

## ESSAY TOPICS for *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"*

Choose ONE of the topics below to write a 5-paragraph, formal, argumentative essay. This essay will include the following format: introduction, 3 body paragraphs, conclusion. It will have the following elements: thesis statement, topic sentences, concluding sentences/transitions, title, proof from the text (direct quotations).

We will write it using the following steps: brainstorm topic, brainstorm arguments with quotations (then choose best 3), make thesis statement, create an outline, begin body paragraphs, write intro and conclusion. We will continue with the "Steps to Effective Writing", which involve peer and self revising/editing. One draft will be made, then a final good copy (TYPED) will be written. All work will be submitted in your Portfolio duotang. (REFER TO PLAN for specific steps and due dates)

**This essay should be BOLD and ARGUABLE.**

**Do not be afraid to offend or cause a debate!!**

**Just make sure you have proof from the text to support your statements.**

1. LOVE is...  
(narrow down to a specific idea, such as unfair, Love is True, Love is Blind, everyone needs love)
2. Love is portrayed in many different ways in the play. (List 3 ways)
3. There are many different TYPES of love in the play. (List 3)...forced love, romantic love, parental love, friendship love...
4. The characters in the play will do anything for love. (List 3)
5. The characters are VICTIMS to love. (love is identified as a concrete object here, who bullies)  
Give 3 examples.
6. Argue FOR or AGAINST Lysander's quotation, "The course of true love never did run smooth".  
(Give 3 arguments to support your statement)
7. The love portrayed among the four lovers is similar to love among teens today (the times have remained unchanged). ex: same problems (give 3 examples)
8. Hermia was treated unfairly by her father and the "Athenian Law". (explain the unfairness of each of the 3 choices)
9. Oberon is the root behind all of the problems in the play. (give 3 reasons why)
10. Puck is the root behind all of the problems in the play. (give 3 reasons why)
11. \_\_\_\_\_ (character) is... (give 3 characteristics of a character and explain how/why they are true).
  - ex: Helena puts all women to shame ... she is desperate, insecure, and a liar.
  - ex: Theseus is a great ruler.

CONSIDER BOLD STATEMENTS...don't bore us with plain ones.

12. Hermia and Lysander will have a prosperous marriage. (give 3 reasons why)
13. Comment on the use of the word “ass” in the play (give 3 uses and describe their significance)
14. Comment on the use of the word “dream” in the play (give 3 uses and describe their significance)
15. Comment on Shakespeare’s use of magic in the play (give 3 uses and describe their significance)  
ex: Shakespeare uses magic to create conflict, establish an atmosphere, etc.
16. Egeus needs to “get with the times”...he needs to set his old-fashioned ways behind him  
OR Egeus is a horrible father. (give 3 reasons why)
17. Comment on Hippolyta’s love for Theseus... is it true or is she faking it?? (give 3 reasons why)
18. Comment on the love between any two of the couples.
19. Oberon and Titania are not suited for marriage.
20. There is confusion of the difference between what’s a dream and what’s reality in the play.  
(think of the character’s perspective)
21. The significance of the Indian boy in the play.
22. The foolishness of the characters in the play. Puck states, "What fools these mortals be" (3.2.115). The lovers and fairies are foolish. Explain.
23. Discuss the change in Theseus. How he evolved from stern to understanding (consider how he dealt with Hermia and her desire to be with Lysander, in the beginning and the end of the play).
24. Compare the movie version to the play (the 1999 movie version directed by Michael Hoffman).  
State the changes/differences and determine which was better.
25. Discuss the relation of the quotation “love is blind” to this play.
26. Discuss Shakespeare’s use of comedy in the play.
27. Discuss the similarities/differences Lysander and Demetrius...and determine which is the better of the two.
28. Discuss the similarities/differences Hermia and Lysander...and determine which is the better of the two.
29. Discuss the similarities/differences Theseus and Oberon (as rulers)...and determine which is the better ruler of the two.
30. Love conquers all.
31. The power of the potions (flower and/or herb).
32. Outline the passion of characters.... for love, for revenge, etc. (either choose 3 characters, or identify 3 passionate things about 1 character)