

Act Four

Comprehension Check

This exercise will ensure that you understand Act Four by asking you to recall its details.

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper in complete sentences. Some answers are quite simple, while others require more thought and detail.

Scene One

1. In the beginning of Act Four we find Titania and Bottom (still transformed). How does Bottom feel about his situation? How do you know?
2. How does Bottom treat the fairies? With whom do you sympathize?
3. How does Oberon feel about Titania after seeing her with Bottom? How does he plan to fix everything?
4. Oberon's speech after seeing Titania serves as *exposition*; what does this mean? What purpose does the exposition serve at this point in the story?
5. Do you think Titania makes a sympathetic or laughable picture in the beginning of this scene? What might the purpose of this portrayal be?
6. When Titania is herself again, how has her relationship changed with her husband?
7. What do Oberon and Titania decide to do once they are reconciled?
8. What are Theseus and Hippolyta doing when they come across the lovers? What does this tell you about Hippolyta, especially considering what she says of the hounds?
9. How do the lovers feel about the strange events of the woods? How do you know?
10. What do the lovers tell the duke about the night they spent in the woods? What then does the duke decide? How does Egeus feel about this?
11. What happens to Bottom? What does he conclude he should do about it?
12. This scene wraps up most of the loose ends of the play. In Demetrius' speech to Theseus, he speaks of their experience in the woods and his change from loving Hermia to loving Helena. All four of the lovers describe the night as a dream. Do you think this might have been an acceptable ending for the play, or is a fifth act necessary in your opinion? Why might Shakespeare have felt a fifth act was needed?

Scene Two

1. What are the workmen doing at the beginning of the scene? What is their fear?
2. Why, in their opinion, is the play ruined without Bottom?
3. What does Bottom tell his friends when he does arrive?