*A Midsummer Night’s Dream –* Act 1, scene 1

**Act 1, scene 1 - Summary**

At his palace, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, duke of Athens, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, his fiancée, discuss their wedding, to be held in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days, under the new moon. Impatient for the event and in a celebratory mood, Theseus orders Philostrate, his Master of the Revels, to find entertainments with which the couple might pass the time until their wedding. Philostrate takes his leave, and Theseus promises Hippolyta that though he wooed her with his sword, he will wed with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to begin at once and last until the wedding.

Egeus, a citizen of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, strides into the room, followed by his daughter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the Athenian youths \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Egeus has come to see Theseus with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concerning his daughter: although Egeus has promised her in marriage to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who loves her, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has won Hermia’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and Hermia refuses to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Demetrius. Theseus speaks to Hermia sharply, telling her to expect to be sent to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_if she doesn’t marry Demetrius. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was once engaged to Hermia’s friend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but abandoned her after he met Hermia. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ orders \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take the time remaining before his marriage to make up her mind.

Hermia and Lysander discuss the trials that must be faced by those who are in love: “The course of true love never did run \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” Lysander says (I.i.134). He proposes a plan: he has an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, wealthy and childless, who lives outside of Athens and who dotes on Lysander like a son. At her house, Hermia and Lysander can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and, because the manor is outside of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they would be free from Athenian law. They leave for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that night.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Hermia’s friend, enters the room, lovesick and deeply sad because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no longer loves her. Hermia and Lysander confide their plan to her and wish her luck with Demetrius. Helena remarks to herself that she is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of their happiness. She thinks up a plan: if she tells \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about what Lysander and Hermia are planning, he will be bound to follow them to the woods to try to stop them; if she then \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him into the woods, she might have a chance to win back his love.

The Theme of Love

**“The course of true love never did run smooth” (1.1.134)**

1. In lines 135-149, Hermia and Lysander talk about all the problems that can come between true lovers. Identify at least 5 problems from that list and write them in your own words.
2. Judging by Hermia’s situation, what can you tell me about women’s rights in Athens at this time?
3. Describe each of the “lovers” based on what we know about them so far:

Hermia

Lysander

Demetrius

Helena