

TeachingEnglish lesson

A Midsummer Night's Dream in Pictures

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Lead-in: Ask and answer questions about 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' using the words in the box.

woods marry donkey potion
Titania mistake Puck fall in
love a play quarrel

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Task 1: Look at the painting.

Which moment of the play does it represent?



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Task 1: Look at the painting.

It is 'The Quarrel of Oberon and Titania' (1850) by Joseph Noel Paton.

What do you think about the painting?



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Task 1: Look at the painting.

Which moment of the play does it represent?



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Task 1: Look at the painting.

It is 'Titania and Bottom' (1790) by Henry Fuseli.

What do you think about the painting?



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Task 1: Look at the painting.

Which moment of the play does it represent?



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Task 1: Look at the painting.

It is 'The Reconciliation of Oberon and Titania' (1847) by Joseph Noel Paton.

What do you think about the painting?



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Task 2A: Read the first four lines of the dialogue from Act IV Scene I.

TITANIA

Come, sit thee down upon this flowery bed,
While I thy amiable cheeks do coy,
And stick musk-roses in thy sleek smooth head,
And kiss thy fair large ears, my gentle joy.

Match it to one of the paintings.



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Task 2B: Read the rest of the dialogue.

1. Who are Peaseblossom, Cobweb and Mustardseed?
2. What does Bottom ask them to do?

BOTTOM

Where's Peaseblossom? Scratch my head Peaseblossom.
Where's Mounsieur Cobweb?

COBWEB

Ready.

BOTTOM

Mounsieur Cobweb, good mounsieur, get you your weapons in your hand, and kill me a red-hipped humble-bee on the top of a thistle; and, good mounsieur, bring me the honey-bag. Where's Mounsieur Mustardseed?

MUSTARDSEED

Ready.
What's your Will?

BOTTOM

Nothing, good mounsieur, but to help Cavalery Cobweb to scratch. I must to the barber's, monsieur; for methinks I am marvellous hairy about the face; and I am such a tender ass, if my hair do but tickle me, I must scratch.

TITANIA

What, wilt thou hear some music,
my sweet love?

Sleep thou, and I will wind thee in my arms.
Fairies, begone, and be all ways away.

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Task 2C: Look at the painting.

1. Find some of the characters from the dialogue in the painting.
2. Describe some of the characters in the painting.
3. Find something in the painting which symbolizes the triumph of youth over old age.



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Task 3: Complete the description of the painting with words and phrases from the box.

beside

In the foreground

In the centre

To his right

a symbol of

(1) _____ of the painting, Bottom is sitting on the ground. We can see he has the body of a man and the head of a donkey. Titania is (2) _____ him. She is calling upon her fairies to look after Bottom and get him everything he needs. One fairy scratches Bottom's head; Mustardseed perches on his hand and Cobweb has killed a bee and is bringing him the honey-bag. (3) _____, a young woman offers him a basket of dried peas. (4) _____, a young woman is leading a small doll-like creature by a string. She is (5) _____ the triumph of youth over old age.



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Task 4: Look at
'The Quarrel of
Oberon and
Titania' (1850)
by Joseph
Noel Paton.

Describe some
characters in
the painting.
Can others
guess?



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Task 4: Look at
'The
Reconciliation
of Oberon and
Titania' (1847)
by Joseph Noel
Paton.

Describe some
characters in
the painting.
Can others
guess?



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Thanks for attending the lesson