

ENGLISH



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: 28 PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SCORE

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PERCENTAGE

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STEMUP

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Read this passage from Act 1 Scene 1 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then answer the question that follows it.

LYSANDER

The course of true love never did run smooth;
But, either it was different in blood, -

HERMIA

O cross! too high to be enthrall'd to low.

LYSANDER

Or else misgraffed in respect of years, -

HERMIA

O spite! too old to be engaged to young.

LYSANDER

Or else it stood upon the choice of friends, -

HERMIA

O hell! to choose love by another's eyes.

LYSANDER

Or, if there were a sympathy in choice,
War, death, or sickness did lay siege to it,
Making it momentary as a sound,
Swift as a shadow, short as any dream;
Brief as the lightning in the collied night,
That, in a spleen, unfolds both heaven and earth,
And ere a man hath power to say 'Behold!'

Explore how Shakespeare vividly presents Lysander as a romantic who accepts that love is difficult at this moment in the play.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

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Swift as a shadow, short as any dream;
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That, in a spleen, unfolds both heaven and earth,
And ere a man hath power to say 'Behold!'

Explore how Shakespeare dramatically presents love and obstacles to love in this passage.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Read this passage from Act 2 Scene 1 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then answer the question that follows it.

OBERON

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine:
There sleeps Titania sometime of the night,
Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight;
And there the snake throws her enamell'd skin,
Weed wide enough to wrap a fairy in:
And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes,
And make her full of hateful fantasies.
Take thou some of it, and seek through this grove:
A sweet Athenian lady is in love
With a disdainful youth: anoint his eyes;
But do it when the next thing he espies
May be the lady: thou shalt know the man
By the Athenian garments he hath on.

Explore how Shakespeare vividly presents Oberon as a powerful and manipulative fairy king at this moment in the play.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

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A sweet Athenian lady is in love
With a disdainful youth: anoint his eyes;
But do it when the next thing he espies
May be the lady: thou shalt know the man
By the Athenian garments he hath on.

Explore how Shakespeare dramatically presents magic and control in this passage.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Read this passage from Act 3 Scene 1 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then answer the question that follows it.

TITANIA

I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again:
Mine ear is much enamour'd of thy note;
So is mine eye enthralled to thy shape;
And thy fair virtue's force perforce doth move me
On the first view to say, to swear, I love thee.

BOTTOM

Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason
for that: and yet, to say the truth, reason and
love keep little company together now-a-days; the
more the pity that some honest neighbours will not
make them friends. Nay, I can gleek upon occasion.

TITANIA

Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.

BOTTOM

Not so, neither: but if I had wit enough to get out
of this wood, I have enough to serve mine own turn.

TITANIA

Out of this wood do not desire to go:
Thou shalt remain here, whether thou wilt or no.

Explore how Shakespeare vividly presents Titania as enchanted and made foolish by love at this moment in the play.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

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TITANIA

Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.

BOTTOM

Not so, neither: but if I had wit enough to get out
of this wood, I have enough to serve mine own turn.

TITANIA

Out of this wood do not desire to go:
Thou shalt remain here, whether thou wilt or no.

Explore how Shakespeare dramatically presents love, illusion and transformation in this passage.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Read this passage from Act 3 Scene 2 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then answer the question that follows it.

PUCK

Captain of our fairy band,
Helena is here at hand;
And the youth, mistook by me,
Pleading for a lover's fee.
Shall we their fond pageant see?
Lord, what fools these mortals be!

OBERON

Stand aside: the noise they make
Will cause Demetrius to awake.

PUCK

Then will two at once woo one;
That must needs be sport alone;
And those things do best please me
That befall preposterously.

Explore how Shakespeare vividly presents Puck as a mischievous observer of human folly at this moment in the play.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

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Stand aside: the noise they make
Will cause Demetrius to awake.

PUCK

Then will two at once woo one;
That must needs be sport alone;
And those things do best please me
That befall preposterously.

Explore how Shakespeare dramatically presents chaos, mistaken identity and folly in this passage.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Read this passage from Act 3 Scene 2 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then answer the question that follows it.

HELENA

Is all the counsel that we two have shared,
The sisters' vows, the hours that we have spent,
When we have chid the hasty-footed time
For parting us, - O, is it all forgot?
All school-days' friendship, childhood innocence?
We, Hermia, like two artificial gods,
Have with our needles created both one flower,
Both on one sampler, sitting on one cushion,
Both warbling of one song, both in one key,
As if our hands, our sides, voices and minds,
Had been incorporate. So we grow together,
Like to a double cherry, seeming parted,
But yet an union in partition;
Two lovely berries moulded on one stem;
So, with two seeming bodies, but one heart;
Two of the first, like coats in heraldry,
Due but to one and crowned with one crest.

Explore how Shakespeare vividly presents Helena as hurt and betrayed by her closest friend at this moment in the play.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

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Two lovely berries moulded on one stem;
So, with two seeming bodies, but one heart;
Two of the first, like coats in heraldry,
Due but to one and crowned with one crest.

Explore how Shakespeare dramatically presents friendship and betrayal in this passage.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Read this passage from Act 4 Scene 1 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then answer the question that follows it.

BOTTOM

[Awaking] When my cue comes, call me, and I will answer: my next is, 'Most fair Pyramus.' Heigh-ho! Peter Quince! Flute, the bellows-mender! Snout, the tinker! Starveling! God's my life, stolen hence, and left me asleep! I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it was: man is but an ass, if he go about to expound this dream. Methought I was - there is no man can tell what. Methought I was, - and methought I had, - but man is but a patched fool, if he will offer to say what methought I had. The eye of man hath not heard, the ear of man hath not seen, man's hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceive, nor his heart to report, what my dream was. I will get Peter Quince to write a ballad of this dream: it shall be called Bottom's Dream, because it hath no bottom; and I will sing it in the latter end of a play, before the duke: peradventure, to make it the more gracious, I shall sing it at her death.
[Exit]

Explore how Shakespeare vividly presents Bottom as comic, naive and full of wonder at this moment in the play.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Read this passage from Act 4 Scene 1 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then answer the question that follows it.

BOTTOM

[Awaking] When my cue comes, call me, and I will answer: my next is, 'Most fair Pyramus.' Heigh-ho! Peter Quince! Flute, the bellows-mender! Snout, the tinker! Starveling! God's my life, stolen hence, and left me asleep! I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it was: man is but an ass, if he go about to expound this dream. Methought I was - there is no man can tell what. Methought I was, - and methought I had, - but man is but a patched fool, if he will offer to say what methought I had. The eye of man hath not heard, the ear of man hath not seen, man's hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceive, nor his heart to report, what my dream was. I will get Peter Quince to write a ballad of this dream: it shall be called Bottom's Dream, because it hath no bottom; and I will sing it in the latter end of a play, before the duke: peradventure, to make it the more gracious, I shall sing it at her death.
[Exit]

Explore how Shakespeare dramatically presents dreams and reality in this passage.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Read this passage from Act 5 Scene 1 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then answer the question that follows it.

THESEUS

Lovers and madmen have such seething brains,
Such shaping fantasies, that apprehend
More than cool reason ever comprehends.
The lunatic, the lover and the poet
Are of imagination all compact:
One sees more devils than vast hell can hold,
That is, the madman: the lover, all as frantic,
Sees Helen's beauty in a brow of Egypt:
The poet's eye, in fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven;
And as imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen
Turns them to shapes and gives to airy nothing
A local habitation and a name.
Such tricks hath strong imagination,
That if it would but apprehend some joy,
It comprehends some bringer of that joy;
Or in the night, imagining some fear,
How easy is a bush supposed a bear!

Explore how Shakespeare vividly presents Theseus as rational and sceptical at this moment in the play.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

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Such tricks hath strong imagination,
That if it would but apprehend some joy,
It comprehends some bringer of that joy;
Or in the night, imagining some fear,
How easy is a bush supposed a bear!

Explore how Shakespeare dramatically presents imagination and reason in this passage.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Read this passage from Act 5 Scene 1 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and then answer the question that follows it.

PUCK

If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended,
That you have but slumber'd here
While these visions did appear.
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a dream,
Gentles, do not reprehend:
if you pardon, we will mend:
And, as I am an honest Puck,
If we have unearned luck
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,
We will make amends ere long;
Else the Puck a liar call;
So, good night unto you all.
Give me your hands, if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.

Explore how Shakespeare vividly presents Puck as a playful narrator who addresses the audience at this moment in the play.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

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We will make amends ere long;
Else the Puck a liar call;
So, good night unto you all.
Give me your hands, if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.

Explore how Shakespeare dramatically presents illusion and theatre in this passage.

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how Shakespeare uses the language of the speakers
- how the passage fits into the play as a whole

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

How does Shakespeare memorably portray Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

How does Shakespeare memorably portray Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

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Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

How does Shakespeare memorably portray Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

How does Shakespeare memorably portray Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

How does Shakespeare memorably portray Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

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Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

How does Shakespeare memorably portray Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

In what ways does Shakespeare vividly present love and obstacles to love in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

In what ways does Shakespeare vividly present magic and control in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

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Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

In what ways does Shakespeare vividly present love, illusion and transformation in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

In what ways does Shakespeare vividly present chaos, mistaken identity and folly in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

In what ways does Shakespeare vividly present friendship and betrayal in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

[25]

Drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream (essay question)

In what ways does Shakespeare vividly present dreams and reality in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

[25]