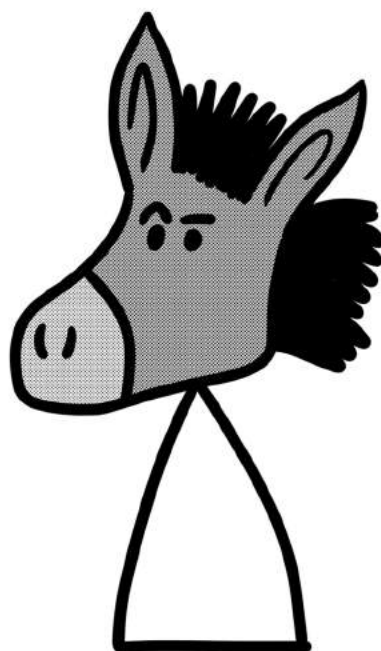


# A Midsummer Night's Dream

## Snappy Shakespeare Script: A Midsummer Night's Dream



An adaptation of Shakespeare's play  
for English Language Learners

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

### CHARACTERS:

OBERON

TITANIA

PUCK

HELENA

HERMIA

DEMETRIUS

LYSANDER

BOTTOM

*[Enter Oberon who walks about the stage very importantly. After a while, Titania enters and is angry at seeing Oberon]*

### OBERON

Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

### TITANIA

What, jealous Oberon!

We shall chide downright, if I longer stay.

*[Exit Titania to other side of stage and goes to sleep on the ground]*

### OBERON

Go thy way! I shall torment thee for this injury.

My gentle Puck, come hither.

*[Enter Puck]*

### OBERON

Fetch me a flower; the herb I showed thee once.

The juice of it on sleeping eye-lids laid

Will make or man or woman madly dote

Upon the next live creature that it sees.

Fetch me this herb.

### Vocabulary

to chide downright – to fight straight away

to torment – to bother endlessly, make miserable

injury – harm or damage

come hither – come here

to dote on/upon somebody – to love, worship somebody

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

**PUCK**

I'll put a girdle round about the earth  
In forty minutes.

*[Exit Puck]*

**OBERON**

Having once this juice,  
I'll watch Titania when she is asleep,  
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes.  
The next thing then she waking looks upon,  
Be it on lion, bear, or wolf, or bull,  
She shall pursue it with the soul of love.

*[He hears a noise]*

But who comes here? I am invisible  
And will overhear...

*[He hides in the corner and overhears the conversation]*

*[Enter Demetrius and Helena]*

**DEMETRIUS**

Helena, I do not, nor I cannot love you!

**HELENA**

And even for that do I love you the more.

**DEMETRIUS**

I'll run from thee!

**HELENA**

I'll follow thee!

*[Exit Demetrius and Helena runs after him]*

*[Oberon comes out of hiding]*

**OBERON**

Fare thee well, nymph.

*[Re-enter Puck]*

## Vocabulary

to put a girdle round about the earth – to circle the whole world  
fare thee well – goodbye

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

OBERON

Hast thou the flower there?

PUCK

Ay, there it is. *[Puck gives Oberon the flower]*

OBERON

I pray thee, give it me.

*[Oberon sees Titania asleep and goes over to her]*

There sleeps Titania sometime of the night.

And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes,

And make her full of hateful fantasies.

*[puts the love juice in Titania's eyes]*

Titania, wake when some vile thing is near.

*[To Puck]*

Take thou some of it, *[gives the flower to Puck]* and seek through this grove.

A sweet young lady is in love

With a disdainful youth. Put this on his eyes.

But do it when the next thing he then spies

May be the lady.

PUCK

Fear not, my lord, your servant shall do so.

*[Exit Oberon and Puck]*

*[Enter Lysander and Hermia]*

LYSANDER

Fair love, I have forgot our way.

We'll rest us here, Hermia.

HERMIA

Be it so, Lysander: find you out a bed;

For I upon this bank will rest my head.

*[She lies down and goes to sleep]*

## Vocabulary

I pray thee – please

to streak – to smear or rub onto

vile – bad, ugly, nasty

disdainful – feeling strong dislike or disapproval for something

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

LYSANDER

Here is my bed: sleep give thee all his rest!

*[He lies down a bit further away from her and sleeps]*

*[Enter Puck]*

PUCK

*[Sees Lysander]*

Who is here?

This is he, my master said,

Despised the young maid.

*[He sees Hermia]*

And here the maiden, sleeping sound.

*[He puts the love juice in Lysander's eyes]*

Upon thy eyes I throw

All the power this charm doth owe.

So awake when I am gone.

For I must now to Oberon.

*[Enter Helena who sees Lysander asleep]*

HELENA

But who is here? Lysander! on the ground!

Dead? or asleep? I see no blood, no wound.

Lysander if you live, good sir, awake.

LYSANDER

*[Awaking]*

Not Hermia but Helena I love.

Who will not change a raven for a dove?

Helena! Helena!

*[Helena screams and runs away, chased by Lysander]*

HERMIA

*[Awaking]*

Ay me, what a dream was here!

Lysander! Lysander!

Alack, where are you?

*[She gets up and goes off to find him]*

## Vocabulary

**despised** – hated, did not like

**maiden** – a young unmarried woman

**alack** – phrase of worry or upset, similar to alas

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

*[Enter Quince and Bottom]*

**BOTTOM**

Are we all met?

**QUINCE**

Here's a marvellous convenient place for our rehearsal.

**QUINCE**

Come, sit down and rehearse your parts.

*[Quince and Bottom talk amongst themselves]*

*[Enter PUCK behind]*

**PUCK**

*[Speaks to the audience]*

What silly people have we swaggering here,

So near the cradle of the fairy queen?

*[Puck transforms Bottom's head into an ass's head while Quince is looking at something in his book]*

**QUINCE**

*[Looking at Bottom]*

O, monstrous! O, Bottom! bless thee! thou art translated.

*[He screams and runs away]*

**BOTTOM**

Peter Quince? Quince?!

I will not stir from this place. I am not afraid!

*[He starts walking around and bumps into Titania who is asleep]*

**TITANIA**

*[Awaking]* What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?

I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again.

Thy fair virtues doth move me

On the first view to say, to swear, I love thee.

## Vocabulary

Are we all met? – Are we all here?

marvellous – good or enjoyable

convenient – easy, appropriate

swaggering – parading, gathered

cradle – bed, sleeping place

to stir – to move, leave

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

**BOTTOM**

Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason for that.

**TITANIA**

I will wind thee in my arms.  
O, how I love thee! how I dote on thee!

*[She leads him off and they exit]*

*[Enter Oberon and Puck]*

**PUCK**

My mistress with a monster is in love.

**OBERON**

This falls out better than I could devise.  
But hast thou yet touched the gentleman's eyes  
With the love-juice?

**PUCK**

I took him sleeping.

*[Enter Demetrius and Hermia]*

**OBERON**

This the same gentleman.

**PUCK**

This is the woman, but not this the man.

**HERMIA**

Leave me alone, Demetrius!  
See me no more!

*[She runs off]*

## Vocabulary

methinks – I think

to devise – to plan, craft

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

**DEMETRIUS**

There is no following her in this fierce vein.  
Here a while I will remain.

*[Lies down and sleeps]*

**OBERON**

What hast thou done?  
About the wood go swifter than the wind,  
And bring Helena here.  
I'll charm his eyes ready for her to appear.

*[Exit Puck and Oberon puts love juice in Demetrius' eyes, then he stands aside]*

*[Enter Helena and Lysander]*

**LYSANDER**

Helena, I do love thee!

**HELENA**

You love Hermia, not me!  
*[She walks into the sleeping Demetrius]*  
Oh! Demetrius!

**DEMETRIUS**

*[Awaking]*  
O Helena, goddess, nymph, perfect, divine!

**HELENA**

O spite! O hell!

*[Enter HERMIA]*

**HERMIA**

Lysander!

**LYSANDER**

Why seek'st thou me? I do hate thee and love Helena!

## Vocabulary

in this fierce vein – in such an intense way

swifter – faster

nymph – fairy, fantastic creature

divine – perfect, heavenly, coming from God

spite – desire to defeat or harm another person



# A Midsummer Night's Dream

HERMIA

O me! you juggler! you canker-blossom!

HELENA

Fie, fie! you counterfeit, you puppet, you!

*[The girls start fighting with each other and the boys try to separate them. As the boys are fighting, they punch one another and knock each other out. They lie on the ground asleep].*

HELENA

I will not trust you!  
Your hands than mine are quicker for a fray,  
My legs are longer though, to run away.

*[The girls chase each other around, run into one another, knock heads and fall down onto the ground asleep]*

*[Oberon and Puck come out of hiding]*

OBERON

This is thy negligence!

PUCK

Believe me, king of shadows, I mistook.

*[Oberon gives flower to Puck]*

OBERON

Crush this herb into Lysander's eye.

*[Puck puts the love juice into Lysander's eye. The lovers all wake up and hug one another. They then exit together].*

## Vocabulary

juggler – Shakespearean insult meaning he can't make up his mind

canker-blossom – Shakespearean insult meaning he is a sore in her mouth

fie – an expression of disgust

counterfeit – an exact copy of an original

negligence – failure to care for

to mistake – to not understand, to do incorrectly

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

## OBERON

Good Robin.

Dost thou see this sweet sight?

*[Points to Titania and Bottom who enter without seeing them. Titania and Bottom go to sleep on the ground. Oberon starts to feel guilty.]*

Gentle Puck, take this transformed scalp

From off the head of this foolish man.

*[Puck removes Bottom's ass's head]*

I will release the fairy queen.

*[Squeezes juice onto her eyelids]*

Now, my Titania; wake you, my sweet queen.

## TITANIA

My Oberon! what visions have I seen!

## OBERON

Come, my queen, take hands with me.

*[They hold hands and exit together with Puck].*

## BOTTOM

*[Awaking]*

I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream!

I will get Peter Quince to write a ballad of

this dream, and it shall be called Bottom's Dream,

because it hath no bottom!

*[He exits]*

*[Enter Puck]*

## PUCK

If we shadows have offended,

Think but this, and all is mended,

That you have but slumbered here

While these visions did appear.

And this weak and idle theme,

No more yielding but a dream,

So, good night unto you all.

Give me your hands, if we be friends,

And Robin shall restore amends.

*[Puck bows and exits]*

## Vocabulary

visions – something you see in your head

ballad – song

to offend – to make angry, to make mad

to yield – to give no more importance to something

to restore amends – to make up for a previous mistake