

Midsummer Night's Dream Dramaturgical Study

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CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES FIRST!

STUDY GUIDE FOR MSND:

glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/pdf/midsummer_nights_dream.pdf

A Midsummer Night's Dream- A deconstruction of the classics:

<https://yr8mshakespearedeconstructed.weebly.com>

A GREAT starting point for actors!!!

Life in Elizabethan England, A Compendium of Common Knowledge

<http://www.elizabethan.org/compendium/index.html>

This website is great for actors to learn about the time period!

THE ELIZABETHANS AND FAIRIES

Elizabethan views on fairies:

<https://yr8mshakespearedeconstructed.weebly.com/blog/elizabethan-views-on-fairies>

Elizabethan Understandings of Fairies/the Fae:

<https://prezi.com/4wphzb57kecm/elizabethan-understandings-of-fairies-the-fae/>

Overview of the Elizabethan Fairy:

<https://whitesides2011.wordpress.com/overview-of-the-elizabethan-fairy/>

Fairies in A Midsummer Night's Dream:

<https://plonknofairiesproject.wordpress.com/fairies-in-a-midsummer-nights-dream/>

NAME ORIGINS OF THE CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Check out this website:

<https://amidsummerscasebook.wordpress.com/2010/09/26/whats-in-a-name/>

for a general compendium of name meanings in MSND

Oberon Origin and Meaning:

From <https://nameberry.com/babyname/Oberon/boy>

Titania Origin and Meaning:

From <https://nameberry.com/babyname/Titania>

Puck (male) Origin and Meaning:

<https://nameberry.com/babyname/Puck/girl>

Puck (female) Origin and Meaning:

<https://nameberry.com/babyname/Puck/boy>

Moth (name analysis):

<http://www.strangehistory.net/2017/10/21/moth-shakespeares-mysterious-fairy/>

THEMES OF THE PLAY

Check out:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Midsummer_Night%27s_Dream#CITEREFBevington1996

1. Lover's bliss
2. Carnavalesque
3. Love
4. Problem with time
5. Loss of individual identity
6. Ambiguous sexuality
7. Feminism

INFORMATION ON ACTING/THEATER IN SHAKESPEARE'S DAY

In the Elizabethan era, research has been conclusive about how many actors and troupes there were in the 16th century, but little research delves into the roles of the actors on the English renaissance stage. The first point is that during the Elizabethan era, women were not allowed to act on stage. The actors were all male; in fact, most were boys. For plays written that had male and female parts, the female parts were played by the youngest boy players ([Maclennan 1994.](#))

Actors in Shakespeare's Day:

What was it like to be an actor in Shakespeare's day?

<https://www.bard.org/study-guides/actors-in-shakespeares-day>

Shakespeare's Theater: *Helpful for the actors to understand what the theater was like back in Shakespeare's day*

<https://www.folger.edu/shakespeares-theater>

Fact Sheet; Actors: *What was it like for actors back in the 17th century?*

<https://teach.shakespearesglobe.com/fact-sheet-actors>

Theater Culture of Early Modern England:

Helpful for actors to understand what it was like to be an Elizabethan

<http://www2.cedarcrest.edu/academic/eng/lfletcher/henry4/papers/mthomas.htm>

Theater Experience in Shakespeare's Time:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/theater-experience-in-shakespeares-lifetime-2985243>

Shakespeare's Elizabethan Audiences: <https://www.usi.edu/media/2416960/bowles.pdf>

INFORMATION ON THE STRATA OF PERFORMANCE GROUPS IN ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND: WERE THERE ANY "AMATURE" THEATER GROUPS?:

Students in **grammar schools** were taught theatrical skills ([Astington 2010](#), p. 45.), such as memory, delivery, gesture and voice and performed weekly and on holidays ([Astington 2010](#), p. 42.), in both Latin and English ([Astington 2010](#), p. 43.)

Choir schools also performed plays and between the 1560s and 70s, began to perform for general audiences ([Astington 2010](#), p. 51.)

Plays were also performed at universities and even Queen Elizabeth I watched plays during her visits to Oxford and Cambridge ([Boas 1914](#), pp. 89–108, 252–285.).

Lastly, plays were performed at **masques** and **Inns of Court**, the latter of which were communities of working lawyers and university alumni ([Astington 2010](#), p. 69.), which included the likes of Sir Thomas More, Sir Francis Bacon and Francis Beaumont ([Astington 2010](#), pp. 69–71)

MIDSUMMER CELEBRATIONS IN ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND

Elizabethan Celebration Activities for Midsummer Nights slideshow:

https://prezi.com/c8oog6gze0_x/elizabethan-celebration-activities-for-midsummer-nights/

On Midsummer's Night:

<http://inamidst.com/lo/midsummer>

Midsummer Madness: Science, Social History and Shakespeare:

<https://americanshakespearecenter.com/2013/06/midsummer-madness-science-social-history-and-shakespeare/>

Midsummer Magic in Tudor England:

<https://medium.com/@huntersjones/midsummer-magic-in-tudor-england-81587e285762>

THE ROLE OF THE FOREST IN SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS

Why is the forest an important setting in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?:

<https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/why-forest-an-important-setting-play-332672>

Woodlands and forests in Shakespeare's plays:

<https://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/art-and-craft/woodlands-and-forests-in-shakespeares-plays/#>

Into the woods with Shakespeare:

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/into-the-woods-with-shakespeare>

Change in Shakespeare's Forests:

<https://www.bard.org/news/change-in-shakespeares-forests>

MARRIAGE IN SHAKESPEARE'S DAY

Elizabethan Wedding Customs:

<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/elizabethan-wedding-customs.htm>

Discovering Literature-- Shakespeare and Renaissance, Marriage and Courtship:

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/marriage-and-courtship#>

Life in Elizabethan England:

Love and Marriage

<http://elizabethan.org/compendium/10.html>

Betrothal and Wedding

<http://www.elizabethan.org/compendium/9.html>