

Year 7 - Drama - Topic: A Midsummer Night's Dream



A page to stage performance of Helena and Demetrius' duologue, plus an ensemble performance from Shakespeare's Comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.'

What is a duologue?

A duologue is a performance for two actors. Here students will perform the duologue from Act 2 scene i) between Helene and Demetrius, firstly in Shakespearean language.

What is iambic pentameter?

This is the rhythm of syllables in a line of speech in Shakespeare's plays.

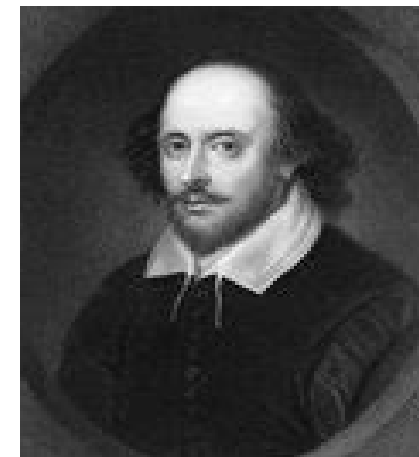
e.g. 'da dum da dum da dum da dum da dum.'

Who are the mechanicals?

These are six characters in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* who perform the play-within-a-play *Pyramus and Thisbe*. They are a group of amateur and mostly incompetent actors from around Athens, looking to make names for themselves. A deliberately comedic scene.

What is 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'?

'*A Midsummer Night's Dream*' is a comedy play written by William Shakespeare in approximately 1595/1596. The play is set in Athens and consists of several subplots revolving around the marriage of Theseus and Hippolyta. One subplot involves a conflict among four Athenian lovers. Another follows a group of six amateur actors rehearsing the play which they are to perform before the wedding. All characters find themselves in a forest inhabited by fairies who manipulate the humans. The play is one of Shakespeare's most popular and is widely performed.



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What disciplinary knowledge and key skills do I need to master in this topic?

Disciplinary knowledge	Definition
Duologue	A performance between two characters.
Vocal skills: Tone	Using vocal skills to convey mood of character for a specific line of dialogue.
Physical skills: Gesture	Using hands or head to portray an action, emotion, or reaction.
Proxemics	The distance between the characters on stage and what this symbolizes about their relationship.

Skills to consider
What is the plot (storyline) of the play?
Who are Helena and Demetrius?
What is my character feeling? How should I use the space?
What are the personalities of the ensemble characters?

Additional Links
Shakespeare's A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM CliffsNotes Video Summary - YouTube
Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream - Helena - A Midsummer Night's Dream - Shakespeare - KS3 English - Bitesize - BBC Bitesize
Helena and Demetrius - "I Love Thee Not!" - YouTube
Past Productions of A Midsummer Night's Dream Shakespeare Learning Zone (rsc.org.uk)

Take it Further

Lower School Theatrical Society is an extracurricular club dedicated to taking the skills learned in the classroom further. Check the [extracurricular timetable](#).