

Term overview

English Faculty

As teachers of English at Harrow High, we want our learners to be critical and enquiring thinkers and readers who are equipped with the knowledge and skills with which to make their own choices and decisions throughout their lives and who are empathetic, creative and reflective. We want our learners to be effective communicators and we believe that mastery of the written and spoken word is fundamental to ensuring our learners have every opportunity to succeed in life.

Subject: English Year 7 Term Two – ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ by William Shakespeare

S k i l l s	<p><u>Literature</u></p> <p>Language analysis (AO2) – Learners will be able to retrieve explicit information from a fiction text and make developed inferences about a character. Learners will be able to identify specific words and phrases used by a writer to present a character and comment on the effect on the audience. Learners will be able to use embedded quotes and subject terminology in their analysis.</p>		
K n o w l e d g e	<p><u>Literature</u></p> <p>Learners will need to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concept of historical context ● Shakespearean England (theatre, monarchy) ● Key features/terminology of a play (audience, stage directions, dramatic monologue, soliloquy, dialogue, asides) ● The concept of a quotation ● Subject terminology to identify language (adjective, verb, noun, adverb, simile, metaphor, personification, specific sentence types, persuasive devices) ● Language of interpretation ● Tentative language ● Structure to develop an argument/personal response ● Developing vocabulary 		
R a t i o n a l e	<p>This unit is the starting point for knowledge of Shakespeare and his plays, through the reading of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. These will be the building blocks which will then be further developed in Year 8 and 9. By the end of this unit, students will have a working knowledge of key biography, context, characters, events and vocabulary. These are outlined below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">B i o g r a p h y</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● William Shakespeare was a famous Elizabethan playwright. ● Shakespeare studied ancient Greek and Roman myths in school. ● Shakespeare was influenced by ancient Greek and Roman writers. </td> </tr> </table>	B i o g r a p h y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● William Shakespeare was a famous Elizabethan playwright. ● Shakespeare studied ancient Greek and Roman myths in school. ● Shakespeare was influenced by ancient Greek and Roman writers.
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C o n t e x t	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A play is a piece of writing which is performed in the theatre. • Shakespeare wrote during The Elizabethan Era. • Rich and poor people attended the theatre in The Elizabethan Era. • "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is set in ancient Athens, 200 years before Shakespeare was writing. • In ancient Athens, women were expected to obey men. • Punishments in ancient Athens were often severe. • The Elizabethan Era was from 1558 to 1603 • Shakespeare also wrote plays after Elizabeth I died. Some of his plays were written in The Jacobean Era.
C h a r a c t e r s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hermia is a young woman. She is in love with Lysander. • Lysander is a young man. He is in love with Hermia. • Helena is a young woman. She is in love with Demetrius. • Demetrius is a young man. At the start of the play, he is in love with Hermia. At the end of the play, he is in love with Helena because of the love potion. • Egeus is a nobleman. He is Hermia's father. He threatens to have Hermia killed because she does not obey him. • Oberon is the fairy king of the forest. • Titania is the fairy queen of the forest. • Bottom is a foolish man. He has his head turned into a donkey's head. • Puck is a cheeky and mischievous fairy.
E v e n t s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egeus complains about his daughter. He is prepared to have her killed for disobeying him. • Hermia and Lysander flee ancient Athens to escape its severe laws. • Much of the play is set in a magical forest. • The love potion is magic: it makes someone fall in love with the first living thing they see. • The love potion is meant to have positive effects, but it does not. • Titania falls in love with Bottom when he has a donkey's head • The love potion causes the four lovers to fight with each other. • At the end of the play, Demetrius still has the love potion left on his eyes. • At the end of the play, Hermia and Lysander are together and Helena and Demetrius are together.
V o c a b u l a r y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soliloquy • severe • conflict • unrequited love • to mock • chaos • to resolve