

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
**Handout #2 – The Lovers' Plot Summary**

This play has 3 major plot lines. In the “Fairy” plot line, Oberon, the King of the Fairies, and Titania, the Queen of the Fairies, are fighting over who gets custody of a “changeling boy” that they both love. Since they are powerful, magical creatures, their fighting causes havoc in the land. In the “Rude Mechanicals” plot line, a bungling group of townsmen dream of fame and put together a (very bad, very funny) play that they can perform for the Duke and his new bride. And in the “Lovers’ Plot”, four teenagers run away into the forest in defiance of their parents and the law. This Learning Plan concerns the “Lovers’ Plot.”

***The Lovers' Plot Summary***

Hermia and Lysander are in love. Hermia’s father forbids her to marry Lysander and orders her to marry Demetrius. When Hermia refuses, her father drags her in front of the Duke and reminds her that the law states that if she doesn’t marry the man that HE chooses she must either be executed or enter a convent. Hermia pretends to agree, but secretly makes plans to elope with Lysander. On their way out of town they share their plan with Hermia’s best friend, Helena. Helena, who is really in love with Demetrius, betrays their plan to Demetrius in the hope that he will pay attention to her. Upon hearing this, Demetrius runs into the forest to find Hermia, with Helena following close at his heels.

While running through the forest, the lovers are observed by Oberon. He takes pity on Helena and orders his fairy servant Puck to use the juice of a magical flower to make Demetrius love Helena. Puck accidentally puts the juice in Lysander’s eyes, and Lysander falls in love with Helena. When Puck tries to rectify his mistake, he puts the juice in Demetrius’ eyes, so that both men are in love with Hermia. After much fighting, chasing, mayhem, and magic, Demetrius loves Hermia, Lysander loves Helena, and the Duke agrees to let the couples marry as they wish.