

MEMORABLE LINES



The course of true love never did run smooth.
(LYSANDER 1.1.134)

So quick bright things come to confusion.
(LYSANDER 1.1.149)

Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,
And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.
(HELENA 1.1.234–5)

... “The most lamentable comedy and most cruel death of
Pyramus and Thisbe.”
(QUINCE 1.2.11–12)

Over hill, over dale,
Thorough bush, thorough brier,
Over park, over pale,
Thorough flood, thorough fire . . .
(FAIRY 2.1.2–5)

Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.
(OBERON 2.1.60)

I’ll put a girdle round about the earth
In forty minutes.
(PUCK 2.1.175–6)

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite overcanopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet muskroses and with eglantine.
(OBERON 2.1.249–52)

You spotted snakes with double tongue,
Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen;
Newts and blindworms, do no wrong,
Come not near our Fairy Queen.
(FAIRY 2.2.9–12)

Lord, what fools these mortals be!
(PUCK 3.2.115)

And though she be but little, she is fierce.

(HELENA 3.2.325)

My Oberon! What visions have I seen!

Methought I was enamored of an ass.

(TITANIA 4.1.75–6)

The lunatic, the lover, and the poet
Are of imagination all compact.

One sees more devils than vast hell can hold;

That is the madman. The lover, all as frantic,

Sees Helen's beauty in a brow of Egypt.

The poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,

Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven;

And as imagination bodies forth

The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen

Turns them to shapes and gives to airy nothing

A local habitation and a name.

(THESEUS 5.1.7–17)

... the true beginning of our end.

(PROLOGUE 5.1.111)

The iron tongue of midnight hath told twelve.

Lovers, to bed, 'tis almost fairy time.

(THESEUS 5.1.358–9)

If we shadows have offended,

Think but this, and all is mended,

That you have but slumbered here

While these visions did appear.

(PUCK 5.1.418–21)