SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - A Midsummer Night's Dream

Act I
1. What are Theseus and Hippolyta discussing at the play's start?
2. How does Hippolyta come to be betrothed to Theseus?
3. Why is Egeus disturbed?
4. What will be Hermia's fate if she refuses to marry Demetrius?
5. To what do Lysander and Hermia agree?
6. What hope does Helena have by telling Demetrius of Lysander and Hermia's flight?
7. Who are the characters in scene two, and what do they plan?

Act II
1. Why is Oberon angry with his queen?
2. On what mission does Oberon send Puck?
3. Upon overhearing Demetrius and Helena, what does Oberon command Puck to do?
4. Upon whose eyes does Puck apply the potion?
5. When he wakes up, who does Lysander see and love?
6. What is Helena's reaction to Lysander's words of love?
7. To where has Lysander disappeared when Hermia awakes?

Act III
1. Why does Bottom want a prologue written for the play?
2. What has Puck done to Bottom?
3. Identify the speaker: "Tie up my love's tongue, bring him silently."
4. What news does Puck bring Oberon?
5. Why does Oberon send Puck to fetch Helena?
6. What is Helena's situation at this point in the play?
7. What does Helena suppose of Hermia?
8. What does Hermia think Helena has done?
9. Why does Oberon send Puck to confuse the two young men?
10. What remedy corrects the crossed-loved couples?

Act IV
1. Why does Titania give Oberon the child?
2. How does Oberon find Titania and Bottom?
3. Why does Oberon remove the spell he has cast over his queen?
4. Finding the two couples asleep in the wood and learning of their more balanced love, what order does Theseus give?
5. What news does Bottom bring his companions?
Act V
1. Why do you think Shakespeare included a play within a play?
2. What do the fairies do after the palace goes to sleep?
3. Who does Puck address at the play's end?
4. What is the purpose of this last speech?

Answers:

Act I
1. What are Theseus and Hippolyta discussing at the play's start?
They are discussing their wedding which is supposed to take place in four days' time.
2. How does Hippolyta come to be betrothed to Theseus?
He has defeated her in battle and won her hand in marriage as a peace settlement or perhaps as the spoils of victory.
3. Why is Egeus disturbed?
He wants his daughter, Hermia, to marry Demetrius, but she loves and desires to marry Lysander.
4. What will be Hermia's fate if she refuses to marry Demetrius?
She may choose to die or to live as a cloistered nun.
5. To what do Lysander and Hermia agree?
They agree to meet on the next night in a wood a league from Athens and from there to make their way to the remote home of Lysander's aunt where they can be married and safe from Athen's cruel punishment and separation.
6. What hope does Helena have by telling Demetrius of Lysander and Hermia's flight?
She anticipates the sweet pain of following him to and from the appointed wood while he pursues Hermia.
7. Who are the characters in scene two, and what do they plan?
They are six craftsmen of Athens who plan to perform the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisby as an entertainment to honor the duke's wedding day.

Act II
1. Why is Oberon angry with his queen?
She keeps a young boy as her attendant, and Oberon wants the young boy for himself. She refuses to share the lovely child with him.
2. On what mission does Oberon send Puck?
Oberon sends Puck to find a flower that has been struck by Cupid's arrow so that he may anoint the sleeping Titania, causing her to blindly love the first creature she sees upon awaking.
3. Upon overhearing Demetrius and Helena, what does Oberon command Puck to do?
He tells Puck to find the Athenian couple and anoint the youth's eyes as he sleeps so that upon
waking he will see the maid and love her.
4. Upon whose eyes does Puck apply the potion?
   He does Lysander's eyes by mistake.
5. When he wakes up, who does Lysander see and love?
   He sees Helena.
6. What is Helena's reaction to Lysander's words of love?
   She thinks he is cruelly teasing her.
7. To where has Lysander disappeared when Hermia awakes?
   He has gone to follow Helena, whom he now loves.

Act III
1. Why does Bottom want a prologue written for the play?
   He wants one written so that his character can read it to the audience, assuring them that no harm will come to the actors either by sword or by lion. He thinks the ladies will go into a swoon or else panic.
2. What has Puck done to Bottom?
   He has changed his head into that of an ass.
3. Identify the speaker: "Tie up my love's tongue, bring him silently."
   Titania was instructing her fairies to bring Bottom to her bower.
4. What news does Puck bring Oberon?
   He tells Oberon that Titania is in love with a monster, an ass; and that he has successfully dosed the Athenian's eyes.
5. Why does Oberon send Puck to fetch Helena?
   He realizes that another Athenian youth was dosed by Puck by mistake and that now a maid has lost her true love (Lysander) and the intended youth (Demetrius) is still repulsing Helena. While Puck is away, Oberon charms Demetrius to love Helena when he sees her again.
6. What is Helena's situation at this point in the play?
   She is now loved by both Lysander and Demetrius and she believes that they have conspired to play a cruel prank on her.
7. What does Helena suppose of Hermia?
   She thinks that Hermia has joined in the malicious prank with Lysander and Demetrius.
8. What does Hermia think Helena has done?
   She thinks that out of jealousy she has made known her taller height and therefore her greater value of the two maids.
9. Why does Oberon send Puck to confuse the two young men?
   They are going to fight over Helena, so Oberon has Puck make the night darken and cloudy and use his voice to lead them away from each other and to sleep.
10. What remedy corrects the crossed-loved couples?
    Puck drips the potion on Lysander's eyes so he will love his former sweetheart, Hermia. He leaves Demetrius loving Helena.

Act IV
1. Why does Titania give Oberon the child?
   She cares for him no longer now that she has Bottom on whom to dote.
2. How does Oberon find Titania and Bottom? They are asleep in each other's arms.  
3. Why does Oberon remove the spell he has cast over his queen? He has the boy and now he pities his queen her silly new love-pet. He wants her back to her true self.  
4. Finding the two couples asleep in the wood and learning of their more balanced love, what order does Theseus give? He orders that they should follow him and Hippolyta to be married with them at the temple.  
5. What news does Bottom bring his companions? He says that their play has been chosen by the duke as an entertainment. They must now get ready and meet at the palace.

Act V  
1. Why do you think Shakespeare included a play within a play? The story of Pyramus and Thisby is an ancient tale well known to the audiences in Shakespeare's time. The audience of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* could join in with the jests and comments.  
2. What do the fairies do after the palace goes to sleep? Oberon sends them off throughout the house to sing and dance and bless the new lovers on their wedding night.  
3. Who does Puck address at the play's end? He talks to the audience.  
4. What is the purpose of this last speech? It closes the play and thanks the audience, asking that they enjoy or else pardon a frivolous entertainment.

MULTIPLE CHOICE STUDY GUIDE/QUIZ QUESTIONS - *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 

Act I  
1. What are Theseus and Hippolyta discussing at the play's start?  
   A. They are planning a party for the King.  
   B. They are discussing their wedding, which is supposed to take place in four days' time.  
   C. They are debating politics.  
   D. They are discussing the relative merits of the different gods.  
2. How does Hippolyta come to be betrothed to Theseus?  
   A. He has defeated her in battle and won her hand in marriage as a peace settlement or perhaps as the spoils of victory.  
   B. Their fathers made an agreement at their births that they would marry.  
   C. Theseus kidnapped her as revenge against her father.  
   D. They had both received messages from Aphrodite, saying that they should wed.  
3. Why is Egeus disturbed?  
   A. He thinks he is paying too much in dowry offerings.  
   B. He wanted to be named assistant to Theseus.  
   C. His wife is angry and is threatening to leave him.
D. He wants his daughter, Hermia, to marry Demetrius, but she loves and desires to marry Lysander.

4. What will be Hermia's fate if she refuses to marry Demetrius?
A. She will become a servant in her father's house.
B. She will be banished to the wilderness.
C. She will have to choose to die or live as a cloistered nun.
D. She will be blinded and driven off to live as a beggar.

5. To what do Lysander and Hermia agree?
A. They will meet on the next night in the woods and escape to Lysander's aunt's house to be married.
B. She will do as her father asks, but poison Demetrius soon after the marriage. Then she will marry Lysander.
C. They will stand together and defy her father.
D. They will go to the temple, make offerings to the gods, and ask for their help.

6. What hope does Helena have by telling Demetrius of Lysander and Hermia's flight?
A. She is jealous and wants to get Hermia in as much trouble as possible.
B. She anticipates the sweet pain of following him to and from the appointed wood while he pursues Hermia.
C. She expects a monetary reward from Egeus for stopping Hermia.
D. She wants Lysander to marry her instead.

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7. Who are the characters in scene two, and what do they plan?
A. They are wedding guests, planning what to wear and where to sit.
B. They are the bride's friends, planning what kind of gifts to give her.
C. They are thieves, planning to rob everyone at the wedding.
D. They are six craftsmen of Athens who plan to perform the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisby as an entertainment to honor the duke's wedding day.

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Act II

8. Why is Oberon angry with his queen?
A. She keeps a young boy as her attendant, and Oberon wants the boy for himself. She refuses to share the child.
B. She has much more money than he does, and will not give him the sum he wants to have available to use for his own entertainment.
C. She has a book of spells that he wants to use, but she won't let him use it.
D. She has recently put two of his companions in jail for mischievous conduct. He has asked her to release them, but she has refused.

9. On what mission does Oberon send Puck?
A. Oberon sends Puck to find the parents of the young boy so they can rescue him.
B. Oberon sends Puck to destroy the wedding feast by causing a great storm.
C. Oberon sends Puck to find a flower that has been struck by Cupid's arrow, so he may anoint the sleeping Titania, causing her to blindly fall in love with the first creature she sees upon awakening.
D. Oberon sends Puck to beg the queen to hear his requests.
10. Upon overhearing Demetrius and Helena, what does Oberon command Puck to do?
A. Oberon commands Puck to send a message to Helena's father and tell him of her plan.
B. Oberon sends Puck to make them have dreams about what the other will look like in forty years, so they will not want to marry each other.
C. He sends Puck to cause a terrible storm that will force them to abandon their plan and return home.
D. He sends Puck to anoint the boy's eyes as he sleeps so that upon waking he will see the maid and love her.

11. Upon whose eyes does Puck apply the potion?
A. He does Hermia's eyes.
B. He does Demetrius' eyes.
C. He does Lysander's eyes.
D. He does Egeus' eyes.

12. When he wakes up, who does Lysander see and love?
A. He sees and loves Titania.
B. He sees and loves Helena.
C. He sees and loves Hermia.
D. He sees and loves Hippolyta.

13. What is her reaction to his words of love?
A. She thinks he is teasing her cruelly.
B. She believes him and falls in love with him.
C. She thinks he has gone crazy.
D. She thinks she is asleep and having a nightmare.

14. To where has Lysander disappeared when Hermia awakes?
A. He has gone to follow Helena.
B. He has gone to find Puck.
C. He is lost in the forest.
D. He has gone to Athens for the wedding.

15. Why does Bottom want a prologue written for the play?
A. He wants a prologue so he can get credit for it, and possibly more money.
B. He wants one written so that his character can read it to the audience, assuring them no harm will come to the actors. He thinks the ladies will swoon or panic.
C. He wants to make the play longer so that the other actors can have more time to rob the audience.
D. He wants to attract the attention of the queen. He hopes to become her court troubadour.

16. What has Puck done to Bottom?
A. He has given Bottom hooves and a tail.
B. He has changed Bottom's voice to a croak.
C. He has changed Bottom's head into that of an ass.
17. Identify the speaker: "Tie up my love's tongue, bring him silently."
A. It was Helena.
B. It was Hermia.
C. It was Hippolyta.
D. It was Titania.

18. What news does Puck bring Oberon?
A. Titania is in love with a monster, and he has successfully dosed the Athenian's eyes.
B. The child is sick and is not expected to live.
C. Egeus is storming the woods with an army to retrieve his daughter.
D. The players need a lot more practice before they will be ready to perform.

19. Why does Oberon send Puck to fetch Helena?
A. He is in love with her and wants to marry her.
B. He wants to start a fight between her and Hermia.
C. He realizes Puck's mistake and tries to correct it by charming Demetrius to love Helena.
D. He wants to ask her help in getting the young boy from Titania.

20. What is Helena's situation at this point in the play?
A. She is in love with Bottom.
B. She is loved by Lysander and Demetrius and believes they have conspired to play a cruel joke on her.
C. She is furious at the others and threatens to leave Athens by herself.
D. The recent events have been too much for her. She has gone home to bed.

21. What does Helena suppose of Hermia?
A. She thinks Hermia is an innocent bystander.
B. She thinks Hermia has joined in the malicious pranks with the others.
C. She thinks Hermia has been bewitched and can't help herself.
D. She thinks Hermia has gone mad with jealousy.

22. What does Hermia think Helena has done?
A. Hermia thinks Helena has given the young men a magic potion that has confused them.
B. She thinks that Helena has asked for, and gotten, help from the gods.
C. She thinks that out of jealousy Helena has made known her taller height and therefore her greater value of the two maids.
D. Hermia thinks Helena has become afraid to die an old maid, and has decided to do anything she can to prevent that from happening.

23. Why does Oberon send Puck to confuse the two young men?
A. They are going to fight over Helena, so Oberon has Puck lead them away from each other and to sleep.
B. Oberon is enjoying the mischief he has caused, and he wants to see what else he can do.
C. Oberon wants to get Puck out of the way so he can woo Helena himself.
D. He wants to send them both back to Athens as quickly as possible.
24. What remedy corrects the crossed-loved couples?
A. The aroma from the woods clears their senses.
B. Puck drips the potion on Lysander's eyes so he will again love Hermia.
C. Oberon confronts them, tells them what happened, and asks them to make their own choices.
D. One of the craftsmen plays a love tune that secretly whispers the names of their true loves to each of them.

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Act IV
25. Why does Titania give Oberon the child?
A. She wants to please Oberon.
B. She regrets her selfishness and wants to make amends.
C. Oberon has threatened her, and she does it out of fear.
D. She no longer cares for him now that she has Bottom.

26. How does Oberon find Titania and Bottom?
A. They are having a feast.
B. They are playing with the child.
C. They are asleep in each other's arms.
D. They are preparing for their wedding.

27. Why does Oberon remove the spell he cast over the queen?
A. He has the boy and he pities her silly new love-pet. He wants her back to her true self.
B. It was part of the bargain he made with Puck, and he has to live up to it.
C. He can only cast one spell at a time, and he wants to cast one on someone else now.
D. He had a dream that the gods would punish him if he didn't remove it.

28. Finding the two couples asleep in the wood, and learning of their more balanced love, what order does Theseus give?
A. He tells them to wait a few years until they are older, and then marry.
B. He banishes all of them from Athens for the trouble they have caused.
C. He orders that they should follow him and Hippolyta to be married in the temple.
D. He orders his men to find and imprison Puck.

29. What news does Bottom bring his companions?
A. He has a part in the entertainment but the rest don't.
B. Their play was not well-received, and they have been asked to leave.
C. The Duke liked them but not their play. They are to write a new play and perform again the next day.
D. Their play has been chosen by the Duke as an entertainment. They must now get ready and meet at the palace.

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Act V
30. Why do you think Shakespeare included a play within a play?
A. Pyramus and Thisby is an ancient tale well known to audiences in Shakespeare's
time. The audience would appreciate the jests and comments.
B. He had been commissioned to write a play of a certain length, and his fell short. The play within a play was a filler to use up time.  
C. He uses it as a semi-veiled political speech.  
D. He used it in place of an intermission, to help refocus the audience's attention.  
31. What do the fairies do after the palace goes to sleep? 
A. They go to sleep as well.  
B. Oberon sends them out to sing and dance and bless the new lovers on their wedding night.  
C. They go back to the woods to clean up the damage all of the lovers had done.  
D. They go out to play tricks on the actors.  
32. Who does Puck address at the play's end?  
A. He talks to Oberon.  
B. He talks to the lovers.  
C. He talks to the playwright.  
D. He talks to the audience.  
33. This last speech has many purposes. Which of these is not one of them?  
A. It closes the play.  
B. It thanks the audience.  
C. It asks that the audience enjoy or else pardon a frivolous entertainment.  
D. It reminds the audience that the actors will gladly accept monetary donations after the play.

**ANSWER KEY - MULTIPLE CHOICE STUDY/QUIZ QUESTIONS**

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Act One Act Two Act Three
22. C  
23. A  
24. B

Act Four Act Five
25. D 30. A  
27. A 32. D  
28. C 33. D  
29. D