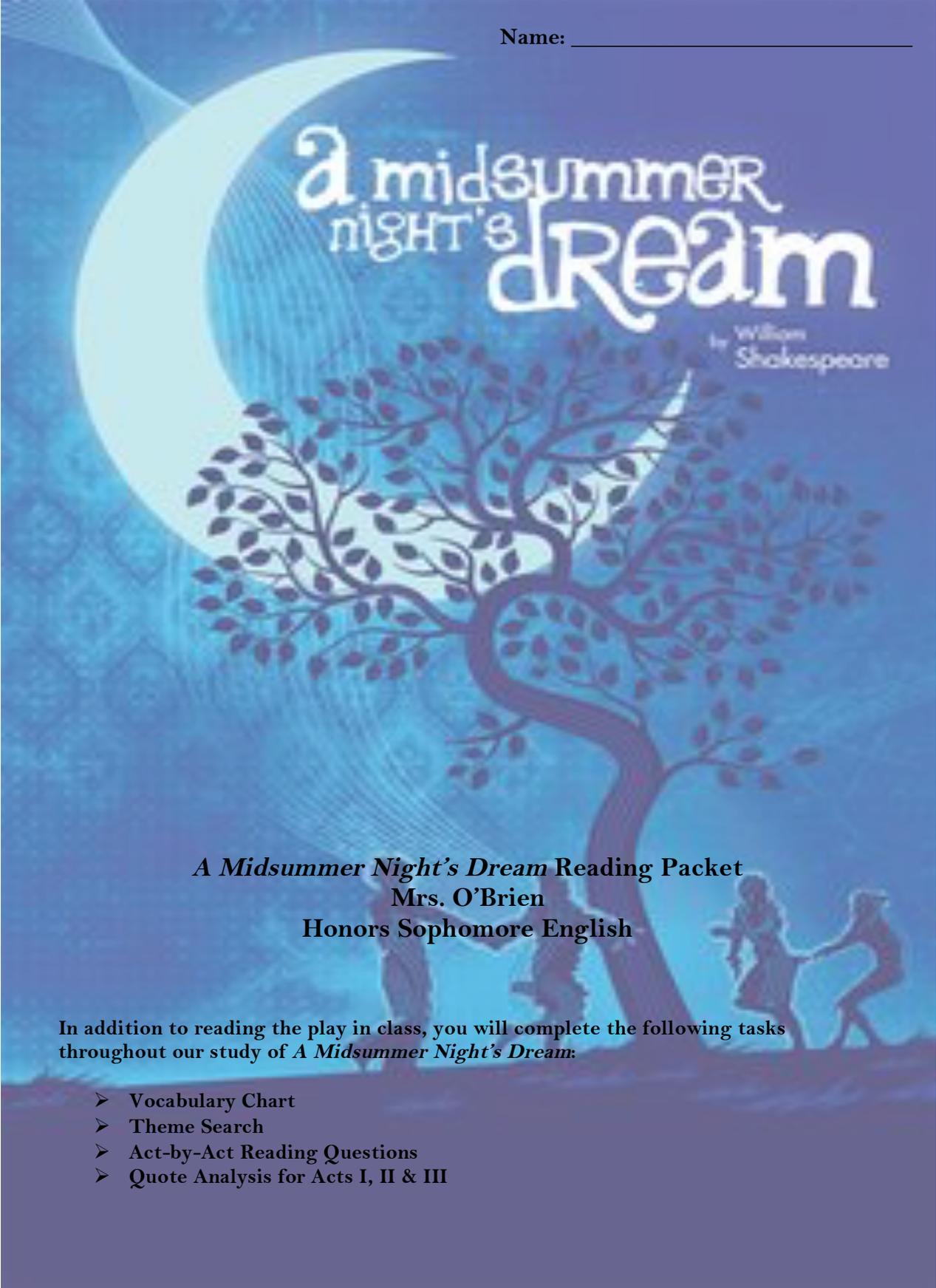


Name: _____



a midsummer
night's **DREAM**
by William Shakespeare

***A Midsummer Night's Dream* Reading Packet**
Mrs. O'Brien
Honors Sophomore English

In addition to reading the play in class, you will complete the following tasks throughout our study of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*:

- Vocabulary Chart
- Theme Search
- Act-by-Act Reading Questions
- Quote Analysis for Acts I, II & III

THEME SEARCH –

As you read, I would like you to keep an eye out for 3 key themes that will appear throughout the play:

1. Appearance versus Reality
2. Love's Many Faces
3. Love's Pitfalls

While reading, locate examples (quotes) to support these three themes and record them below.

Appearance versus Reality	Love's Many Faces	Love's Pitfalls

Act I Reading Questions –

- 1) When will Theseus and Hippolyta be married?
- 2) Explain Theseus's comparison of waiting to a "step-dame or a dowager."
- 3) Contrast Theseus's attitude toward waiting with Hippolyta's.
- 4) How did Theseus and Hippolyta become betrothed?
- 5) What complaint does Egeus bring before Theseus?
- 6) What choice does Theseus offer Hermia?



Act I QUOTE ANALYSIS:

For each of the quotes below:

- A. Speaker: Who said it?
- B. Significance: What does it mean? (explain & unpack the quote)
- C. Literary Techniques: Identify what literary techniques (if any) are used within the passage.

Act I:

(1.1.2-6)

“Draws on apace. Four happy days brings in
Another moon. But, O, methinks how slow
This old moon wanes! She lingers my desires
Like to a stepdame or a dowager
Long withering out a young man’s revenue”

A.
B.
C.

(1.1.17-18)

“Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword
And won thy love doing the injuries.”

A.
B.

(1.1.43-45)

“As she is mine, I may dispose of her,
Which shall be either to this gentleman
Or to her death, according to our law.”

A.
B.

(1.1.48)

“To you, your father should be as a god.”

A.
B.
C.

(1.1.72)

“You can endure the livery of a nun.”

A.
B.

(1.1.136)

“The course of true love never did run smooth.”

A.
B.

(1.1.240-241)

“Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,
And therefore is wing’d Cupid painted blind”

A.
B.

(1.2.11-13)

“Marry, our play is “The most lamentable
comedy and most cruel death of Pyramus and
Thisbe.”

A.
B.

Act II Reading Questions –

- 1) How does language contribute to the comedy of this scene?

- 2) What are the “weeds of Athens” Puck refers to?

- 3) Explain how accident and coincidence continue to create the comic effect of the scene/play.

- 4) What can the audience infer about Hermia and Helena’s physical appearance?

- 5) On what mildly suspenseful note does Act II end?



Act II QUOTE ANALYSIS:

For each of the quotes below:

- A. Speaker: Who said it?
- B. Significance: What does it mean? (explain & unpack the quote)
- C. Literary Techniques: Identify what literary techniques (if any) are used within the passage.

Act 2:

(2.1.18-24)

“The Kind doth keep his revels here tonight	A.
Take heed the Queen come not within his sight.	
For Oberon is passing fell and wrath,	B.
Because that she as her attendant hath	
A lovely boy, stolen from an Indian king;	C.
She never had so sweet a changeling.	
And jealous Oberon would have the child.”	

(2.1.126)

“The fairy land buys not the child of me.”	A.
	B.

(2.1.163-164)

“Cupid all armed. A certain aim he took
At a fair vestal throned by the west.”

A.
B.

(2.1.174-178)

“And maidens call it love-in-idleness.
Fetch me that flow’r; the herb I showed thee once:
The juice of it on sleeping eyelids laid
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next living creature that it sees.”

A.
B.

(2.1.183-194)

“Having once this juice . . .”

A.
B.

(2.1.210-213)

“I am your spaniel; and, Demetrius,
The more you beat me, I will fawn on you.
Use me but as your spaniel, spurn me, strike me,
Neglect me, lose me.”

A.
B.
C.

(2.1.268-271)

“A sweet Athenian lady is in love
With a disdainful youth. Anoint his eyes,
But do it when the next thing he espies
May be the lady.”

A.
B.

(2.2.118-123)

“Content with Hermia? No, I do repent
The tedious minutes I with her have spent.
Not Hermia, But Helena I love.
Who will not change a raven for a dove?
The will of man is by his reason swayed,
And reason says you are the worthier maid.”

A.
B.

Act III Reading Questions –

- 1) What further complication to the Athenian lovers plot occurs in Act III, scene 2?
- 2) What does Hermia fear? Why?
- 3) How contrite is Puck for his mistake?
- 4) Why do Hermia and Helena quarrel?
- 5) What action is implied by Demetrius's telling Lysander, "If she cannot entreat, I can compel"?



Act III QUOTE ANALYSIS:

For each of the quotes below:

- A. Speaker: Who said it?
- B. Significance: What does it mean? (explain & unpack the quote)
- C. Literary Techniques: Identify what literary techniques (if any) are used within the passage.

Act III:

(3.1.16-22)

“Not a whit! I have a device to make all well.
Write me a prologue, and let the prologue seem to
say we will do no harm with our swords, and that
Pyramus is not killed indeed. And, for the more
better assurance, tell them that I, Pyramus, am not
Pyramus, but Bottom the weaver. This will put them
out of fear.”

A.

B.

(3.1.121-126)

“I see their knavery. This is to make an ass of
me, to fright me, if they could. But I will not stir
from this place, so what they can. I will walk up
and down here, and I will sing, that they shall hear
I am not afraid.”
(3.1.154-161)

“Out of this wood do not desire to go.
Thou shalt remain here whether thou wilt or no.
I am a spirit of no common rate.
The summer still doth tend upon my state,
And I do love thee. Therefore go with me.
I’ll give thee fairies to attend on thee,
And they shall fetch thee jewels from the deep
And sing while thou on pressed flowers dost sleep.”

(3.2.33-36)

“I led them on in this distracted fear
And left sweet Pyramus translated there.
When in that moment, so it came to pass,
Titania waked and straightway loved an ass.”

(3.2.49-51)

“If thou, I fear, hast given me cause to curse.
Being o’er shoes in blood, plunge in the deep
And kill me too.’

(3.2.172-175)

“Lysander, keep thy Hermia. I will none.
If e’er I loved her, all that love is gone.
My heart to her but as a guest-wise sojourned,
And now to Helen is it home returned,
There to remain.”

(3.2.117-119)

“Lo, she is one of this confederacy!
Now I perceive they have conjoined all three
To fashion this false sport in spite of me.”

(3.2.296-298)

“You juggler, you cankerblossom,
You thief of love! What, have you come by night
And stol’n my love’s heart from him?”

8) What is significance about the play's action returning to Athens?

Act V Reading Questions –

1) What theme is reinforced by Hippolyta and Theseus's exchange at the beginning of this scene?

2) Why does Theseus agree to see the mechanicals' play despite Philostrate's protests?

3) What are the sources of humor in the play-within-the-play?

4) Explain the pun in Theseus's line: "No die, but an ace, for him; for he is but one."

5) Explain the end of the play.

