



# A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

STAGE 2  
A2  
YOUNG ADULT READERS

### ACTIVITIES

#### 1 Read this description of Bottom and then answer the questions.

At the start of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Bottom is with his friends. They are talking about a play they are going to put on on the duke's wedding day.

Bottom will be Pyramus, who kills himself. Bottom is happy to play Pyramus, but also wants to play Thisbe and the lion!

Bottom is worried about the play because it is violent and there's a lion. He says the ladies in the audience will be afraid. He is also worried because the play needs a full moon and he doesn't know if there will be a full moon on the night of the play.

Puck sees Bottom acting and thinks it is terrible. He puts a donkey's head on to Bottom. But Bottom does not understand he is now a talking donkey

- 1 When will Bottom and his friends put on the play?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Why is Bottom not happy about being Pyramus?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What does Bottom say about the ladies in the audience?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 What other thing is Bottom worried about?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 What does Puck think about the acting?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 What does Puck do to Bottom?  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 On the day of the duke's wedding; 2 He also wants to play Thisbe and the lion; 3 He thinks they will be afraid because the play is violent and there is a lion; 4 The play needs a full moon, but he doesn't know if the moon will be full on the duke's wedding day (when they are putting on the play); 5 He thinks it is terrible; 6 He gives Bottom a donkey's head.



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### TEST YOURSELF

#### 2 Who says this?

Bottom - Oberon - Puck - Titania

- 1 ..... Thank you for stroking my ears.
- 2 ..... Sleep here, sleep now. I'll look after you my love!  
Then when the fairies come back we'll eat and sing.
- 3 ..... Well, sprite. Look at Titania. I was angry with her. You were right. She fell in love with a donkey. But now it's time: it's time to make everything better. Wake up, my fairy queen.  
Titania, wake up.
- 4 ..... Oh Oberon. I had a terrible dream. It was awful. I dream that... I dreamt that I was in love with a donkey.
- 5 ..... There's your donkey, asleep.
- 6 ..... What happened? I don't understand.
- 7 ..... Shh. Don't worry. Puck help this poor man.
- 8 ..... When you wake up; You will be... Bottom!



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### TEST YOURSELF

## KEY (KET) – Speaking

Work in pairs. Here is some information about a play that you can watch at a cinema. Use the words below to make questions about the information.

The National Theatre, London and the Local Cinema Group

present a new play by Joanna Wilson  
A Song for a Summer Dream

Watch at the National Theatre or at a cinema near you!

21<sup>st</sup> June

Tickets £15- £25

To find your nearest cinema go to [www.cinemafinder.co.uk](http://www.cinemafinder.co.uk)  
or call 05564 43215

- where / see / play?
- what / play?
- date?
- information?
- cost of ticket?



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FOCUS ON...

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# PURITANISM

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Puritanism is a religious reform movement developed in the late 16th and 17th centuries with the aim to “purify” the Church of England from the Roman Catholic “popery”; the Puritans sustained that it had been retained after the religious settlement reached in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Puritans are known for their spirit of moral and religious intensity, and they sought through church reform to make their lifestyle the model for the whole nation. The civil war in England and the founding of colonies in America became possible through the working models of the Puritan way of life.

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