Plot Summary

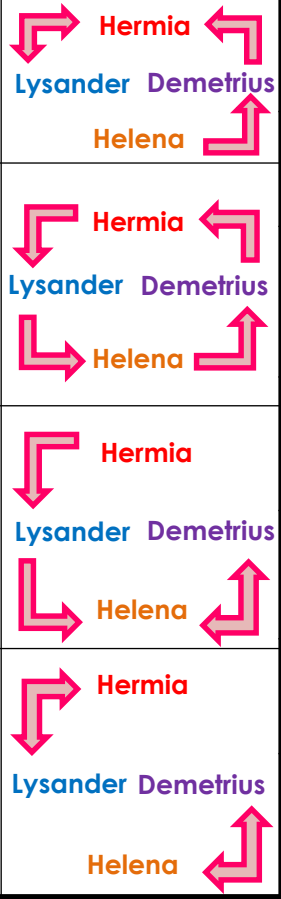
Act 1: **Hermia** and **Lysander** love each other but are not allowed to marry so decide to run away to the forest to get married in secret. **Demetrius** wants to marry **Hermia**. **Helena** loves **Demetrius**. They follow **Hermia** and **Lysander** into the forest.

Act 2: In the forest, Oberon and Titania are arguing. Oberon sees **Demetrius** and **Helena** arguing and commands Puck to use the potion on the Athenian man to make him fall in love with **Helena**. However, the first Athenian man Puck sees is **Lysander**, so he puts the love potion on him. **Lysander** falls madly in love with **Helena**.

Act 3: Puck sees Bottom in the forest and transformed his head into a donkey's head. He puts the love potion on Titania, who falls in love with Bottom. Puck puts the love potion on **Demetrius** so that he falls in love with **Helena**. As a result, both men love **Helena** so there is chaos. Puck eventually drops a herb in **Lysander's** eyes to put him back to normal.

Acts 4 and 5: Oberon finds Titania and Bottom and decides that he has had enough fun. Puck drops a herb in her eyes, she wakes and leaves with Oberon. The lovers return to Athens where Bottom and the other actors perform their play at the wedding of the three happy couples: Theseus and Hippolyta, **Lysander** and **Hermia** and **Demetrius** and **Helena**.

Who loves Whom



Characters

Theseus
The duke of Athens. He is a strong and strict ruler of the city.

Hippolyta
Theseus's bride. She was a fearless warrior.

Egeus
Hermia's stubborn father who wants her to marry Demetrius or be put to death.

Hermia
Egeus's daughter who is in love with Lysander.

Lysander
He is in love with Hermia and runs away to the forest with her.

Demetrius
He wants to marry Hermia and is disgusted by Helena's love for him.

Helena
Hermia's friend who is desperately in love with Demetrius.

Oberon
The king of the fairies who controls the love potion.

Titania
The fierce queen of the fairies who falls in love with Bottom when the love potion is put on her.

Bottom
A weaver and actor who has his head turned into a donkey. Titania falls in love with him when she is under the love potion's influence.

Puck
Oberon's mischievous servant who puts the potion on people's eyes.

The Love Potion

The love potion is made from a flower in the forest. The flower is magical because Cupid hit it with his arrow when he was aiming at a young girl. When the potion is put on characters' eyes, they fall in love with the first person they see. It is very powerful.

Background Information

Shakespeare went to a grammar school where he was taught Ancient Greek.

The play is set in Ancient Greece and follows the rules of a comedy from Ancient Greece.

When the play was written, Elizabeth 1st was Queen. She decided not to get married which many people disagreed with.

Many Elizabethans believed in and feared magic.

Cupid is the ancient god of love. He is usually presented as a baby whose arrows make people fall in love.

Key words

soliloquy - a speech in a play that the character speaks to himself or herself or to the audience, rather than to the other characters

severe – very strict or harsh

conflict – a serious disagreement, battle or struggle between two sides or ideas.

unrequited love – If a person loves someone who doesn't love them back, the person's love is unrequited

to mock – To mock someone is to make fun of them

chaos – a situation where there is no order and everyone is confused

to resolve – to solve a problem or difficulty

'A Midsummer Night's Dream': Knowledge Organiser