

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' Love Complications Activities

In the comedy, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', Shakespeare shows the audience love in different forms. Hermia and Lysander portray young love, whilst Titania and Oberon depict passionate and possessive love. On the other hand, love lost and found again is shown in the relationship between Helena and Demetrius, whereas Theseus and Hippolyta convey love as conquest. By exploring love in its various forms, Shakespeare is able to show the audience how love can be both beautiful and complicated.



At the beginning of the play, the audience meets the four Athenian lovers whose lives are being destroyed by their parents' expectations or **unrequited** love (love that is not returned).

- Helena is in love with Demetrius
- Demetrius is in love with Hermia (but has a history with Helena)
- Hermia is in love with Lysander (but her father wants her to marry Demetrius)
- Lysander is in love with Hermia.

Activity One.

1. Create a visual depiction of the relationships in the play, based on the information you have just read. You may like to do this as a sketch, a mind map, a web or any other visual form that you like.



2. Explore the reasons why this play is considered a comedy.

Activity Two.

1. Write a diary entry from the perspective of one of the characters, focussing on a key moment in the play. (For example: Helena, when Demetrius follows Hermia into the woods.)



Activity Three.

1. Write a letter to one of the characters in the play from the perspective of an omniscient observer (someone who can see everything that is occurring in the play with clarity). In your letter, consider what outcome you are looking for and what you might tell this character. For example, if you want the characters to resolve their issues, you might explain how magic has interfered in their lives. On the other hand, if you wish for the chaos to continue, you might omit certain details.

