

PART 1: THE FOREST WAITS

Home learning resources



If you have one, use your 'Dream Journal' notebook to record your work in this home learning resource. If you don't have one, you could make your own or use paper...

Watch our video to find out more about Athens, where our story begins, and Duke Theseus's nobleman Egeus, who comes to present a problem with his daughter Hermia...

'Home Learning Video 1: The Forest Waits' on our YouTube channel

Make sure you ask permission before using YouTube!

TASK 1: I WONDER...

You will need: your 'Dream Journal' or paper and a *pen or pencil*

Look at the five different objects which are shown in the video.

In your 'Dream Journal' or on paper:

- A. Draw a quick sketch of each one
- B. Around each of your sketches write:
 - What you think it is
 - A brief description of the object using adjectives
 - What you think the object might represent
 - Who the object might belong to
- C. On a separate page, write down how you think the objects might be linked to each other and to the story

Mother and child statue



Heart



Hammer

Pendant



Purple flower



TASK 2: ATHENS

You will need: *an atlas or access to Google maps, your 'Dream Journal' or paper and a pen or pencil*

As Joe and Sue tell us in the video, William Shakespeare's story begins in the city of Athens. You might have heard of it before.

[For a written version of this see page 5]

- A. Using an atlas or Google maps, find out:
- Where Athens is
 - How many miles away is it from London (where Shakespeare lived)
 - How would you get there if you were travelling?
 - How would you get there if you were travelling in Shakespeare's time?

Write your answers in your 'Dream Journal' or draw or stick in a map

- B. Why do you think Shakespeare might have chosen Athens as the setting for this play? After all, he had never been there and it is unlikely that any of his audience had ever been there either.

Write your answers in your 'Dream Journal' or on paper.

TASK 3: THE COURT OF DUKE THESEUS

You will need: *your 'Dream Journal' or paper and a pen or pencil*

Listen to Matt and Peter talk about the Duke of Athens (Duke Theseus) and his court. Remember that the story is set 2500 years ago, in Ancient Greece...

[For a written version of this see page 5]

- A. What do you think the Duke Theseus' court looks like? Is it like a palace or a mansion? Is it on a hill or in a large square? Is it in the middle of Athens or on the edge?

Either write a short paragraph to describe it or draw a sketch and label it.

- B. Who else lives and works there? Guards, attendants, cooks, servants, etc. The Duke is about to get married (in four days) to Hippolyta so the place will be busy with preparations.

Write a list of all the people who might be at the Duke's court either visiting or working – you can just write their jobs or make up names for them if you wish.

TASK 4: THE PROBLEM (EGEUS' COMPLAINT)

You will need: your 'Dream Journal' or paper and a *pen or pencil*

In the video Joe plays the role of Egeus, Sue plays the role of Hermia (his daughter), Peter plays the role of Demetrius and Matt plays the role of Lysander.

Listen to what Egeus says, and answer the following questions:

[For a written version of this see page 5]

- A. How does Egeus feel and what is his problem?
- B. If you were Duke Theseus, what would you say to Egeus? What questions would you ask?

You can write these down in your 'Dream Journal' or on paper as a speech or as a list of bullet points.

In Ancient Greece women had no rights. Girls belonged to their fathers. Theseus tells Hermia: 'To you your father should be as a god'.

How do you feel about this? How do you think it makes Hermia feel? What do you think she will do?

1. Draw an image of Hermia or just an outline to represent Hermia in the middle of a page of your 'Dream Journal'. Divide the space around the picture into four sections and label them:
 - Feelings
 - Hopes
 - Wishes
 - Plans

In each section write from Hermia's point of view:

- What her feelings are at this moment?
- What she hopes will be the outcome?
- What she wishes the future holds?
- What she could do to try and make her wishes come true?

Now listen to Sue explain what happens next in Shakespeare's story.

[For a written version of this see page 6]

TASK 5: STORIES IN FORESTS

You will need: your 'Dream Journal' or paper and some coloured pens or pencils

What stories do you know that either take place in forests or have forests in them? Hansel and Gretel; Little Red Riding Hood; The Gruffalo; The Tin Forest; The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.

- Can you think of others?
- Why do you think authors set their stories in forests?

Listen to what X has tells us about forests.

[For the words to this please see page 5]

In your 'Dream Journal':

- A. Draw the magical forest of Athens – you can do this either by drawing its trees, plants, shrubs, flowers and its creatures or in a more 'abstract' (unrealistic) way just by creating an image of mood and colour.
- B. Imagine you are in this forest:
 - What would you see? (sights)
 - What would you hear? (sounds)
 - What would you smell? (smells)
 - What would you touch? (textures)
 - What would you taste? (tastes)
- C. Create a forest poem:
 - write a short phrase to describe one thing for each of the five senses
 - write each of these on a separate small strip of paper.
 - now lay the five strips of paper down on your table/ desks and put them in the order that you think would sound best if you read it aloud
 - try this out by speaking aloud your phrases in the order you have put them
 - ask someone to listen to them and listen to what they think
 - when you have decided your best order, stick them into your 'Dream Journal' either on top of your forest drawing or on to a new page
 - if you can, record yourself speaking your forest poem out loud and send it to school

WORDS FROM HOME LEARNING VIDEO 1: THE FOREST WAITS

ATHENS

Our story takes us back in time, to a place in southern Europe; to Athens in Greece. What kind of place is Athens? A city! Athens is a hot dry city, and it is also very busy. People come from far away, from all over Greece in fact, to study or trade here. The story takes place in ancient Greece, 2500 years ago so it was very different to Athens today. Buildings could be very basic if you were poor – just mud and wood – but if you were rich your home might be made of stone and be very grand. The ancient Greeks believed that there were many gods and goddesses who watched over everything they did, and there were many different temples, some with stone columns, for all the different gods and goddesses.

THE COURT OF DUKE THESEUS

*We are in the court of a Duke; Duke Theseus, who rules over Athens. A duke is a ruler of a province or a city within a country – not as powerful as a King who rules the whole country but very powerful in his part of the country. His court is not a court of law where people are found guilty or not guilty but a place where the Duke and his family live and where he carries out his duties; it is where people come to visit him to ask advice. *There has just been a banquet and as well as the duke there are lots of important friends and servants around him.**

THE PROBLEM (EGEUS' COMPLAINT)

Egeus Full of vexation come I, with complaint
 Against my daughter Hermia.

Stand forth Demetrius. My noble lord
This man hath my consent to marry her.

Stand forth Lysander. And my gracious duke,
This man hath bewitched the bosom of my child!

And my gracious duke...
I beg the ancient privilege of Athens,
As she is mine, I may dispose of her:
Which shall be either to Demetrius,

**Or to her death, according to our law
Immediately provided in that case.**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

But Hermia and Lysander have a plan. They decide that at night they will escape Athens, to go to Lysander's aunt's house, where they can be together in secret. But Lysander's aunt lives on the other side of a great forest.

Hermia tells her friend Helena what she and Lysander are planning to do. Helena is in love with Demetrius, and hoping that it will make him love her, she tells him what they are planning. And so, on Midsummer's Eve, the four young people head deep into the forest...

FORESTS

Forests are strange places, places, where our human rules don't always apply. This is a forest inhabited by spirits, a forest into which people from Athens come to escape. So now we know where our story is set. We also now that it's called 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Midsummer's eve was a night of mystery and magic, where young people would meet the person they were supposed to marry! forest into which people from Athens come to escape. It was also believed to be when the fairy world was close at hand. People would burn fires to keep the fairy folk away because this was the night when they would cause havoc in the world of humans!

For more like this, visit northwestdramaservices.co.uk/dreamathome