



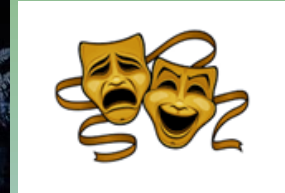
# Drama – Knowledge organiser Year 8- ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’



**PLOT** – The Duke and Duchess of Athens are getting married. Quince and his company of workmen ( The Mechanicals) are acting in a play for the wedding. The non professional actors include Nick Bottom who thinks he is a marvellous actor.

Poor Quince has the short straw and has to direct Bottom and the other members of actors who include some simple folk and a man who is disappointed he is given the female role. The comedy comes from how BAD the actors and the rehearsals are.

Peter Quince	<b>Stressed</b> director of the play
Nick Bottom	<b>Arrogant</b> - thinks he’s a wonderful actor- plays Pyramus - but wants to play every part!!
Francis Flute	<b>Upset</b> because he is given the part of a woman- He has to play Thisbe.
Snug	Plays a lion- but is <b>worried</b> he wont remember his lines- even though its just roaring!
Starveling	Plays ‘ moonshine’ by holding a lantern- a quiet , gentle <b>nervous</b> character.
Snout	A bit <b>slow</b> -Plays the wall !!
Puck	The <b>mischievous</b> goblin spying on them - thinks the actors are stupid- especially big headed Bottom- who he transforms by given him the head of an ass!



- Facial expressions
- Body language
- Hand gestures
- Vocal techniques
- Movements
- Levels / status
- Reactions
- Proxemics

Acting the characters !  
 When playing the characters think of how your acting skills can show their personalities .

**For example – how could your hand gestures show Quince is stressed?**

How could your voice show that Snug is worried?



Plot continued : Robin Goodfellow or Puck is watching the comical actors rehearse . He sees how ridiculous and big headed Bottom is so uses his magic to give him the head of an ass. Puck's mischief as he puts the purple flower's love juice in Titania's eyes so her waking eyes fall in love with the donkey headed Bottom!



- When labelling your 6 design ideas explaining WHY!  
For example :
- Why have you chosen this colour? What does it show?
  - How does the costume work with the set?
  - How have you shown he can fly?
  - Can you use special effects make up or stitched in lighting to convey magic?
  - How will you ensure fabrics are flexible for the actor to show the quick movements of Puck?
  - If you include a pattern from nature- why are you doing this?
  - How will you ensure the costume looks like a goblin from the forest?
  - Will you add the motif of the purple flower?

**Mechanicals Original Script**

**Modern meaning**

Quince  
..I am to entreat you to con them by tomorrow night ..

I am asking you to learn them by tomorrow night

Bottom  
What is Pyramus? A lover , or a tyrant?

(Here Bottom is asking what his part is like ...a loving person or a cruel person)

Quince  
You may do it extempore for it is nothing but roaring

You can just improvise the whole thing, because it's just roaring.

Snug- Pray you, if it be, give it to me, for I am slow of study.

Please give me the part if it is written I cant learn lines!

Quince - Is all our company here?

Have all our actors turned up yet?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mp1BCSXj9g0>