

Mrs. McDonald – English 11 – E-Learning Assignment

A *Midsummer Night's Dream* -Socratic Seminar Questions - 25 points - answers are due with E-Learning (Discussion points will be 75 points for a total of 100 points)

Answer the following questions and be prepared to discuss them on our Socratic Seminar day: Wednesday, February 17th or Thursday, February 18th.

FOR E-LEARNING DAY CREDIT, YOU MUST SUBMIT EITHER A TYPED COPY OF YOUR QUESTIONS OR A PHOTO OF YOUR HANDWRITTEN ANSWERS ON YOUR OWN PAPER ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM.

Answers are worth 25 points. You must make up the other 75 with your discussion. Here's how:

+1 for a valid answer to the question	+1 additional point if your valid answer includes textual evidence	+1 additional point if your valid answer includes a personal or real world connection
-1 for every interruption, distraction, dominating the conversation (not letting others answer, talking too long, etc.)		

1. Why do you think Shakespeare took mythological and folklore tales and put them all in the same world? Does this seem to work? Why?
2. What do you think are Oberon's intentions of the cruelty of making Titania falling in love with Bottom with the Ass's head? Does he win the battle? Why or Why not? Do you think Titania completely loses control when under the spell? Would you say that she wins or loses the battle with Oberon?
3. What is the significance of the changeling boy? Do you think he should be onstage or just mentioned as a symbol of their discontent for one another? Is Shakespeare possibly making a political statement with the use of the Indian Changeling boy?
4. How do you see Hippolyta? What kind of women does she represent?
5. How do you see Theseus? What kind of man does he represent?
6. How many different stories are interwoven to make up the plot of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"? What effect does the criss-crossing of plot lines have on the play as a whole?
7. Who are your favorite characters? Which one do you identify with most? Which one would you most like to perform if you were cast in the play?
8. Describe the scenery and costumes for the production? Is that how you imaged this play when you planned to come see it? What other ways might it be designed?
9. In the play there are many transformations. Describe some of them.
10. Could you understand the spoken language of the play? Was that true for all of the play, or just parts of the play? What contributed to your ability to comprehend the language, or not?
11. Describe the fairies and the Fairy World in the production. How were they depicted? What signals did the production provide that told you when someone was a fairy? When did you see the fairies show up in the production? Did that surprise you? Confuse you? Discuss the importance of the fairies in the production.
12. Is the play a comedy? Were there serious themes being discussed?
13. How should we think about Bottom's experience, before, during, and after his night in the woods? Is he the same person at the end of the play as he is at the beginning? Why or why not? Do other characters change as a result of their travels through the play. Who does change? Who does not?
14. What comments is Shakespeare making about love? Do you believe he was a hopeless romantic (happy ending for all) or a cynical pessimist (the happy ending was due to a drug-forced love) who believed true love didn't really exist?