

Knowledge Organiser

- Having nearly finished your topic of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', create a knowledge organiser to demonstrate your understanding of the play and Shakespeare.
- Focus on:
 - Context- what inspired Shakespeare to set the play when he did?
 - Events- What are the important events of the play?
 - Characters- Who is who?
 - Vocabulary- What key words did you learn during the topic? Could you write brief definitions to demonstrate your understanding?

WAGOLL: A Midsummer Night's Dream: Shakespeare

Context:	Plot		
Elizabeth I (the virgin queen) reigned England. Several female characters seem to represent her: Hippolyta her military prowess; Titania her patronage of dancing, music and the arts. Oberon also makes reference to her virginity (she famously chose not to marry or have children) & escaped assassination.	Act one: Theseus (Duke of Athens) prepares to marry Hippolyta (Queen of the Amazons). He is approached by Egeus who complains his daughter refuses to marry the suitor of his choice, Demetrius and that he should be allowed to assert the law of Athens: to kill Hermia for her disobedience or send her to live in a nunnery. Theseus tells Hermia she should obey her father but she refuses, secretly plotting to run away with her love Lysander. She confides in Helena who is in love with Demetrius therefore tells him so that they can pursue the lovers together. Meanwhile, a group of actors discuss a play they will perform at the royal wedding.		
English country fairy lore: people believed fairies & mischievous spirits existed (especially the lower classes). They often appeared in stories and were well-known figures in English folklore.	Act two: Oberon and Titania (King & Queen of the fairies argue over a changling boy. Oberon plans to get revenge by asking his servant Puck to pour love potion on Titania's eyelids so that she will fall in love with the first thing she sees on opening her eyes. Oberon observes Demetrius dismissing Helena and tells Puck to give him a dose of the potion too. Puck pours the love potion onto Lysander's eyes by mistake who wakes and sees Helena, falling in love with her and following her through the woods. Hermia wakes to find Lysander is gone.		
English traditions: on Midsummer eve, English men & women would tell supernatural stories round bonfires in the woods. The 'rite of May' involved youths singing & dancing in the woods. These traditions came under attack from Puritans: is Shakespeare defending them?	Act three: The actors rehearse and Puck turns Bottom's face into the head of a donkey. The other actors run away but Titania wakes and falls in love with Bottom. He instructs her fairy maids to tend to his every need. Puck tells Oberon Titania has fallen in love with a donkey but Oberon is confused when he sees Helena and Lysander. Realising Puck's mistake, he pours love potion onto Demetrius' eyes who wakes and sees Helena so that now both men are in love with Helena. Helena believes the men are mocking her and that Hermia is in on the joke. Lysander and Demetrius challenge each other to a dual. Puck places an antidote on Lysander's eyes as he sleeps.		
Characters Theseus: Duke of Athens; represents power & order Egeus: father of Hermia Hermia, Helena, Lysander & Demetrius: young Athenian lovers Oberon & Titania: King & Queen of fairies Puck: Oberon's servant/jester. A mischievous fairy who enjoys playing pranks on mortals. Arguably, the play's protagonist. Nick Bottom: a foolish and arrogant weaver who wants to play all the parts in the wedding play. Hippolyta: Queen of the Amazons who is to wed Theseus	Act four: Oberon orders Puck to remove Titania's love spell and return Bottom's head to normal. Theseus and Egeus find the lovers in the wood and Demetrius declares that he now loves Helena. Theseus suggests that the two pairs of lovers get married on the same day that he marries Hippolyta. Bottom rejoins his fellow actors.		
	Act five: The play is performed to the audience's amusement and the fairies bless the marriages.		
	Vocabulary		
	Hierarchy (n): a rank according to status or power	Prophetic (adj): predicting the future	
	Patriarchal (adj): ruled by men	Egotism (n): over-confidence/self-absorbed	
	Allusion (n): a reference to something	Stereotype (n): a fixed idea of a type of person/thing	
	Submissive (adj): obedient/passive (following orders)	Patron (n): a person who gives financial support to something	
	Benevolent/malevolent (adj): kind/cruel	Malicious (adj): intending to do harm	
Elopement (n):run away secretly	Ethereal (adj): heavenly/spiritual		
Parody (n): an imitation for comic effect	Grotesque (adj): ugly (often comically)		