gives up the Indian boy (2.1.118-121) * Queen Titania tells the story of the boy (2.1.121-137) – the son of a fairy servant/human, Queen Titania vows to protect/raise him (2.1.135-137)   Plan of King Oberon against Queen Titania   * Find the magical flower/pansy that has the power of Cupid’s arrow (2.1.157-168) * Put the magic potion on Queen Titania’s eyes and she will fall in love with the first thing she sees (2.1.170-172) * Hopeful that he can get the Indian boy from her (2.1.184-186)   \*\*King Oberon hides/become invisible when Demetrius and Helena come in  Helena follows Demetrius into the forest to pursue Hermia and Lysander   * Demetrius wants Helena to leave – quit following him (2.1.188, 199-201) * Helena compares herself to a devoted dog (2.1.202-210) * Demetrius threatens to attack Helena if she stays (2.1.214-219, 236-237)   + Helena doesn’t listen to his warning, says he is her light in the darkness and her world (2.1.220-226) * Helena is willing to die at the hands of Demetrius (2.1.243-244) * Extended metaphor(?) – Demetrius is the reality of love while Helena is what we hope love to be   Oberon makes plans with Puck for Queen Titania and Demetrius and Helena   * Summary of plans for Helena and Demetrius (2.1.245-246) * Plan for Queen Titania (2.1.248-258) * Puck is to put love potion on Demetrius’s eyes (2.1.259-266)   + Should know Demetrius by his clothing, make sure that Helena is the first person he sees – wants Demetrius to fall more in love with her than she is with him |
|  | **Act Two, Scene Two** |
| 1-32  33-40  41-71  72-89  90-162 | Queen Titania gives orders to her fairies for her sleep and their responsibilities  King Oberon puts love potion on Queen Titania’s eyes   * We must infer that something had to be done to trick the sentinel of Queen Titania for King Oberon to get past the guards set out for her protection   Lysander and Hermia come into the woods   * Lysander says they’re lost and should rest here (2.2.41-44) * Hermia agrees (2.2.45) and insists that Lysander sleep away from her for modesty (2.2.45-46, 49-50, 62-67) * Lysander wants them to share the same bed as they will after they are married (2.2.47-48, 51-58)   Puck anoints the Athenian/Lysander   * Oberon says to anoint a man in Athenian garb – Puck did that. * Puck anoints Lysander NOT Demetrius   Lysander falls for Helena   * Helena continues to follow Demetrius (2.2.90-93)   + He leaves Helena near the enchanted Lysander.   + Bemoans her beauty versus the beauty of Hermia, says she is ugly as a bear and chases even the beasts away just as Demetrius runs from her (2.2.95-105) * Lysander wakes up to see Helena (2.2.109-110)   + Admits his love for Helena (2.2.110-150) * Helena accuses Lysander of mockery (2.2.129-140)   + Leaves Lysander (2.2.140) * Lysander sees Hermia sleeping and denounces her and announces his redirected feelings to Helena (2.2.141-150)   + Leaves Hermia to find Helena (2.2.150) * Hermia wakes by herself – no Lysander   + Dreamt that a serpent stole away her love – verbal irony (2.2.151-162)   + Leaves to find Lysander (2.2.162.1) |