

HANDOUT 3

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Directions: Study the following lines. Carefully examine the way in which the underlined word is used in each sentence, then write out the meaning in your own words. In some sentences there is a change in the part of speech of the underlined words. Finally, write an original sentence for each underlined word.

1. a. "Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour draws on apace."
 b. The members of the court will attend the nuptials of Theseus and Hippolyta.
 c. A member of the clergy can perform nuptials.

Nuptials means:

2. a. "But, O, methinks how slow / This old moon wanes!"
 b. The moon wanes at the end of the month and gets harder to see.
 c. Demetrius' love for Helena has waned.

Wane means:

3. a. "Thou hast by moonlight at her window sung / With feigning voice verses of feigning love . . ."
 b. First Demetrius loves Helena, and then he hates her. When he tells her that he loves her again, she thinks he is feigning.
 c. The children feigned surprise at the presents, but, in fact, they already knew what they were getting.

Feign means:

4. a. ". . . and she, sweet lady, dotes, / Devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry, / Upon this spotted and inconstant man."
 b. Helena dotes upon Demetrius; Demetrius dotes upon Hermia; Hermia dotes upon Lysander, who also dotes upon her.
 c. Some people dote upon dessert.

Dote means:

5. a. "But I beseech your Grace that I may know / The worst that may befall me in this case / If I refuse to wed Demetrius."
 b. Hermia beseeches her father to let her marry Lysander.
 c. The Student Council decided to beseech the administration for permission to have another dance.

Beseech means:

6. a. "What is Pyramus—a lover or a tyrant?"
 b. Hermia's father acts like a tyrant when he forces her to choose between marrying Demetrius or going to a convent.
 c. The citizens overthrew the tyrant who was ruthlessly ruling their country.

Tyrant means:

7. a. "Our play is 'The most lamentable comedy and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisbe.'"
 b. To Helena, it is lamentable that Demetrius does not love her.
 c. A lamentable story may make the reader cry.

Lamentable means:

8. a. "For Oberon is passing fell and wrath / Because that she, as her attendant, hath / A lovely boy . . ."
 b. Oberon is full of wrath because Titania will not give him the Indian boy.
 c. When the sheriff discovered the prisoner had escaped, his wrath was great.

Wrath means:

9. a. "And this same progeny of evils comes / From our debate, from our dissension; / We are their parents and original."
 b. Egeus is Hermia's father; she is his progeny.
 c. Parents want to be proud of their progeny.

Progeny means:

10. a. "Lord, what fools these mortals be!"
 b. "But she, being mortal, of that boy did die."
 c. Helena, Hermia, and their suitors are mortal, but Oberon and Titania are immortal and live forever.

Mortal means: