

Act Three

Standards Focus: Figures of Speech

Directions: Answer the following questions on the use of various figures of speech found in Act Three. **Figures of speech** are words or phrases that carry more than their literal meaning. They are often used to lend emphasis or to help clarify meaning in literature. Among the many kinds of figures of speech are **metaphor**, **simile**, **hyperbole**, and **irony**.

1. A **metaphor** is a figure of speech through which a comparison is made between two seemingly unlike objects in order to show a similarity.
 - a. What do you think an *extended metaphor* is? (Write your teacher's explanation on the lines.) _____

 - b. What type of extended metaphor is the situation of Pyramus and Thisbe? _____

 - c. In your opinion, why does Shakespeare choose to present this metaphor in a comical, even ridiculous way? _____

2. **Hyperbole** is a figure of speech which grossly exaggerates something in order to enhance its meaning. Hyperbole is often used in drama in order to add emphasis to a point a character makes.
 - a. Find a line from Act Two which illustrates the use of hyperbole: _____

 - b. Who is the speaker and what is the situation? _____

 - c. How effective is the use of hyperbole in this instance (how does it help the speaker in delivering his message)? _____

Name _____ Period _____

3. Both **metaphors** and **similes** are means of comparison. A simile uses the words *like* or *as* in the comparison, but a metaphor states the comparison directly.

a. When Hermia says to Demetrius, “Out, dog, out cur! What is she comparing Demetrius to? _____ What type of comparison is this? (metaphor or simile) _____

b. When Hermia says, “An adder did it! for with doubler tongue / than thine, thou serpent, never adder stung” what is she calling Demetrius? _____ What type of comparison is this? _____

c. When Helena says, “We, Hermia, like two artificial gods, / Have with our needles created both one flower,” what type of comparison is she making? _____

d. When Puck says, “Lord, what fools these mortals be,” of whom is he speaking? _____ What type of comparison is he using? _____

4. **Irony** is the use of words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal meaning.

a. Bottom says, “You see an ass-head of your own, do you? / . . . This is to make an ass of / me.” How is this statement ironic? _____

b. How does the use of this irony affect the audience? _____

c. Why do you think that Shakespeare desired this effect? _____