

Thesis Statement / Essay Topic #0: The Use of Illogical and Inhumane Ideas as a Comic Device

Throughout the play, characters say things that either do not make sense or are shockingly immoral. Find examples in each scene and explain why they are nonsensical or immoral, and explain why Shakespeare might have thought this was funny.

Thesis Statement / Essay Topic #1: The Role of Magic

One of the important elements of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is the contrast that is established between the "real" world and a world inhabited by fairies, sprites, and other magical beings and forces. In this essay on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, you should explore both the divide and the overlap between these two distinct realms and the appearances versus reality of the world these characters inhabit in the play. In doing so, the function of the magical world as a contrast to the "real" world is identified and analyzed. For this argumentative essay on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the writer argues that the primary function of this magical world is to reinforce the idea that love—which is, after all, the subject of the play—is subject to forces that are often beyond the capacity of humans to understand them.

Thesis Statement / Essay Topic #2: The Function of Dreams in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

As the title of Shakespeare's play alludes, dreams are an important element of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The characters often question whether they are in the dream world or in the waking world, and tend to have difficulty distinguishing between the two. Using a **psychoanalytic** approach to interpreting the role that dreams play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the writer should examine the various functions of dreams and the psychological value that they have for the characters. It should be argued that dreams serve at least one significant function, namely, that dreams permit the enactment of fantasies that are impossible or difficult to fulfill in real life. This should be a definite argumentative essay with at least one interpretation of the function of dreams in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Thesis Statement / Essay Topic #3: The Frame Narrative of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the reader notices that there is a play within the larger framework (click [here](#) for detailed article on this) of the primary play. Much like the functions that the fairy world and dreams play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the function of the secondary play is to establish a contrast and point of comparison between the "real" world and an imagined one. Considered alongside these

other comparative and symbolic worlds, the second play constitutes part of a frame narrative that underscores the point that Shakespeare wishes to make about the divide that exists between desire and reality in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It is not merely a device for entertainment, though it does serve that function as well.

Thesis Statement / Essay Topic #4: Character Analysis in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: Hermia

Early in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the reader learns that Hermia is being compelled to marry Demetrius, whom she does not love. Hermia protests the marriage proposal that is being forced upon her, and in a bold and compelling speech, she questions what will happen to her if she defies the order to marry the man who has not captured her heart. Examining this speech and other actions, the writer intends to develop an argument about Hermia as a feminist prototype. Although other female characters in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* seem to be more important to the play's development, Hermia represents an interesting character that expands the possibilities of women as agents of and advocates for their own destiny.

Thesis Statement / Essay Topic #5: The Importance of Comic Relief in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Although *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has many serious elements and embarks upon an exploration and treatment of some of the most serious of life's experiences and themes, there is a comic element that is evident and which keeps the reader engaged and this is classified as a comedy. In this essay, the reader analyzes the character of **Nick Bottom** and explores the function that he plays in injecting comic relief into an otherwise serious play (???).