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A Midsummer Night's Dream Essay

"The course of true love never did run smooth." ~~This~~ is the theme of William Shakespeare's play A Midsummer Night's Dream. The theme is evident in the story from all the examples of couples that have to overcome many problems and opposition from others in order to be together. For example, both Lysander and Hermia, and Demetrius and Helena, have to encounter adversity so that they can be together. Another example from outside A Midsummer Night's Dream, to support this theme, is that of Landon and Jamie from A Walk to Remember.


In the play A Midsummer Night's Dream, Lysander and Hermia must overcome 3 main obstacles: The Athenian law, opposition from Egeus, Hermia's father, and the time that Lysander temporarily fell in love with Helena. "Either to die the death, or to abjure forever the society of men." (1.1.67) This quote clearly states the options within the Athenian law. If Hermia refuses to marry the man that her father chooses, she will either be killed or become a nun. Secondly, Egeus is willing to kill his own daughter if she refuses to marry Demetrius. The last problem that Lysander and Hermia have to face, is Lysander falling in love with Helena. This occurred because a fairy put a love potion on Lysander's eyes, and when he woke up, the first person he saw, he fell in love with them. Despite all these problems in their relationships, Lysander and Hermia end up together in the end. This happens because Theseus the duke, convinces Egeus to let them be together, and the fairy reverses the love potion and Lysander no longer loves Helena.

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Another example from the story is Demetrius and Helena. In order for them to be together they must overcome Demetrius's hatred toward Helena, Lysander being in love with Helena, and once again, the love potion. Firstly, Demetrius loves Hermia, so he runs into the forest looking for her, while being followed by Helena, who is madly in love with him. Demetrius hates her so much that he says, "I'll run from thee and hide me in the brakes, and leave thee to the mercy to the wild beasts." (2.1.227) So it's clear that he doesn't even care if Helena dies. Secondly, as explained in the previous paragraph, a fairy puts a love potion on Lysander's eyes and he falls in love with Helena. Thirdly, Demetrius also gets infected by the love potion and he begins to love Helena back. So now Helena has to decide which man she wants. The problems are resolved when the fairy reverses the love potion on Lysander and Demetrius continues loving Helena because he is still under the effect of the love potion.

Another story that represents obstacles to true love is A Walk to Remember, where Landon Carter and Jamie Sullivan must overcome Landon disliking Jamie, opposition from Jamie's father, and Jamie's sickness. First, Landon doesn't like Jamie because of peer pressure from his friends. He thinks that she is too old-fashioned because she reads the bible and wears that same sweater every day. Jamie's father who is a reverend, does not allow Jamie to date. He is even less pleased because he well, thinks that Landon is a bad influence on his daughter. Third, Jamie has cancer so she makes Landon promise that he will never fall in love with her. She does this because she thinks that it would be unfair for someone to love her, when there's the

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chance she might die and leave them behind. Their problems are resolved because Landon realises that he loves Jamie, no matter what others might think. As well, Landon goes to Jaime's father and asks permission to date his daughter, and her father realises that Landon really does love Jamie, so he says yes. Jamie also realises that despite her sickness, even if they have a short time left to spend together, every moment would be worth it. At the end, Landon and Jamie did end up getting married; however, within a month of being married, Jamie died and Landon was left alone. Furthermore, the course of true love never did run smooth. We can see this is true from the 3 previous examples of Lysander and Hermia, Demetrius and Helena, and Landon and Jamie. But regardless, of whether it is a relationship of true love, or any relationship at all; it takes hard work and effort in order for it to run smoothly.