

### A Midsummers Night's Dream Essay

William Shakespeare's A Midsummers Night's Dream is a comedy about the trials one must go through to find true love. In the play, the character Lysander accurately summarizes one of the play's messages when he exclaims that "the course of true love never did run smooth" (1.1.134). This theme can be seen not only in this play, but also in many modern stories. In A Midsummers Night's Dream, the fact that the lovers face difficulty is developed through Lysander and Hermia and Demetrius and Helena. Moreover, the theme is also illustrated through the show Brooklyn 99.

The theme "the course of true love never did run smooth" is evident in the story of Lysander and Hermia who must overcome Hermia's father, Egeus not wanting them to be together, the love juice flower, and the Athenian Law before they can be together. Egeus stated "She belongs to me, and I will hand over all my rights in her to Demetrius." (1.1.99) which is Lysander and Hermia's first problem. He wants Hermia to marry Demetrius. He says that he would be willing to kill Hermia, his own daughter if she doesn't marry who he chooses. Furthermore, when Puck steps in "He places drops on Lysander's eyelids" (2.2.82). He uses the love juice flower on Lysander making him fall in love with Helena instead of Hermia. Additionally, the statement "You must either suffer death, or have no further contact with men." (1.1.67) states how due to the Athenian law, Hermia must marry the man her father chooses or be killed or forced to become a nun. Despite all these problems that Lysander and Hermia had to face they do end up together. This is possible because Theseus defends them, saying that they should be together he says that he will overrule Egeus and his wishes. Additionally, the love juice flower is reversed so Lysander would fall back in love with Hermia. In conclusion, because of Hermia's father, the love juice flower and the Athenian Law, it takes four acts for Lysander and Hermia to finally be together.

As well as Lysander and Hermia, another example of the difficulties lovers face are Demetrius and Helena who must overcome Demetrius's love for Hermia, the love juice flower and Demetrius's hatred for Helena. The first problem is shown when Demetrius tells Helena "I don't love you, so stop following me! Where are Lysander and Hermia? I'll kill Lysander, Hermia is killing me. You told me they'd be hidden in the wood. Here I am out of my mind because I cannot find my Hermia. Be off with you! Stop following me." (2.1.188). Demetrius says this while looking for Hermia and Lysander and Helena follows him because she loves Demetrius. This clearly shows that Demetrius doesn't love her and doesn't care what happens to her. Additionally, Demetrius declares his love for Hermia when he says "Relent, sweet Hermia: and, Lysander, yield thy crazed title to my certain right." (1.1.98) because he had been affected by the love juice flower that also affected Lysander and Hermia. Finally, when Demetrius says to Hermia "Don't push me too hard. It makes me sick to look at you." (2.1.211) it is clear that he hates Helena and doesn't care about her. Their problems are resolved when a love potion gets put on Demetrius consequently making him fall in love with Helena. Furthermore, Demetrius realized that he had loved Helena all along. In conclusion, Demetrius and Helena have to face Demetrius's love for Hermia, the love juice flower and Demetrius's hatred for Helena before they

can be together, yet after three acts they do overcome these challenges and are able to be together.

Another story that represents obstacles to true love is Brooklyn 99 where Jake Paralta and Amy Santiago must overcome Amy's Boyfriend, their Captain and working together before they can be together. The first obstacle they face is that Amy is unaware of her feelings for Jake so she starts dating Teddy. This makes it so Jake can't tell Amy about his feelings towards her. Subsequently, Amy continues dating Teddy because she doesn't feel like she has any other option. Furthermore, Amy and Jake briefly date but then have to break up when their captain tells Jake he has to break up with Amy or Jake will be fired and will lose the job he has worked hard for. Finally, they can't be together because they work together and Amy decides she couldn't be with Jake because of this reason. Amy thinks people will judge them and it won't work out. Their problems are resolved when Amy realizes that she doesn't really like Teddy and breaks up with him to be with Jake, they talk to someone of higher rank that deals with their captain and Amy realizes that she loves Jake and is willing to try to make it work to be with him. In the end because of Amy not being sure and having a boyfriend, their captain and the fact that they work together it takes them two seasons of the show to be together.

In conclusion, the theme "the course of true love never did run smooth" stated by Lysander is seen in the previous three examples, Lysander and Hermia, Demetrius and Helena, and Jake and Amy. The theme and the examples show how every relationship has challenges one must overcome and no relationship can run smoothly.