

# Year 7 – A Midsummer Night’s Dream– English Knowledge Organiser

## Expectations and content

### What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

- This play is all about fairies getting up to mischief and interfering with the lives of four teenagers. It is one of the most popular of Shakespeare’s plays and a wonderful introduction to his works for students. It allows us to teach students the core elements of an Elizabethan text whilst enjoying a great story!

### Key Vocabulary taught:

- severe
- conflict
- unrequited
- mock
- chaos
- resolve
- resolution

### Key terminology taught:

- quotation
- topic sentence
- analysis
- themes
- character
- monologue
- duologue
- soliloquy
- iambic pentameter

## If your child needs support

### Vocabulary help:

- Use a dictionary to find definitions of the key vocabulary
- Write sentences about the novel using the key vocabulary
- Create a crossword where the answers are the key vocabulary

### Terminology help:

- Create flashcards to help you remember the definitions of the key terminology
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> has resources to support learning of English subject terminology

### General help:

- Create a fact file on the context of Elizabethan England and the Globe theatre
- Watch this BBC Teach video ‘Introducing Shakespeare’:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv7-nnUN5QI&t=1s>
- Watch this short summary of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnu2A5iHROI>
- Have a look at No Fear Shakespeare where you can read the play alongside a modern translation:  
[https://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/shakespeare/msnd/page\\_4/](https://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/shakespeare/msnd/page_4/)

## If your child needs extension

### Questions to discuss with your child:

- Is it right for someone to interfere in another person’s life? Why/Why not?
- Why do you think people believe in creatures such as fairies, ghosts etc?
- Do you believe people can fall in love at first sight, or is it something else (like the juice of a flower)?

### Challenging activities to complete:

- Research the life and work of William Shakespeare
- Find out why the Elizabethans were so interested in fairies
- Design the costumes or make a diorama of the set for ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’

### Suggested further reading:

- **What’s so special about Shakespeare** by **Michael Rosen** is a lively exploration of Shakespeare, his life and why he’s so famous still today
- **King of Shadows** by **Susan Cooper** is a fantastic story where a young actor travels back in time and ends up performing with Shakespeare for Queen Elizabeth
- **Lords and Ladies** by **Terry Pratchett** is an hilarious book in his Disc World series, including spoof elements of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’