

Year 8 English Unit 2: A Midsummer Night's Dream

A Midsummer Night's Dream	
Expected Outcomes - Learners will understand and be able to explain the plot of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. - Learners will understand that 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is a comedy and be able to explain what makes it a comedy. - Learners will be able to explain how patriarchy is presented in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. - Learners will be able to explain how Puck is introduced in Act 2 and how audiences might respond to Puck and his actions in Acts 2 and 3. - Learners will be able to give and justify their opinion about how happy the ending of 'A Midsummer Nights' Dream' is.	
Developmental Focus Opportunities - Communication, language and literacy: Rehearse scenes and character 'hot seating' to develop expressive language and active listening. Reading and writing opportunities as outlined. - PSED: Reflection on the feelings of characters and relating it to learners' own lives and experiences. - Physical development: Fine motor skills tasks such as visual storyboards or creating props. - Mathematics: Pattern recognition of iambic pentameter in Shakespeare's verse. - Understanding the world: Explore, discuss and give opinions on the themes of patriarchy and power. Discuss how this relates to learners, their lives and the different situations they face now (and in the future). - Expressive arts and design: Act out scenes and design visual / artistic representations of characters and settings.	
Key Learning Points	Powerful Knowledge
- I can explain the plot of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. - I can explain how I know that 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is a comedy. - I can explain how patriarchy is presented in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. - I can explain how Puck is introduced in Act 2 of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and common Elizabethan beliefs about his character. - I can explain how the character of Puck is presented and how audiences might respond to him, focusing on his actions in Acts 2 and 3 of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.	Learners will understand the plot of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and the features of a comedy play. They will develop their cultural capital through exposure to a Shakespeare play. Learners will understand and explore the theme of patriarchy and analyse the character of Puck, giving and justifying their opinions about the play.

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- I can explain how happy the ending of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is.	
Subject-Specific Vocabulary	Reading Opportunities
Midsummer Theme Act Shakespearian comedy Plot Comedy Patriarchy Dialogue Quotation Analysis Genre Slapstick humour First Folio Character Malevolent Foreshadow Elizabethan Folklore A puck Iambic pentameter	Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'
Possible Misconceptions	Cross-Curricular Links
Learners may think that all Shakespeare plays are serious and never comedies. Learners may expect a comedy to have overt humour like in modern media.	History – Elizabethan England PSHE – Patriarchy and sexism

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Learners may think that there is only one 'correct' interpretation of a character.

Some learners may assume that the theme of patriarchy is outdated, missing the resonance with contemporary gender dynamics.

Without grounding in Elizabethan beliefs, Puck and other magical elements might be seen as childish fantasy rather than symbolic forces tied to folklore or social control.

Learners may judge characters by today's standards, struggling to understand the context behind arranged marriages, obedience, or gender roles in Shakespeare's time.