A Midsummer Night's Dream

Theme: Dreams

Answer the following questions to demonstrate your understanding of the content.

1.	Which key theme of the play is mentioned in its title?
2.	Explain what a theme is in a work of literature.
3.	a) What does Hermia dream, before she wakes to find Lysander gone?
	b) What do we call this sort of dream?
4.	Explain the term 'dramatic irony'.
5.	Why is it a form of dramatic irony when Hermia turns to Lysander for help?
6.	Name three characters who feel puzzled and confused by their experiences in the forest.
	a)
	b)
	c)
7.	The forest is a metaphor for the
8.	Explain the term 'metaphor'.

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What does	Theseus claim	that imagination	can do?		
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Themes and Concepts

1. What are the major ideas or themes of this play?

As a starting point, <u>circle</u> the following statements you agree with in regards to the play's ideas and themes:

- a) The play is about the power of love to inspire rebellion in young people.
- b) The play is about the importance of dreams to shape our sense of reality and 'discover' our true selves.
- c) The play is about the difficulty of determining what is real and what is imaginary.
- d) The play is about the proper and appropriate role of parents in determining the love-matches and marriages of their children.
- e) The play is about the confusion of life itself and the fuzzy 'borderlines' of the physical and spiritual worlds.
- f) The play is very simply a play about plays, and the wonderful sense of fun and enjoyment we can derive from the theatre.

theme in the play, building upon one of the sta	graph response in which you argue the main idea o atements above.



Shakespeare: "Love is a burden and cruel joke played upon us by the gods. But a deeply funny burden when played upon the stage. Stop confusing the students! It's about the comedy thou rank, filching, whiteboard-doting, stuffed cloak-bag of guts!"

- Romantic Love -

- 3. Thinking point prior to writing about themes: A Midsummer Night's Dream is a play about the consequences of love. In Shakespeare's play, Hermia and Lysander's mutual attraction and willingness to break the law has consequences of legal, ethical, and practical consideration. Matrimony is commonly celebrated as an important decision in one's life, but what is the *value* of that decision if it is made on our behalf?
 - a) Write TWO paragraphs in which you make an argument in plain and simple language that Hermia is justified in marrying Lysander. What are your reasons for arguing this way?
 - b) Now write TWO paragraphs in which you make an argument in plain and simple language that Egeus is right to insist that Hermia marry Demetrius. What are your reasons for arguing this way?

Dai	nts you might consider include:						
Should the law govern love?How is Egeus presented in most productions of the play? As a thoughtful and caring man, or as a							
	'control-freak'?						
	Should fathers decide whom their daughters marry?						
	Is love and marriage to be celebrated as an act of obedience to our parents, or as an act of adult independence?						
	Is it possible that parents such as Egeus understand better than young people that love quickly fades and cools?						
•	What sustains a long-term marriage? Is it compatibility, finance, and agreeable families?						
•	Does Shakespeare use the absence of Hermia's mother (Egeus' wife) to allude to the idea that Egeus has experienced the same fate as Hermia and knows that romantic love is brief and illusory?						