



BBC LIVE LESSONS AND ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Key Objective

To introduce students to the play and the Fairy Kingdom.

Classroom Resources

To complete the following activities you will need:

- An open space
- Copies of the worksheets

Introducing the play

You might want to read a synopsis of the play before beginning work on it. You can find one here:

<http://cdn2.rsc.org.uk/sitefinity/education-pdfs/school-synopses/edu-amidsummernightsdream-schoolsynopsis.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

Explain to the students that *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has 3 different kinds of worlds or environments in it: a very formal or strict environment, Duke Theseus' Court; a magical world inhabited by fairies in a forest; a world of workers, also known as mechanicals, who are amateur actors taking a break from their day jobs in order to put on a play for Duke Theseus.



Explain to the students that they are going to experience each of the different worlds.

World of the Court of Athens

- Explain that the Royal Court is ruled by Duke Theseus. At the start of the play he is preparing for his wedding in four days' time to Hippolyta (Queen of the Amazons).
- Explain that the Royal Court is a very strict place where you have to do as you are told for fear of your life.
- Now give out four commands and ask the students to follow them. When you say GO the students will walk around the space, when you say STOP they will stop, when you say JUMP they will jump and when you say CLAP they will clap.
- Repeat commands in any order they wish. Students follow your commands without talking.
- Divide the class into small groups and ask each group to create a frozen image of the following:
 - A Strict Royal Court
 - A Strict Parent and Disobedient Daughter
- Explain that a father called Egeus wants his daughter Hermia to marry a man called Demetrius but she is in love with a different young man called Lysander



World of the Mechanicals

- A group of workmen are rehearsing a play to perform at the Royal Court as part of Duke Theseus's wedding celebrations in four days' time. One of the workmen, Bottom, wants to play all the parts!
- Create a frozen image of a group of:
 - A group of workmen rehearsing a play



World of the Fairies

- Also in the forest there is an entire Fairy Kingdom which is invisible to humans.
- Create an image of
 - The King and Queen of the Fairy kingdom and all their fairies
- Re-visit each of the frozen images quickly and add in more plot as you wish
 - A Strict Royal Court,



- A Strict Parent and Disobedient Daughter
- Workmen rehearsing a play,
- The King and Queen of the Fairy Kingdom and all their fairies
- Explain to the students that in the forest all these worlds collide with very funny consequences as the fairies play tricks on the humans as well as on Bottom and Titania, the Queen of the Fairies.



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