Structured Guided Notes

All Lines read in play with the Gist and some extra explanations

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| GistFocus Questions |
| **Act 1 Scene 1 1.1.21–129****Summary**:*Egeus arrives with Hermia, Lysander, and Demetrius, and tells Theseus about his problem with his daughter, Hermia, who refuses to marry Demetrius. Hermia and Lysander are in love, but Egeus does not approve and wishes to kill Hermia for her disobedience. Theseus counsels Hermia to choose between three options: death, “lifelong chastity,” or marriage to Demetrius, and gives her time to make her decision. Then, he whisks away Egeus and Demetrius to help with his and Hippolyta’s wedding plans.* |
| **Act 1 Scene 1** 1.1.130–257**Summary**:*Left alone after Theseus, Egeus, and Demetrius leave to prepare for Theseus and Hippolyta’s wedding, Lysander and Hermia discuss their fate. The two plan to meet the next night in secret and escape to Lysander’s aunt’s house, far away from Athens. Helena, who is in love with Demetrius, arrives and the two tell her of their plan. Helena is upset that Demetrius loves Hermia even though Hermia does not love him back. She plans to tell him about Hermia and Lysander’s planned escape in order to win his favor.* |
| **Act 1 Scene 2 Summary** 1.2.1–107: *Six Athenian tradesmen decide to put on a play called* Pyramus and Thisbe *for Theseus and Hippolyta’s wedding. Pyramus will be played by Bottom the weaver and Thisbe by Francis Flute the bellow-mender. The men are given their parts to study, and they agree to meet for a rehearsal in the woods outside Athens” (34).* |
| **Act 2 Scene 1****Summary, 2.1.33–60**:*A fairy describes Robin’s character, since he is known in the land for being a sly trickster. Robin takes pride in his reputation, retelling the many ways he plays his tricks on others.***Summary, 2.1.61–152**:*Oberon and Titania argue about their jealousies. Titania is jealous of Oberon’s love for Hippolyta, whom he followed to this land from India. Oberon is jealous of Titania’s love for Theseus, whom she forced to abandon multiple girlfriends before he met Hippolyta. Titania reminds Oberon that their constant arguing has consequences for mortal humans; their fighting has made the weather terrible for growing crops and enjoying nature. Oberon suggests that Titania put an end to the fighting by offering him the Indian boy. She refuses, saying that she was very close with his mother in India before she died giving birth to him. She insists that she will raise him herself. Both angry, Oberon and Titania agree to stay out of each other’s way until after the wedding, when Titania will return to India with the boy.***Summary, 2.1.153–194**:*Oberon reminds Robin of a time he watched Cupid shoot an arrow, which landed on a flower now called “love-in-idleness.” He instructs Robin to get him the flower, so that he can use its power to make Titania fall in love with the first creature she sees. He hopes she will become so distracted by her love that he will be able to steal away the Indian boy.* |
| **Act 2 Scene 1****Summary**2.1.195–267: *Helena follows Demetrius through the woods, telling him repeatedly how much she loves him. Oberon witnesses Demetrius reject Helena numerous times. Robin arrives with the flower Oberon requested. Feeling sympathetic toward Helena, Oberon instructs Robin to use part of the flower on Demetrius to make him love her. Oberon tells Robin he will be able to identify Demetrius in the woods by his Athenian clothes.***Act 2 Scene 2 - Summary of skipped section**2.2.1–32: *The fairies sing Titania to sleep with a lullaby about protecting her from evil and magic. As Titania drifts to sleep, the fairies leave to do their work in the forest.***Summary (More Act 2 Scene 2)**2.2.33–89: *Oberon goes into the woods and places the flower nectar on Titania’s eyes. Meanwhile, Hermia insists that she and Lysander sleep separately in the woods, to make sure they remain innocent. Robin finds Lysander sleeping alone and assumes he is Demetrius. He places the flower nectar on his eyes, believing he is following Oberon’s orders.* |
| Continued Act 2 Scene 2 LINES 90-163**Summary***2.2.90–163—Helena, abandoned by Demetrius in the woods, stumbles upon sleeping Lysander. He wakes up, and the powerful flower immediately works; he is instantly in love with Helena. Lysander tells her he loves her, but Helena believes he is mocking her and leaves to find Demetrius. Wishing to escape Hermia, who suddenly makes him sick, and find Helena, Lysander leaves the area. Hermia wakes up to find Lysander missing.*Questions w/guided answers* What are the results of Oberon’s attempt to control Demetrius? Cite the best evidence to support your answer.

***The results are that Puck ends up placing the nectar on Lysander instead of on Demetrius. Because of this, Lysander falls in love with Helena and out of love with Hermia. In line 120, he says, “Not Hermia, but Helena I love.”**** Describe how the characters’ attempts to control one another so far in the play have either succeeded or failed. Hint: Think about Egeus’, Demetrius’, Helena’s, and Oberon’s attempts to control others.

***So far, Egeus has failed to control his daughter Hermia because she decided to run away with Lysander instead of marrying Demetrius. Demetrius has also failed to control Hermia because she has run away from him. Helena has failed to control Demetrius because he still does not love her, and finally, Oberon has failed to control Demetrius because Puck accidentally placed the flower nectar on Lysander instead.*** |
| **Beginning Act 3 Scene 2 - Summary****3.2.90–123**—*Oberon realizes that Puck has made a terrible mistake and placed the flower nectar on Lysander instead of Demetrius. Now Lysander has abandoned Hermia for Helena, and Demetrius still hates Helena and loves Hermia. He places the nectar on Demtrius’s eyes as well, and tells Puck to find Helena immediately. He returns with her just as Hermia and Lysander are about to enter***How does Oberon’s desire to control others propel the action of the play?**Oberon’s desire to control Titania and Puck propels the action of the play forward since this desire sets into motion Puck’s actions of misplacing the magic potion on the eyes of Lysander. This, in turn, disrupts the four young lovers’ relationships.  |
| **END OF UNIT 1** |
| **gist of lines 3.2.124–365 ACT 3 SCENE 2 3.2.124-365***Lysander awakens after Puck places the magic potion on his eyes to see Helena. He falls in love with Helena and leaves Hermia alone in the forest. Hermia awakens and cannot find her lover. She searches for him in the forest and finds him following Helena. Helena feels Lysander is making fun of her and mocking her love for a man who does not want her. Oberon is angry with Puck for making a mistake and commands Puck to place the magic potion in Demetrius’ eyes. Demetrius also falls in love with Helena, and she feels doubly mocked. Hermia arrives on the scene astounded by Lysander’s behavior, hurt and confused that he does not want her. Helena believes all three of the others are making fun of her. All four lovers begin to argue.* **Throughout the scene, Helena expresses her confusion and anger at being the subject of a mean joke.** |
| **Gist of lines 3.2.366–493?***When Oberon witnesses the chaos experienced by the four lovers, he accuses Puck of making a mistake that was possibly done on purpose. He then charges Puck with straightening out the mess. Lysander and Demetrius have vowed to fight to the death. Puck tricks Lysander and Demetrius into thinking he is the other so that they do not kill one another and sends each on a mad chase through the woods. When Lysander sleeps, Puck applies the cure for the magic potion to his eyes.***How is the character of Puck critical in creating the plot of the story? Be sure to use the strongest details from the text to support your answer.***From the first time we are introduced to Puck, he is described as a trickster. In the earlier scenes in the play, he controls others by order from Oberon or just to have fun at someone’s expense. In this scene, Puck is crucial for the resolution of the conflict, again as Oberon plans Puck’s role. In this part of the play, Puck manages the conflict between Lysander and Demetrius in a way that he separates them by pretending to be the other person. He then runs each on a ragged chase so that they tire and sleep. Puck then applies the cure to Lysander’s eyes.* |
|  **Act 4 Scene 1****lines 4.1.1–87 and 4.1.131–193***Titania, her fairies, and Bottom arrive, and Titania wants to place musk-roses around Bottom’s hairy head and kiss his floppy ears, but all Bottom can think about is oats and hay. When Bottom grows tired, Titania curls up in his arms and they take a nap together. Oberon and Puck enter, and Oberon tells Puck that he will release Titania from the spell because she has consented to give him the changeling. Oberon orders Puck to change Bottom’s head back to its original form and he awakens his queen, who is astonished by the dreams she has had.* *Theseus and Egeus find the four lovers in the woods sleeping all together and wake them. Theseus demands that the situation be explained, how Lysander and Demetrius can be together even though they hate one another. Lysander explains that he and Hermia were eloping. Egeus becomes angry, so Demetrius defends him by continuing the story with how his love for Hermia has magically vanished and he only wants to be with Helena. Theseus is happy with the new arrangements and grants his blessing to the lovers.* |
|  **Act 5 Scene 1 lines 5.1.114–379***Bottom and his team of players perform poorly the play “Pyramus and Thisbe” to Theseus, Hippolyta, and the lovers. In the story “Pyramus and Thisbe,” they are two lovers who are not allowed to see each other yet still love each other and agree to meet at night. On the way, Thisbe is frightened away by a lion and loses her shawl, which the lion gets blood on. Pyramus sees the bloodstained shawl and, thinking she is dead, kills himself. Thisbe then finds Pyramus dead and kills herself.***What does the audience of “Pyramus and Thisbe” think of the play? How do you know?***They think it is terrible and make fun of it. Theseus says of the prologue, “His speech was like a tangled chain—nothing impaired, but all disordered.” Partway through the play, Hippolyta says, “This is the silliest stuff that ever I heard.” At the end of the play, Theseus begs the players not to give an epilogue, which suggests he has had enough and doesn’t want to see any more!* |
| **5.1.380–455***Oberon blesses the unions of the King and Queen and the lovers by stating that the fairies will be with them and that no bad fortune shall fall upon their offspring. Puck assures the audience that all was but a dream and that fairies do not really exist.* **How does Shakespeare use the fairies to provide the conclusion to the play?***The play would be rather anticlimactic for the action to end with Theseus sending everyone to bed. The fairies provide a better conclusion to the play in Puck’s description of how fairies, though they flee the daytime, come out to celebrate at night. In doing so, your home is protected from any disturbance, even that of a mouse. The fairies dance and make merry. Oberon*’*s blessing provides the conclusion to his role of arranging the outcomes for the nobles with their weddings by wishing them healthy children and restful sleep. Finally, Puck’s speech wraps up the play by assuring the audience that all is well and was but a dream anyway.* |