

Shakespeare Power Hour: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Narration: Theseus tells Hippolyta about how he is excited to marry her.

1. I Woo'd Thee With My Sword

(2) Theseus, Hippolyta (silent)

Theseus: Hippolyta, I woo'd thee with my sword,
And won thy love, doing thee injuries;
But I will wed thee in another key,
With pomp, with triumph and with revelling.

Narration: Hermia's Father is angry that she refuses to marry Demetrius (the man he has picked for her.) Instead she wants to marry Lysander. The Duke tells her she can either choose to obey her father, live as a nun, or die for her disobedience.

2. Either Die The Death Or Live A Barren Sister

(6) Theseus, Hippolyta, Egeus, Hermia, Lysander, Demetrius

Theseus: Good Egeus: what's the news with thee?

Egeus: Full of vexation come I, with complaint
Against my child, my daughter Hermia.
Stand forth, Demetrius. My noble lord,
This man hath my consent to marry her.
Stand forth, Lysander
This man hath bewitch'd the bosom of my child.

Theseus: What say you, Hermia

Hermia: I beseech your Grace that I may know
The worst that may befall me in this case,
If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

Theseus: Either to die the death or to live
A barren sister all your life.

Lysander: Demetrius, I'll avouch it to his head,
Made love to Nedar's daughter, Helena,
And won her soul:

Theseus: I must confess that I have heard so much,
But, Demetrius, come,
And come, Egeus; you shall go with me:
I have some private schooling for you both.

Narration: Lysander and Hermia decide to run away together. They run into Helena, Hermia's best friend who is in love with Demetrius. They tell her of their plans to run away together and wish her luck with Demetrius.

3. We'll Fly This Place (3) Lysander, Helena, Hermia

Lysander: Hear me, Hermia.
Steal forth thy father's house tomorrow night;
And in the wood,
There will I stay for thee.

Hermia: My good Lysander!
Tomorrow truly will I meet with thee.

Enter HELENA

Hermia: God speed fair Helena!

Helena: Call you me fair? That fair again unsay.
Demetrius loves your fair:

Hermia: Take comfort: he no more shall see my face;
Lysander and myself will fly this place.
And in the wood, Lysander and myself shall meet;

Narration: Helena decides to tell Demetrius about Hermia's plan, hoping that he'll chase Hermia into the woods and she can follow him.

4. I Will Go Tell Him Of Hermia's Flight (1) Helena

Helena: Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.
But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;
I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight:
Then to the wood will he, tomorrow night
Pursue her

Narration: The mechanicals meet to begin to rehearse a play for Theseus' wedding day. Peter Quince tries to direct the group, but Bottom wants to play every part.

5. Is All Our Company Here? (5) Quince, Snug, Bottom, Flute, Snout

Quince: Is all our company here?
Marry, our play is 'The most lamentable comedy, and
most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisbe'.
Answer as I call you. Nick Bottom, the weaver.

Bottom: Ready.

Quince: You, Nick Bottom, are set down for Pyramus.

Bottom: What is Pyramus?

Quince: A lover, that kills himself most gallant for love.
Francis Flute, you must take Thisbe on you.

Flute: What is Thisbe?

Quince: It is the lady that Pyramus must love.

Bottom: Let me play Thisbe too.

Quince: No, no, you must play Pyramus; and, Flute, you Thisbe.
and, I hope, here is a play fitted.
Masters, here are your parts;
and I request you to con them by tomorrow night;
and meet me in the palace wood, a mile without the town,
moonlight; there will we rehearse.

Narration: Oberon and Titania (the fairy King and Queen) are fighting over a little boy they each want to raise. Titania refuses to give him up and Oberon gets angry.

6. Give Me That Boy (2) Puck, Oberon, Titania

Puck: The king doth keep his revels here to-night:
Take heed the queen come not within his sight;
For Oberon is passing fell and wrath,
Because that she as her attendant hath
A lovely boy, stol'n from an Indian king--
She never had so sweet a changeling;
And jealous Oberon would have the child.

Oberon: Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

Titania: What, jealous Oberon!
I have forsworn his bed and company.

Oberon: How canst thou thus, for shame, Titania,
Glance at my credit with Hippolyta,
Knowing I know thy love to Theseus?

Titania: These are the forgeries of jealousy:
And never, since the middle summer's spring,
Met we on hill, in dale, forest or mead,
To dance our ringlets to the whistling wind,
But with thy brawls thou hast disturb'd our sport.
We are their parents and original.

Oberon: Why should Titania cross her Oberon?
I do but beg a little changeling boy
To be my henchman.

Titania: His mother was a votress of my order;
But she, being mortal, of that boy did die;
And for her sake I will not part with him.

Oberon: Give me that boy

Titania: Not for thy fairy kingdom.

Narration: Oberon decides to trick Titania into giving him the boy. He instructs Puck to find an enchanted flower that will make anyone fall in love with the next living thing they see.

7. Bring Me That Herb (2) Oberon, Puck

Oberon: My gentle Puck, come hither.
The very time I saw (but thou couldst not)
Flying between the cold moon and the earth,
Cupid all arm'd: a certain aim he took
And loos'd his love-shaft smartly from his bow,
As it should pierce a hundred thousand hearts.
It fell upon a little western flower.
The juice of it on sleeping eye-lids laid,
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees.
Fetch me this herb

Puck: I'll put a girdle round about the earth
In forty minutes.
Exit

Oberon: Having once this juice,
I'll watch Titania when she is asleep,
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes:
The next thing then she waking looks upon
(Be it on lion, bear, or wolf, or bull,
On meddling monkey, or on busy ape)
She shall pursue it with the soul of love.

Narration: Helena has followed Demetrius into the forest, hoping to make him love her. Demetrius is just trying to bring Hermia back. He tells Helena he doesn't love her and to go away. Helena decides to chase him even more.

8. I Love Thee Not, Therefore Pursue Me Not (2) Demetrius, Helena

Demetrius: I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.

Helena: You draw me, you hard-hearted adamant--

Demetrius: Do I entice you?
Or rather do I not in plainest truth
Tell you I do not, nor I cannot love you?

Helena: And even for that do I love you the more.

Demetrius: Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit;
For I am sick when I do look on thee.

Helena: And I am sick when I look not on you.

Demetrius: I will not stay thy questions

Exit DEMETRIUS

Helena: I'll follow thee and make a heaven of hell,
To die upon the hand I love so well.

Narration: Oberon decides to use the flower to make Titania fall in love with someone else so she won't care about the boy anymore. He also saw how cruel Demetrius was to Helena, and instructs Puck to go and find an Athenian man and use the flower's magic on him as well.

9. I'll Streak Her Eyes (2) Theseus, Hippolyta

Oberon: Hast thou the flower there? Welcome, wanderer.

Puck: Ay, there it is.

Oberon: I pray thee, give it me.
I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
There sleeps Titania sometime of the night,
Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight;
And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes,
And make her full of hateful fantasies.
Take thou some of it, and seek through this grove:
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. Thou shalt know the man
By the Athenian garments he hath on.

Puck: Fear not, my lord, your servant shall do so.

Oberon: *(Puts the juice on Titania's eyes)* Wake when some vile thing is near.

Narration: Lysander and Hermia stop to rest. As they are sleeping, Puck happens by and mistakes Lysander for Demetrius. He puts the flower's juice on his eyes by mistake.

1. Lysander Find A Bed (3) Lysander, Hermia, Puck

Lysander: Fair love, you faint with wandering in the wood,
And, to speak truth, I have forgot our way.

Hermia: Be it so, Lysander: find you out a bed,
For I upon this bank will rest my head.

They sleep

Enter PUCK

Puck: Through the forest have I gone.
But Athenian found I none,

This is he my master said
Despised the Athenian maid;
And here the maiden, sleeping sound,

When thou wak'st, let love forbid
Sleep his seat on thy eyelid.
So awake when I am gone;

Narration: Helena finds Lysander in the ground and wakes him to be sure he isn't hurt. Lysander wakes up and because of the flowers magic immediately falls in love with Helena. Helena thinks he's just playing a joke on her and runs away. Lysander follows, leaving Hermia asleep alone.

2. O I Am Out Of Breath In This Fond Chase (2) Helena, Lysander

Helena: O, I am out of breath in this fond chase!
But who is here? Lysander, on the ground?
Dead, or asleep? I see no blood, no wound.
Lysander, if you live, good sir, awake!

Lysander: *[Waking]* And run through fire I will for thy sweet sake!
Where is Demetrius? O, how fit a word
Is that vile name to perish on my sword!

Helena: Do not say so, Lysander, say not so.
What though he love your Hermia?
Yet Hermia still loves you; then be content.

Lysander: Content with Hermia? No.
Not Hermia but Helena I love:

Helena: Wherefore was I to this keen mockery born?
O, that a lady, of one man refused.
Should of another therefore be abused!

Narration: Puck happens upon the group of mechanicals rehearsing and decides to have some fun with them. Bottom exits and while he is off-stage Puck turns his head into a donkeys. Bottom is unaware and enters again, scaring the others and they run away. He thinks the others are just trying to scare him.

3. Bottom, Thou Art Translated (6) Quince, Bottom, Flute, Snug, Snout

Quince: Here's a marvellous convenient place
for our rehearsal.
Come sit down,
every mother's son, and rehearse your parts.
Enter PUCK behind

Puck: What hempen homespuns have we swaggering here,
So near the cradle of the Fairy Queen?
What, a play toward? I'll be an auditor;
An actor too perhaps, if I see cause.

Quince: Speak, Pyramus; Thisbe, stand forth.

Bottom: *So hath thy breath, my dearest Thisbe dear.
But hark, a voice! Stay thou but here awhile,
And by and by I will to thee appear.*

Exit

Puck: A stranger Pyramus than e'er played here.

Exit

Flute: *Most radiant Pyramus, most lily-white of hue,
Of colour like the red rose on triumphant briar,
As true as truest horse that yet would never tire,*

Bottom: *If I were fair, Thisbe, I were only thine.*

Quince: O monstrous! O strange! We are haunted! Pray,
masters! Fly, masters! Help!

Exeunt QUINCE, SNUG, FLUTE, and SNOUT

Exit

Bottom: Why do they run away? this is a knavery of them to
make me afeard.
What do you see? You see an ass-head of your own, do
you?

Re-enter QUINCE

Quince: Bless thee, Bottom, bless thee! Thou art
translated.

Narration: Bottom decides that to pass the time, and to prove that he is not afraid, he will sing a song. Titania sleeping nearby is awakened and the flower's magic makes her fall in love with Bottom.

4. Gentle Mortal Sing Again (2) Theseus, Hippolyta

Bottom: I will walk up
And down here, and I will sing, that they shall hear
I am not afraid.

Sings
The finch, the sparrow and the lark
The plain-song cuckoo gray.

Titania: I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again:
Mine ear is much enamour'd of thy note;

Bottom: Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason
for that.

Titania: Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.

Bottom: Not so, neither; but if I had wit enough to get out
of this wood, I have enough to serve mine own turn.

Titania: Out of this wood do not desire to go:
Thou shalt remain here, whether thou wilt or no.

Narration: Demetrius has finally caught up with Hermia. She believes that he has somehow hurt Lysander because she can't find him. Puck and Oberon observe the two and Puck realizes the he enchanted the wrong person.

5. This Is The Woman, But This Is Not The Man (4) Demetrius, Hermia, Puck, Oberon

Puck: My mistress with a monster is in love.

Oberon: But hast thou yet latch'd the Athenian's eyes
With the love-juice, as I did bid thee do?

Enter HERMIA and DEMETRIUS

Oberon: Stand close: this is the same Athenian.

Puck: This is the woman, but not this the man.

Demetrius: O, why rebuke you him that loves you so?

Hermia: If thou hast slain Lysander in his sleep,
plunge in the deep, and kill me too.

Demetrius: I am not guilty of Lysander's blood;
Nor is he dead, for aught that I can tell.

Narration: Oberon sends Puck to return Lysander to normal, and to enchant Demetrius instead.

6. Lord What Fools These Mortals Be (2) Oberon, Puck

Oberon: What hast thou done? Thou hast mistaken quite,
And laid the love-juice on some true-love's sight;
About the wood go swifter than the wind,
And Helena of Athens look thou find:
By some illusion see thou bring her here:
I'll charm his eyes against she do appear.

Puck: I go, I go, look how I go!

Re-enter PUCK

Puck: Helena is here at hand;
And the youth, mistook by me,
Pleading for a lover's fee.
Lord, what fools these mortals be!

Narration: Demetrius, thanks to the flower has now fallen in love with Helena, and Lysander is still under it's spell too. The four lovers meet in the forest. Hermia tries to fight with Helena for stealing Lysander away, and Helena becomes upset thinking that everyone is making fun of her. She runs away with Hermia chasing after her. The men decide to fight over Helena and run off as well.

7.

(4) Hermia, Helena, Lysander, Demetrius

Lysander: Why should you think that I should woo in scorn?

Helena: These vows are Hermia's: will you give her o'er?

Lysander: Demetrius loves her, and he loves not you.

Demetrius: *[Waking]* O Helena, goddess, nymph, perfect, divine!
To what, my love, shall I compare thine eyne?

Helena: O spite! O hell! I see you all are bent
To set against me for your merriment.
You both are rivals, and love Hermia;
And now both rivals, to mock Helena.

Enter HERMIA

Hermia: Lysander, why didst thou leave me so?

Lysander: Why seek'st thou me? Could not this make thee know,
The hate I bear thee made me leave thee so?

Hermia: You speak not as you think; it cannot be!

Helena: Lo, she is one of this confederacy!
Now I perceive they have conjoin'd all three
To fashion this false sport, in spite of me.

Hermia: I scorn you not; it seems that you scorn me.

Helena: Have you not set Lysander, as in scorn,
To follow me, and praise my eyes and face?
And made your other love, Demetrius,
Who even but now did spurn me with his foot,
To call me goddess, nymph, divine and rare,
Precious, celestial?

Lysander: Stay, gentle Helena; hear my excuse;
Helen, I love thee; by my life, I do:

Hermia: O me! What news, my love?
Am not I Hermia? Are not you Lysander?

Lysander: Be certain, nothing truer; 'tis no jest
That I do hate thee and love Helena.

Hermia: O me! *[to Helena]*!
You thief of love!

Helena: No touch of bashfulness?
Fie, fie! you counterfeit, you puppet, you!

Hermia: 'Puppet'?
And are you grown so high in his esteem
Because I am so dwarfish and so low?
How low am I? I am not yet so low
But that my nails can reach unto thine eyes.

Helena: I pray you, though you mock me, gentlemen,
Let her not hurt me:

Lysander: Be not afraid; she shall not harm thee, Helena.

Demetrius: No sir, she shall not, though you take her part.

Lysander: Now she holds me not;
Now follow, if thou dar'st, to try whose right,
Of thine or mine, is most in Helena.

Demetrius: Follow! Nay, I'll go with thee, cheek by jowl.

Narration: Oberon instructs Puck to make sure Lysander is returned to normal. Each of the lovers gets separated and sleeps. While they are slumbering Puck takes off the enchantment on Lysander and leaves.

8. Here I'll Rest Til Break Of Day (6) Oberon, Puck, Lysander, Demetrius, Helena, Hermia

Oberon: Thou seest these lovers seek a place to fight
Then crush this herb into Lysander's eye;
To take from thence all error with his might,
And make his eyeballs roll with wonted sight.

Exit

Puck: Here comes one.

Lysander: When I come where he calls, then he is gone.
And here will rest me.
Lies down
Come, thou gentle day:
For if but once thou show me thy grey light,
I'll find Demetrius, and revenge this spite.
Sleeps

Demetrius: Thou runn'st before me, shifting every place,
Where art thou now?
Now, go thy way.
I'll measure out my length on this cold bed.

Lies down and sleeps

Re-enter HELENA

Helena: Steal me awhile from mine own company.

Lies down and sleeps

Re-enter HERMIA

Hermia: Here will I rest me till the break of day. [*lies down*]
Heavens shield Lysander, if they mean a fray!

Lies down and sleeps

Puck: *Squeezing the juice on LYSANDER's eyes*

When thou wakest,
Thou takest
True delight
In the sight
Of thy former lady's eye;

Narration: Meanwhile Oberon has obtained the child and lifts the charm off Titania. She awakens and tells Oberon about a strange dream she had where she was in love with a donkey. Puck also returns Bottom to normal.

9. Methought I Was Enamour'd Of An Ass (4) Oberon, Titania, Bottom, Puck

Titania: My Oberon! What visions have I seen!
Methought I was enamour'd of an ass.

Oberon: There lies your love.

Titania: How came these things to pass?
O, how mine eyes do loathe his visage now!

Oberon: Robin, take off his head. [*he does*]
Come my queen, take hands with me.

Narration: In the morning the Duke, Hippolyta, and Egeus find the four lovers in the forest. They wake up and tell about their misadventures. Demetrius says he doesn't want to marry Hermia anymore. Everyone decides that they shall all be wed that evening: the Duke to Hippolyta, Lysander to Hermia, and Demetrius to Helena.

10. My Love Melted As The Snow (7) Theseus, Hippolyta, Egeus, Hermia, Helena, Lysander, Demetrius

Egeus: My lord, this is my daughter here asleep,
And this, Lysander; this Demetrius is,
This Helena, I wonder of their being here together.

Theseus: I pray you all, stand up.
I know you two are rival enemies:
How comes this gentle concord in the world,
To sleep by hate, and fear no enmity?

Lysander: I cannot truly say how I came here;
I came with Hermia hither: our intent
Was to be gone from Athens, where we might,
Without the peril of the Athenian law--

Egeus: Enough, enough, my lord; you have enough:

I beg the law, the law, upon his head!

Demetrius: My lord, fair Helen told me of their stealth,
Of this their purpose hither to this wood;
And I in fury hither follow'd them,
But by some power it is--my love to Hermia,
Melted as the snow.
The object and the pleasure of mine eye,
Is only Helena.

Theseus: Egeus, I will overbear your will;
Away, with us, to Athens: three and three,
We'll hold a feast in great solemnity.
Come, Hippolyta

Narration:

11. Pyramus and Thisbe

(6) Wall, Moonshine, Lion, Pyramus, Thisbe, Theseus

Wall: I, one Snout by name, present a wall;
And such a wall, as I would have you think,
That had in it a crannied hole or chink,
Through which the lovers, Pyramus and Thisbe,
Did whisper often very secretly.

Enter Pyramus

Pyramus: I fear my Thisbe's promise is forgot!
And thou, O wall, O sweet, O lovely wall,
That stand'st between her father's ground and mine!
Show me thy chink, to blink through with mine eyne!

Wall holds up his fingers

Thanks, courteous wall: Jove shield thee well for this!
But what see I? No Thisbe do I see.

Enter Thisbe

Thisbe: O wall, full often hast thou heard my moans,
For parting my fair Pyramus and me!

Pyramus: I see a voice: now will I to the chink,
To spy an I can hear my Thisbe's face. Thisbe!
O kiss me through the hole of this vile wall!

Thisbe: I kiss the wall's hole, not your lips at all.

Pyramus: Wilt thou at Ninny's tomb meet me straightway?

Thisbe: 'Tide life, 'tide death, I come without delay.

Exeunt Pyramus and Thisbe

Wall: Thus have I, Wall, my part discharged so;
And, being done, thus Wall away doth go.

Exit

Enter Lion and Moonshine

Lion: When lion rough in wildest rage doth roar.
Then know that I, one Snug the joiner, am
A lion-fell, nor else no lion's dam;
For, if I should as lion come in strife
Into this place, 'twere pity on my life.

Moonshine: All that I have to say, is, to tell you that the
lantern is the moon; I, the man in the moon; this
thorn-bush, my thorn-bush; and this dog, my dog.

Enter Thisbe

Thisbe This is old Ninny's tomb. Where is my love?

Lion: *[Roaring]* Oh--

Thisbe runs off

*The Lion shakes Thisbe's mantle, and exit
Enter Pyramus*

Pyramus: What dreadful dole is here!
Thy mantle good,
What, stain'd with blood!
Since lion vile hath here deflower'd my dear:
Out, sword, and wound
The pap of Pyramus;
Where heart doth hop:

Stabs himself

Thus die I, thus, thus, thus.
Now am I dead,
Dies

Thisbe: Asleep, my love?
What, dead, my dove?
O Pyramus, arise!
O Sisters Three,
Come, come to me,
Tongue, not a word:
Come, trusty sword;
Come, blade, my breast imbrue:

Stabs herself

And, farewell, friends;
Thus Thisby ends:
Adieu, adieu, adieu.

Dies

Pyramus/Bottom: Will it please you to see the epilogue.

Theseus: No epilogue, I pray you; for your play needs no

excuse.
Sweet friends, to bed.
A fortnight hold we this solemnity,
In nightly revels and new jollity.

Narration: Puck closes the show with the speculation that the audience may have dreamed the whole thing.

12. If We Shaddows Have Offended
(1) Puck

Puck: I am sent with broom before,
 To sweep the dust behind the door.
 If we shadows have offended,
 Think but this, and all is mended,
 That you have but slumbered here,
 While these visions did appear.
 Give me your hands, if we be friends,
 And Robin shall restore amends.