

TH-JS-II-2-R

Transformation

A main theme in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is transformation. Throughout the play, there are plenty of transformations, both physically and emotionally. The characters in the play fall in and out of love. For example, Hermia and Lysander are in love with each other in the beginning of the play, while Egeus desires Hermia to marry Demetrius, who loves her as well. Helena, is in love with Demetrius, who cannot return the feelings. While in the woods, Puck was sent to anoint the eyes of Demetrius in order for him to fall in love with Helena. There was a mishap, however, Puck saw Lysander first and mistook him for Demetrius. This led Lysander to fall in love with Helena. Told to fix his mistake, Puck used the magic flower correctly on Demetrius so he fell in love with Helena too. Hermia, who once was loved by both men, was left unloved and lonely. This love triangle is a perfect example of transformation. There are some instances where characters are physically transformed. Puck was able to transform Bottom's head into that of an ass (donkey). Throughout the play, there are also examples of literal transformations. The play is spread out over several days so one example of a literal transformation is the change from day to night. Another example in the play of literal transformations are the scenery changes that occur throughout.

As part of our design concept for the play, we want to emphasize the concept of transformation to match the theme of the play. Throughout our design concept we will work to transform everything on stage. Things will be added, things will be taken away, and our costuming and make-up will change throughout. Due to the fact that transformation is a common theme in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, we wanted to transform our concept as well. Much like

the phases of the moon and the metamorphosis of a butterfly, we wanted to resemble this through our design.

During the course of the play, our scenery will undergo vast transformations. In the beginning, there will be no props, or anything else to use as décor for the play. As the play progresses, commodities will change, and props will be affixed. Ladders camouflaged as trees will begin to appear regularly throughout the different scenes. When Lysander and Demetrius both are in love with Hermia all of the trees will be spread apart and there will be room for them to get through. On the other hand, when both men are in love with Helena the trees will be squished together. This shows the transformation of how Helena is feeling by having no one who loved her to being suffocated with love from both men.

Lighting is a very important factor to consider when discussing the idea of transformation in the play. The start of the play occurs in midday, so lighting will be at the brightest it can be in order to show the time of day. This is also when both men find Hermia to be the most beautiful and everything seems to be normal. When Hermia, Helena, Lysander and Demetrius are in the woods initially, the lights will go from bright to dim. This is only used to show the change in time throughout that scene. Lysander and Demetrius both fall in love with Helena, which is very abnormal. Due to this, the stage will be almost completely black, only light enough to make out the characters on stage. There will, however, be a single spotlight on Helena, the object of the men's affection. At the end, when Hermia and Lysander are together and when Helena and Demetrius are together, the lighting will be moderate. It will be normal stage lighting and help to show that everything has gone back to normal and now everyone is happy.