



The Young Shakespeareans

“A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM”

THEMES

The theme of a play is different than the plot. While the plot refers to all the different events that happen in a play, the themes refer to the bigger ideas that the play explores.

In “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, Shakespeare explores several themes:

**BEHAVIOR OF THOSE IN LOVE
MALE + FEMALE ROLES/BEHAVIOR in RELATIONSHIPS
THE MORTAL WORLD
THE SUPERNATURAL WORLD
THE NATURE OF ART and THEATRE
DREAMS**

And, perhaps not explored by Shakespeare, but a couple of themes that are socially relevant and interesting to explore today:

**ISSUES OF CONSENT
NON-GENDERING CONFORMING ROLES/BEHAVIOR in RELATIONSHIPS**

Which parts of the play do you think of when you think about each theme?

How are these themes viewed differently today vs. in Shakespeare’s times?

How are they viewed differently today by various groups (eg. nationality, race, religion)?

*“If I Can Do Shakespeare, I Can Do Anything!”
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