

ENGLISH



Bluecoat Aspley Academy

Welcome Year 6!

We are so excited that you will be joining our school and we are so looking forward to meeting you all as you begin your journey to become Bluecoat students.

We would love to introduce you to some of the super things we do in English here at Bluecoat Aspley Academy.

We have chosen to show you a little about our lessons studying *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. You might have already studied or seen a little of this play already, which is great! If you haven't, this will give you an introduction, and prepare you for studying the play in detail when you join our English Mastery curriculum as Year 7 students.

We hope that you enjoy some of these tasks and that it gives you a sense of what English will look like for you in Year 7.

With best wishes,

The English Department

Our super transition lesson

***A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare**

Learning objectives	<p>By the end of the booklet, you will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...know what happens in the play and who the main characters are • ...be able to explain what two key characters are like • ...apply your knowledge to clearly show your understanding of ONE main character
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whoosh – get to know the plot by completing a home version of a whoosh! 2. Inferring ideas about characters – use the quotations to explain what this suggests about the characters in the play. 3. Creating characters – using your knowledge of your key character, create a drawing!



Task 1: Whoosh!

Here at Bluecoat we love to include drama in our English lessons, and we LOVE a good 'whoosh'!



What we do in lesson...

You would all be seated in a circle with the teacher standing in the middle. The floor would then become the stage, and anyone invited to stand in the circle must assume the role of the character that the teacher gives them!

The teacher's job is to narrate the story of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. At certain points, your teacher would ask many of you to help, by asking you to **come up and help act as characters** and **mime key events**.



After you have 'performed', at the end of each scene, the teacher will shout 'whoosh' and you would *whoosh* back to your seat, ready for new students to be called up to act in the next scene.

What you could do at home...

We know that a proper whoosh is difficult to complete at home, but you could be creative!

You might want to ask family members or carers to support you as you complete this activity. You could choose to become the teacher and narrate the story to them, while they become the actors. Every time you get to a new character, ask your actor to change roles and to act out whatever you read aloud. A whoosh is fun, so they should enjoy this!

If you would rather do this alone, you might want to just practise your skills of narration by varying your voice – volume, pitch and speed of talking – or by using gestures. This is a great opportunity to practise your delivery when storytelling, to make the story seem as dramatic and interesting as possible.

The point is that plays should not be read, they should be seen – so try to practise your performance skills while getting to know the plot.

Have fun with it!



So, what's this play all about? Let's Whoosh!

Part 1: Athens

Over 2500 years ago in the beautiful city of Athens, lived the strong, brave **King Theseus**. He was looking forward to marrying the beautiful and powerful **Hippolyta** in four days' time. **The entire city (everyone cheers)** cheered when they heard about the wedding.

But there was a problem in Athens. **Egeus**, one of the king's friends, had **come to Theseus** to complain about his daughter. His daughter, called **Hermia**, was refusing to marry **Demetrius** (who her father wanted her to marry) because she was in love with **Lysander**. Egeus is angered by this.

Egeus said, 'Hermia is my daughter, so she must obey my wishes. If she does not agree to marry Demetrius, I demand that she and Lysander be executed!'

The crowd gasped. (ALL gasp) They could not believe what they were hearing!

King Theseus shook his head. **'You know our laws,' he said. 'Hermia, if you do not agree to marry Demetrius, you and Lysander will both be killed.'**

WHOOSH!

Mini-plenary: Who is the king of Athens? Who is Egeus complaining about? Who does he want his daughter to marry? Who does he not like? What is going to happen to Hermia and Lysander?

Part 2: Athens at night

Later, **Lysander and Hermia** met under the stars to discuss their terrible situation.

'What are we to do?' sobbed Hermia. She had not stopped crying since the king had said she may be killed.

'Do not worry, my love' Lysander replied. 'We will be ok. The course of true love never did run smooth!'

Lysander had a plan. He and Hermia would run far away where they could be happily married away from Athens and its laws.

Hermia stopped crying for the first time in hours. **'Let's run away tomorrow night,' Hermia said. 'But I must tell Helena of our plan. We have been best friends since we were babies in our mothers' arms.'**

Lysander and Hermia soon found **Helena**. They told her of their plan.

'I shall be sad to see you go,' Helena said.

Helena and Hermia hugged each other and tried not to cry, then **Hermia and Lysander left quietly.** **Helena** was afraid that she would be alone forever. She loved Demetrius, the man Hermia was meant to marry. But he did not love her back. She decided to tell **Demetrius** that Hermia and Lysander were running away. Perhaps he would be thankful for the information, and fall in love with her!

Mini-plenary: What are Hermia and Lysander going to do? Who does Helena love? Who does Demetrius love?

WHOOSH!



Part 3: Inside the magical forest

The woods outside of Athens were full of magical fairies. **All of the trees and the wind** sounded enchanted, and the night felt strange and mysterious. There was a huge argument taking place in the forest between the **mighty King Oberon** and the **ferocious Queen Titania**. The Queen had stolen a beautiful boy that Oberon wanted for himself to be his helper.

'Give me that boy!' Oberon demanded. But **Titania** wouldn't give in easily.

'Not for your fairy kingdom!' she replied.

WHOOSH!

Mini-plenary: Who are king and queen of the forest? Why are they arguing?

Part 4: Inside the magical forest (change PP slide)

Oberon had a plan. **He called** his **mischievous servant Puck** to help him. He **told Puck to find him a magical flower** – one that could be used to create a love potion. **Oberon described it.** It was a beautiful plant, **'Before, it was as white as snow. Now it is purple as it has been wounded by love.'**

Puck must look far and wide for this rare plant, and Oberon would use it to make Titania fall in love with a hideous beast. Oberon would then be able to blackmail Titania and only remove the spell if she hands over the boy.

Puck rushed off to try to find the powerful flower.

Just as **Puck left, Oberon heard Helena and Demetrius walking through the forest.** **Demetrius** was being cruel to **Helena: 'I am sick when I look at you!' he cried.** But **Helena was still desperately in love with Demetrius. 'That just makes me love you more!' she replied.**

Oberon took pity on **Helena. Puck returned** with the love potion (hold up love potion). **Oberon told Puck** to put the love potion on the man from Athens so that he will fall in love with Helena. **Puck ran off** to find the man.

WHOOSH!

Mini-plenary: Who is Oberon's servant? What does Puck have to go and fetch? What will Oberon do with the love potion? How does Demetrius treat Helena? How is Oberon going to help Helena?

Task 2: Inferring ideas about characters

You might already be familiar with the word 'inference', but even if you're not, it's something you perhaps do without thinking.

Inference is a very important reading skill. When we infer we work out what is meant in a text. We often call this 'reading between the lines', where we become detectives and look more closely for what is suggested, not just what is stated clearly.



Inferring ideas about the characters

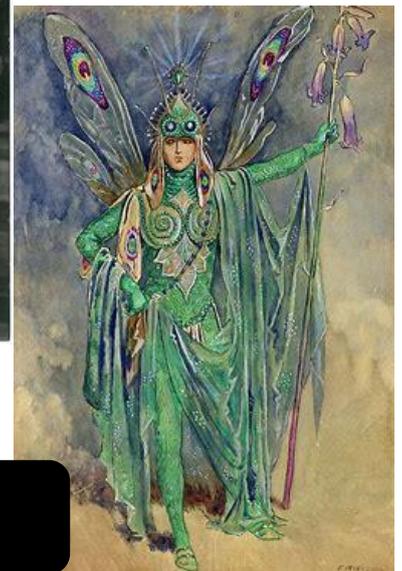
Can you use the quotations to explain what the characters are like?

(Worksheets can be found on the next two pages)

Titania

Step 1: Can you match the Shakespearean quotation to the modern English version?

Step 2: What does it tell us about the character? Think about what kind of person they must be e.g. kind/ unkind, happy/ sad, caring/ nasty



Oberon

Step 3: Explain why you think that, using the word 'because' to help you explain your thinking.

Introducing Titania – What is she like?

Step 1: Match the Shakespearean quotations to the modern English versions.

Original Shakespearean	Modern English
“Out of this wood do not desire to go. Thou shalt remain here whether thou wilt or no.”	“Don’t bother wishing you could leave this forest, because you’re going to stay here whether you want to or not.”
“What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?”	“I’m no ordinary fairy. I rule over the summer.”
“I am a spirit of no common rate. The summer still doth tend upon my state.”	“What, are you jealous, Oberon?—Fairies, let’s get out of here. I’ve sworn I’ll never share his bed with him or talk to him again.”
“What, jealous Oberon?—Fairies, skip hence. I have forsworn his bed and company.”	“What angel is this who’s waking me up from my bed of flowers?”

Step 2: Explain what it tells us about what Titania is like.

Quotation	What does it tell us about what Titania is like?
“Out of this wood do not desire to go. Thou shalt remain here whether thou wilt or no.”	(CLUE: Think about what it tells us about how she likes to be in control and is used to getting what she wants. What kind of person is like this?) <i>This tells us that...because...</i>
“What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?”	(CLUE: Think about what it tells us about how she falls in love easily. Does it suggest that she is kind or complimentary?) <i>This tells us that...because...</i>
“I am a spirit of no common rate. The summer still doth tend upon my state.”	(CLUE: Think about what this tells us about how she believes she is very important and special.) <i>This tells us that...because...</i>
“What, jealous Oberon?—Fairies, skip hence. I have forsworn his bed and company.”	(CLUE: Think about what it tells us about how she wants to punish Oberon and how she has the power in their relationship.) <i>This tells us that...because...</i>

Introducing Oberon – What is he like?

Step 1: Match the Shakespearean quotations to the modern English versions.

Original Shakespearean
“Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.”
“Tarry, rash wanton. Am not I thy lord?”
“ Then, my queen, in silence sad, Trip we after the night’s shade. We the globe can compass soon Swifter than the wandering moon.”

Modern English
“Wait just a minute, you naughty woman! Aren’t you supposed to obey me, your lord and husband.”
“ In that case, my queen, let’s travel silently and solemnly across the globe to where it’s still night, circling the earth faster than the moon does.”
“How <i>not</i> nice to see you, Titania.”

Step 2: Explain what it tells us about what Oberon is like.

Quotation	What does it tell us about what Oberon is like?
“Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.”	(CLUE: Think about what it tells us about how he feels about Titania at this point. Is he a kind person who wants to make up?) <i>This tells us that...because...</i>
“Tarry, rash wanton. Am not I thy lord?”	(CLUE: Think about what it tells us about how he believes Titania should behave towards him. Does he like to be in charge?) <i>This tells us that...because...</i>
“ Then, my queen, in silence sad, Trip we after the night’s shade. We the globe can compass soon Swifter than the wandering moon.”	(CLUE: Think about what this tells us about how he believes he is all powerful, but also how he believes him and Titania belong together.) <i>This tells us that...because...</i>

Task 3: Create characters – Titania or Oberon

Now that you are experts on two main characters, Titania and Oberon, you should use your knowledge to draw and illustrate the characters. Think about how you will show your knowledge of the character and the inferences you made on task 2. Here are some suggestions:

- What are their facial expressions?
- How do they behave?
- Will they need any props?
- How will you show how powerful/wealthy they are?

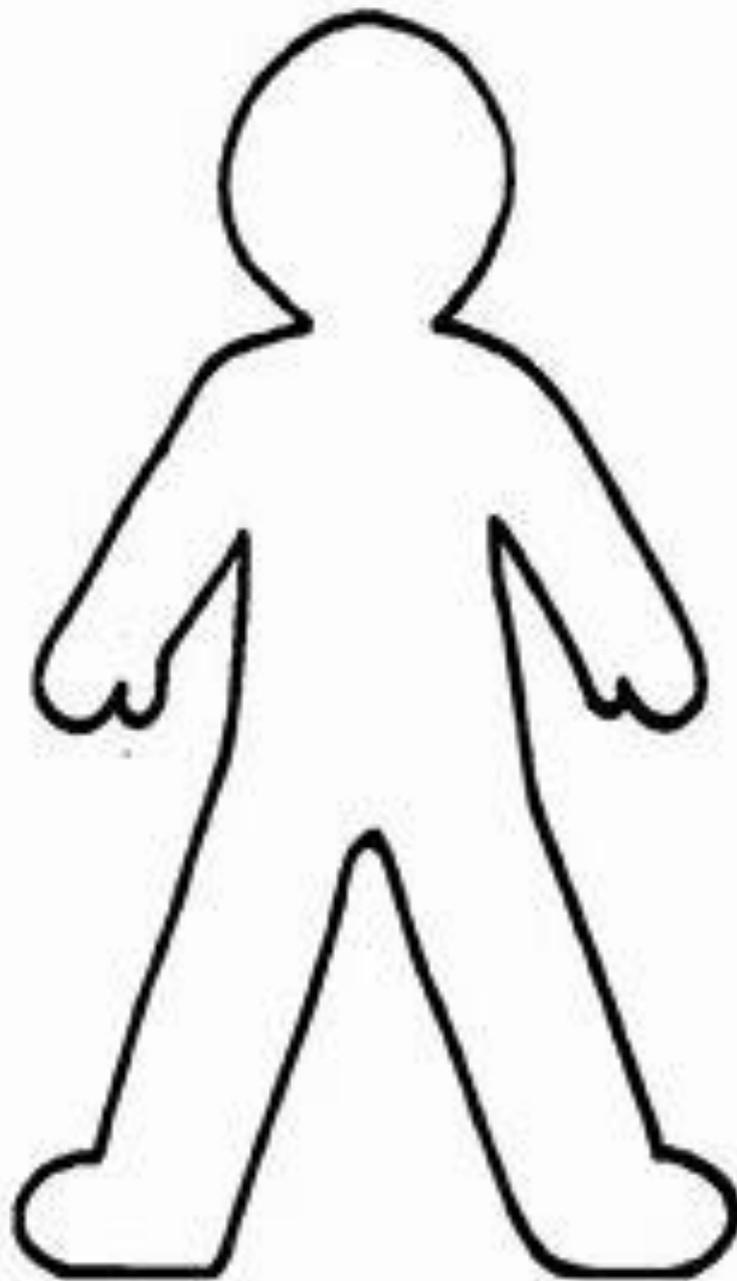
You will need a pencil and colouring pencils/felt tips if you have them.

On the front, decorate your drawing as to how you imagine the character to look.

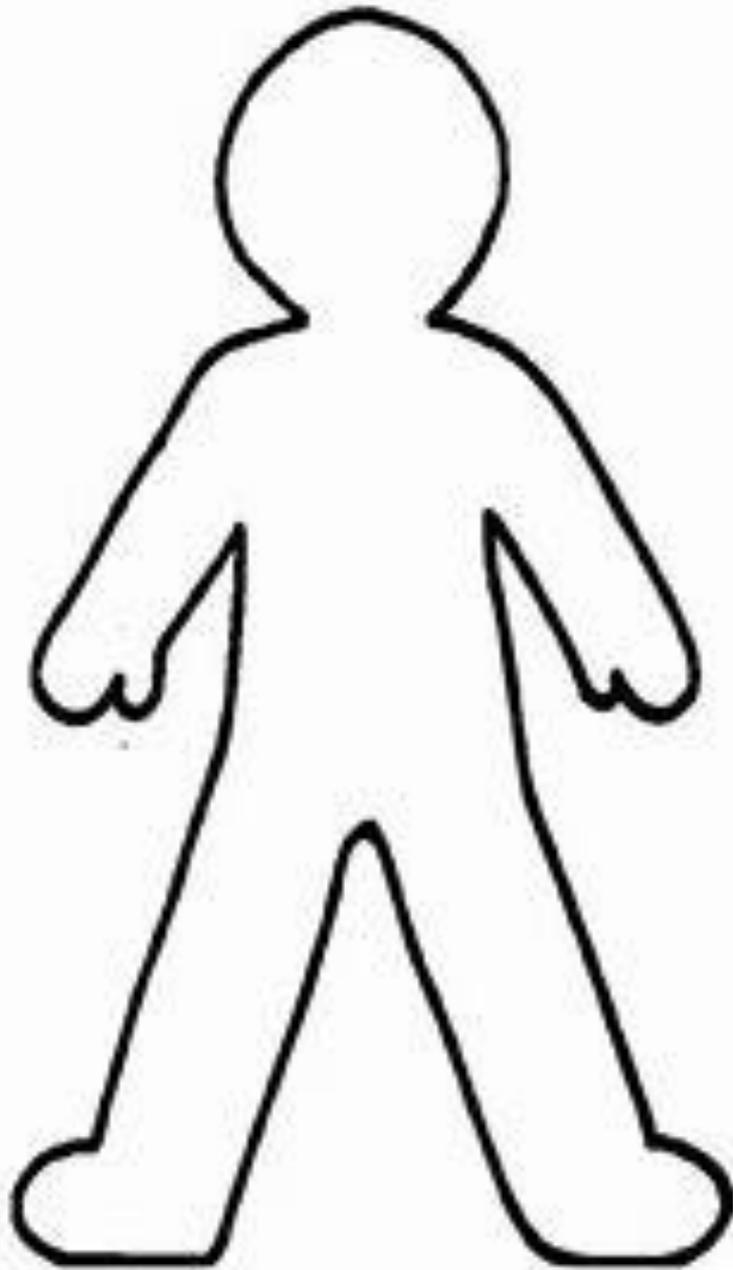
Use speech bubbles to add some of the most important quotations.

Underneath, write a few sentences explaining what that character is like. (Their personality, what they do, how they behave)

*Titania is/ Oberon is...
I know this because...
She/He is ____ because...*

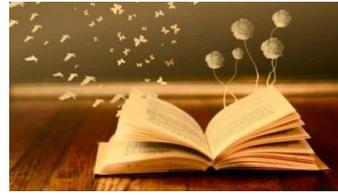
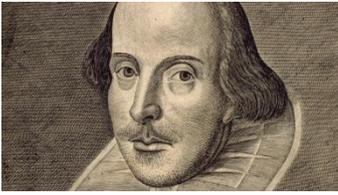


What is this character like?



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What is this character like?



Well done!

Lesson complete!

Well done – you have now completed your first English lesson from Bluecoat Aspley Academy!

We would love to see some of your work when you join us in Year 7, so please keep hold of this booklet and return it to your new English teacher when you join our school. We will be able to reward you with lots of positive points!

Stay safe. We look forward to meeting you!

With best wishes,

The English Department

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A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Learning objectives

By completing this booklet, you have shown that you...

- ✓ ...know what happens in the play and who the main characters are
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