**Sophomore English Final Study Guide**

Name:

Background to know:

1. Why did Shakespeare write A Midsummer Night’s Dream? (hint: it was for an event)
2. What other play was Shakespeare working on the same winter?
3. What connections do we see between A Midsummer and this other play?

Motifs and themes:

Theme is the main idea or message of the work. It is a thought or idea the author presents to the reader. The theme of a work may be profound, difficult to understand, intended to teach a lesson or moral. Usually, readers have to figure out the theme of a specific work as they read it. Theme is important because it helps the reader understand part of the reason why the author wrote the work.

Motif is a reoccuring object or idea in a work. A motif can also be something abstract, such as an emotion or quality like love, bravery or honesty. Motif is easily confused with theme. A theme is the main, overall idea or lesson the author is trying to teach in his book. A motif is a smaller idea that we see come up again and again in the book. A motif can be used to help develop the theme.

1. What are three motifs which come up in the play?
2. Write down three themes of the play using these motifs:



Act I

1. Why has Egeus brought his daughter and her two suitors to Theseus? What does Egeus expect him to do?
2. What is Theseus's ruling concerning Hermia?
3. Even though Helena loves Demetrius and is Hermia's best friend, why does she decide to tell Demetrius of Hermia and Lysander's plans?

Act II

1. What does the reader find out about the current relationship between Oberon, King of the Fairies,  and Titania, Queen of the Fairies, from Puck and the first fairy?
2. What effect has their quarrel had on nature, on the seasons, on humans?
3. What are Oberon's plans for Titania?
4. How does Helena react to Demetrius' abuse?
5. What does Oberon tell Puck to do about Demetrius?
6. Why does Oberon want Titania to wake and fall in love with some vile thing?
7. Why does Hermia insist Lysander sleep a little ways from her?
8. Why does Puck anoint Lysander's eyes instead of Demetrius'?
9. How does Helena react to Lysander's sudden love for her when he awakens?
10. How is Hermia's dream a reflection of reality?

Act III

1. How are the actors going to keep from scaring the ladies when Pyramus kills himself or when the lion roars?
2. How are the actors going to manage the setting/scenery such as the moonlight and the wall?
3. Why do the rest of the actors run off when Bottom reappears?
4. What does Puck plan to do when he follows after the other actors?
5. How does Bottom react to Titania and the other fairies?
6. Bottom says, “…reason and love keep little company together nowadays.” Why is this an apt statement at this point in the play?
7. What dubious act does Hermia accuse Demetrius of doing at the beginning of 3.2?
8. How close had Hermia and Helena been in the past?
9. Of what does Hermia accuse Helena?
10. What are Lysander and Demetrius going off to do?
11. What does Oberon tell Puck to do about the two young men?

Act IV

1. What is Oberon’s reaction to Titania’s infatuation with Bottom?
2. What sort of explanation will Oberon make to Titania’s question about what happened to her? Do you think he will tell her the truth?
3. Why are Theseus, Hippolyta, Egeus, and the others out in the woods so early in the morning?
4. What is Theseus’s first explanation of why the young people are asleep in the woods?  What explanation does Demetrius make
5. What is Theseus’s decision concerning the four young people?
6. Why can’t the young people be sure whether they are awake or dreaming?

ACT V

1. Why does Theseus dismiss the stories of the four young people?
2. Why does Theseus choose to see the play about Pyramus and Thisby rather than the other entertainments?
3. Why does Philostrate try to keep Theseus from seeing the play? What does he say is wrong with it?
4. What does Theseus mean by the lines, “For never anything can be amiss, when simpleness and duty tender it”?
5. What is accomplished by having the Prologue tell the whole story that the actors are then going to enact?
6. How does Shakespeare use the comments from the audience to enhance the humor of the play that they are watching?
7. What is Hippolyta’s reaction to the play?
8. In what way is Thisby’s final speech humorous?
9. What does Oberon tell the fairies to do?
10. What is the purpose of Puck’s final speech?

Characters:

Make a Diagram here of the lovers triangle when they go into the woods (like I did on the board

Make a Diagram here of the lovers triangle when Puck first uses the magic flower “juice”

Make a Diagram here of the lovers triangle when Puck uses the magic flower “juice” for a second time

Make a Diagram here of the lovers triangle when they leave the forest (after use of the antidote) note who does NOT receive the antidote

Many of the characters in A *Midsummer Night’s Dream* have a “mirror” character (Mirror Characters tend to share several qualities and are used to complement and highlight each other’s traits. Common mirror characters embark on parallel plots, sometimes to achieve a single goal, which tests them and highlights their traits in different ways.)

**Using the venn diagram below analyze one set of Mirror Characters below and their complementary and contrasting traits and plot lines**.