

1.) Strands of the plot of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

1. Theseus and Hippolyta and their Wedding: three scenes: 1.1; 4.; and 5.1.
2. Lysander/Hermia and Demetrius/Helena Quadrangle: six scenes: 1.1; 2.1; 2.2; 3.2; 4.1.1 and 5.1.
3. "Rude Mechanicals"—Peter Quince, Bottom, et al: four scenes: 1.2; 3.1; 4.1; and 5.1.
4. Faeries (Oberon, Titania, et al) and Puck: six scenes: 2.1; 2.2; 3.1; 3.2; 4.1; and 5.1.
5. Pyramus and Thisbe Interlude: one scene: 5.1.

2.) from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 2.1.148-172

OBERON. Thou rememb'rst
Since once I sat upon a promontory,
And heard a mermaid on a dolphin's back 150
Uttering such dulcet and harmonious breath
That the rude sea grew civil at her song,
And certain stars shot madly from their spheres,
To hear the sea-maid's music?
PUCK. I remember.
OBERON. That vey time I saw (but thou couldst not)
Flying between the cold moon and the earth, 155
Cupid all arm'd. A certain aim he took
At a fair vestal throned by the west,
And loos'd his love-shaft smartly from his bow,
As it should pierce a hundred thousand hearts; 160
But I might see young Cupid's fiery shaft
Quench'd in the chaste beams of the wat'ry moon,
And the imperial vot'ress passed on,
In maiden meditation, fancy-free.
Yet mark'd I where the bolt of Cupid fell. 165
It fell upon a little western flower,
Before milk-white, now purple with love's wound,
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 170
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees.
Fetch me this herb, and be thou here again
Ere the leviathan can swim a league.

3.) from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 4.1.205-219

BOTTOM. [*Awaking.*] . . . I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it was. Man is but an ass, if he go about to 'expound this dream. Methought I was—there is no man can tell what. Methought I was, and methought I had—but man is but a patch'd fool, if he will offer to say what methought I had. The eye of man hath not heard, the ear of man hath not seen, man's hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceive, nor his heart to report, what my dream was. I will get Peter Quince to write a ballet of this dream. It shall be call'd "Bottom's Dream," because it hath no bottom; and I will sing it in the latter end of a play, before the Duke. Peradventure, to make it the more gracious, I shall sing it at her death. [*Exit.*]

4.) from St Paul's 1 Cor. 2:9

The eye hath not seen, and the ear hath not heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.



5.) from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 5.1.371 - 438

Enter Puck

PUCK. Now the hungry lion roars,
And the wolf howls the moon;
Whilst the heavy ploughman snores,
All with weary task foredone.
Now the wasted brands do glow, 375
Whilst the screech-owl, screeching loud,
Puts the wretch that lies in woe
In remembrance of a shroud.
Now it is the time of night
That the graves, all gaping wide, 380
Every one lets forth his sprite,
In the church-way paths to glide.
And we fairies, that do run
By the triple Hecat's team
From the presence of the sun,
Following darkness like a dream,
Now are frolic. Not a mouse
Shall disturb this hallowed house.
I am sent with broom before
To sweep the dust behind the door. 390

Enter King and Queen of Fairies
[Oberon and Titania] *with all their Train.*

OBERON. Through the house give glimmering light
By the dead and drowsy fire,
Every elf and fairy sprite
Hop as light as bird from brier,
And this ditty, after me,
Sing, and dance it trippingly.
TITANIA. First rehearse your song by rote,
To each word a warbling note.
Hand in hand, with fairy grace,
Will we sing, and bless this place. 400

[*Song and dance.*]

OBERON. Now, until the break of day,
Through this house each fairy stray.
To the best bride-bed will we,



Which by us shall blessed be;
And the issue, there create,
Ever shall be fortunate.
So shall all the couples three
Ever true in loving be;
And the blots of Nature's hand
Shall not in their issue stand;
Never mole, hare-lip, nor scar,
Nor mark prodigious, such as are
Despised in nativity,
Shall upon their children be.
With this field-dew consecrate, 415
Every fairy take his gait,
And each several chamber bless,
Through this palace, with sweet peace,
And the owner of it blest
Ever shall in safety rest. 420
Trip away; make no stay;
Meet me all by break of day.

Exeunt [Oberon, Titania, and Train].

PUCK. If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended,
That you have but slumb' red here 425
While these visions did appear
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a dream,
Gentles, do not reprehend.
If you pardon, we will mend. 430
And, as I am an honest Puck,
If we have unearned luck
Now to scape the serpent's tongue,
We will make amends ere long;
Else the Puck a liar call. 435
So, good night unto you all.
Give me your hands, if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.

Exit.

