

Group Work on *Midsummer Nights Dream*

Agenda for Tuesday (Feb. 12):

Divide into groups of 4: (40 minutes)-- The Theseus Journal and Seed Paper Discussions

1. Theseus' speech (30 minutes)
 - A. Paraphrase the speech
 - B. State a question the play explores and what this speech contributes to that exploration
 - C. Identify associations/connotation of words, images and what these contribute.
 - D. How does the play as a whole support and contradict what Theseus says in this speech
2. Ideas about seed paper questions if there is time. (10 minutes)

2 groups combine for a performance of the artisan's play in Act V (pp. 854-8) (about 6 or 7 people)

Performers: There are 8 roles, if some parts are doubled (10 if not): Quince/Hippolyta, Snout/Snug, Demetrius, Lysander, Theseus, Bottom, Flute, and Starveling. (Lysander and Demetrius can be doubled if necessary)

(Starting p. 852, l.56, with Lysander's speech, would add Egeus, who can double with Starveling.) Egeus or Hippolyta would be a good choice for director. Assign roles and walk through it, deciding where people should stand in relation to each other and what they should do (stage business): Blocking, stage business and actor's gestures, how to say lines.

How, for instance, will you do the chink in the wall? How will you do the gesture of "kissing the stones"? Will Flute speak in a falsetto?

The idea is to get the effect of seeing how funny it looks as well as hearing the funny lines and getting a sense of what makes them funny! Consider, as you plan where to stand, what to do, and how to say the lines,

1. what makes your lines funny and how to say them to bring that out
2. the responses of men vs. women
3. the nature of imagination and "reality"
4. the relation of an audience to the play and actors (aud. on stage and us to Shakespeare's play!)
5. what makes a play "true" in some sense