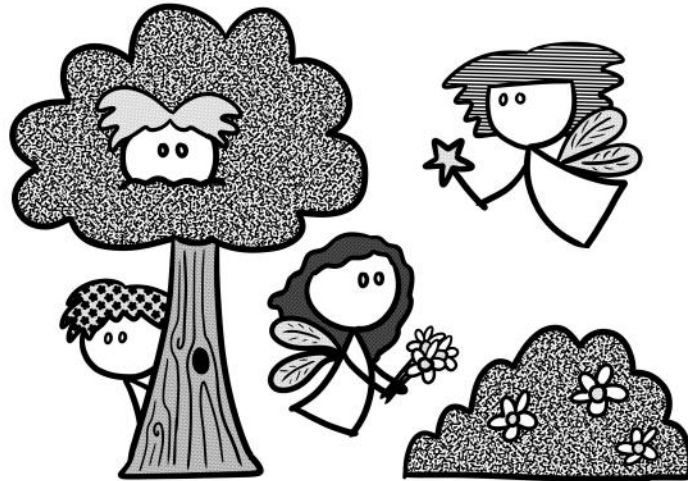


Soundscape of the Fairy Woods



The woods in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are a place where magic happens but also one where people get lost and experience strange things. They are an exciting and also slightly scary place at the same time. Together with your students focus on the sounds that Lysander and Hermia might hear walking in these woods. How do they change during the day and at night?

Organise the class so that the students are in 2 groups, Group A representing the forest in the day and Group B representing the forest at night.

The sounds of the forest in the daytime:

- animals, insects and birds
- the trees, leaves, water
- the weather (rain, wind, heat)
- people

Also consider a sound journey:

- break of day
- getting busy
- the night approaches

Choose a line or two to whisper:

- 'Tis almost fairy time'
- 'I do serve the Fairy Queen'

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The sounds of the forest at night time

- animals, insects and birds
- the trees, leaves, water
- the weather (rain, wind)
- people
- magic

Also consider a sound journey:

- the start of the night
- midnight
- the morning approaches

Choose a line or two to whisper:

- 'Come not near our Fairy Queen'
- 'How now spirit?'

Group B: students to sit in a tight circle with eyes closed – they hear the sounds of the day

Group A: stand in a circle around group B, gradually creeping nearer, creating the sounds of the day. Encourage the students to vary the volume of the sound and proximity to Group B.

Repeat for the sounds of the forest at night.

Group A: students to sit in a tight circle with eyes closed – they hear the sounds of the night.

Group B: stand in a circle around group A, creating the noises of the night. Again, encourage the students to vary the volume of the sound and their proximity to Group A.



How did it feel to you?



What do you think Lysander and Hermia feel when they discover that they are lost in the woods at night?



What do you think are sounds the fairies make? They are invisible throughout most of the play but they might make noises?

With thanks to Aimee Coombs

