



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Persuasive Writing

What do you think Shakespeare is saying about the nature of young love in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? Is love at first sight real? Or humans prone to inconstancy? Take a stance on this issue, select specific sections and quotes from the play, and write a persuasive argument of your view in comparison what you believe Shakespeare was trying to portray.

Personal

You will be directing an upcoming production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and are about to enter the casting process. With this production, the director must decide whether to portray Hermia and Helena both as equally good-looking women or to portray Hermia as beautiful and Helena as comparatively plain. Which of these approaches would you favor? Explain your choice and use specific quotes from the play to support your choice.

Literary

What is the literary function of the play-within-a-play which takes up most of Act V? Explain why you believe Shakespeare ends the play with this unusual performance. Does the play succeed in achieving it's intended goal? Use examples from *Midsummer* to support your position.