

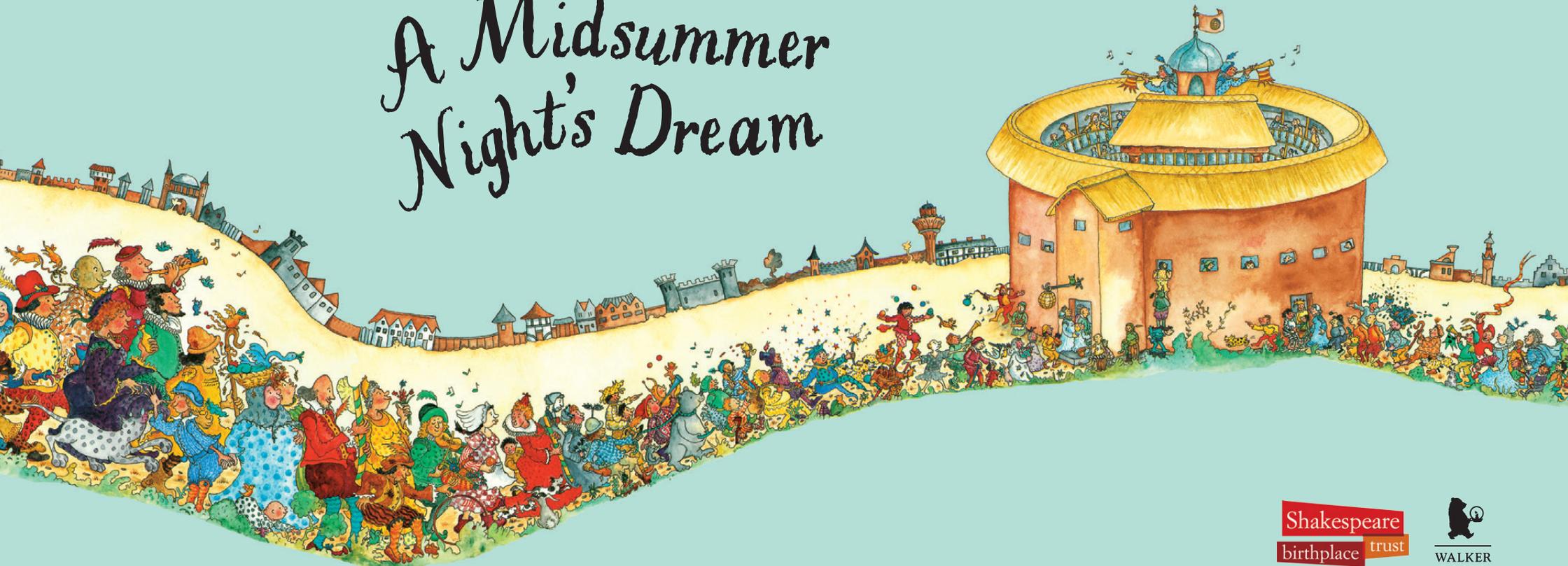
SHAKESPEARE WEEK

EVENT KIT

A Midsummer Night's Dream

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HOW TO RUN YOUR EVENT

Running an event in Shakespeare Week can be as simple or elaborate as you like. In this pack you will find lots of easy-to-use resources based on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that will help you to plan the kind of event that best suits your space and audience.

Please dip into these resources and see what you would like to use. There are easy-to-follow craft activities for a “make and do” session, colouring sheets and quizzes and puzzles for older children.

You might wish to begin by advertising your event with a poster – these will be available as a downloadable PDF from the Shakespeare Week website in early February at www.shakespeareweek.org.uk/libraries

You can also use the invitations in this kit to give out before the event.

In this pack you will find simple templates that you – or the children – can use to make decorations that will turn your area into a magical woodland setting. You could use brown and green drapes, large tree shapes cut from cardboard and painted, or even a collection of tall potted plants to set the scene. Small children’s stools can be covered in red and white spotty material to look like toadstools and adding brown or green tablecloths to your tables and brown, green and orange cushions and beanbags will all help add atmosphere. You can then add any decorations that the children have made. If you have some, why not add twinkling fairy lights for a touch of magic?

If you want to host a storytelling session there is a Short Shakespeare Tale of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for you to use. You can use relevant props to bring your story to life – or use the finger puppets supplied in this pack. If you need inspiration, there is a video of the retelling at www.shakespeareweek.org.uk/libraries

We also recommend Marcia Williams’ retellings of Shakespeare’s stories. You can find her versions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in:

- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Walker Books, 2014)
- *Tales from Shakespeare* (Walker Books, 2014)
- *Mr William Shakespeare's Plays* (Walker Books, 1998)

After the story, you can encourage the children to think about the characters by playing the Dream Sculptors game described in this pack and follow that with the craft activities and quizzes provided.

To complete your session, you can give the certificate from this pack to participating children.





Invitation

Dust off your wings, brush up your elf outfits, polish your sparkly headdresses* and come to our magical *A Midsummer Night's Dream* event at

.....

on

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Join us for an enchanting story and meet a colourful cast of characters including bickering fairies, a mischievous sprite and an actor called Bottom. Take part in craft activities and enjoy some fun games and quizzes.

We hope you can come!



SHAKESPEARE WEEK Shakespeare birthplace trust

*Fancy dress optional.



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SHAKESPEARE WEEK Shakespeare birthplace trust

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SHORT SHAKESPEARE TALE

A Midsummer Night's Dream

In ancient Athens, two lovers – Hermia and Lysander – are desperate to get married to one another. However, Hermia's father dislikes Lysander and wants his daughter to marry Demetrius instead. (1) They decide to run away so that they can get married in secret. Before they leave Athens, they tell Hermia's best friend, Helena, that they want to run away that very night. (2) Helena is madly in love with Demetrius – the one who is supposed to be marrying Hermia – so she goes off to tell him about her friend's plan to run away. Demetrius runs after Hermia and Lysander, and is himself chased by Helena into a giant wood outside the city. (3)

Meanwhile, in the woods, the fairy king, Oberon, is cross with his queen, Titania. He orders his magical servant, Puck, to fetch a special flower that makes people fall in love with whatever creature they first see after opening their eyes. (4)

While Puck is away, Oberon overhears Helena begging Demetrius to love her instead of Hermia. Oberon becomes angry at Demetrius and orders Puck to use the flower on him while he is asleep. (5)

In the meantime, Oberon uses the flower on Titania while she is sleeping and, when she wakes up, she falls in love with a man called Bottom on whom Puck has cast a spell so that he has the body of a man but the head of a donkey! (6)

Puck goes off and finds a young man asleep. He thinks that it is Demetrius (but really it's Lysander) and uses the magical flower on him. Along comes Helena who is lost and tired, and she sees Lysander asleep. When she wakes him up, he instantly falls in love with her and chases her through the woods. Oberon becomes very angry with Puck for getting the men confused, so he uses the flower on Demetrius. (7) When Helena is running away from Lysander, she bumps into Demetrius who, when he wakes up, also falls in love with her.

As the two men start chasing Helena, Hermia finds them all and becomes angry with her friend. (8) Confused and tired, all four of them fall asleep in the forest. Puck puts an anti-love potion into Lysander's eyes and then turns Bottom back into a man. Oberon uses the anti-love potion on Titania and takes her away to the fairy kingdom.

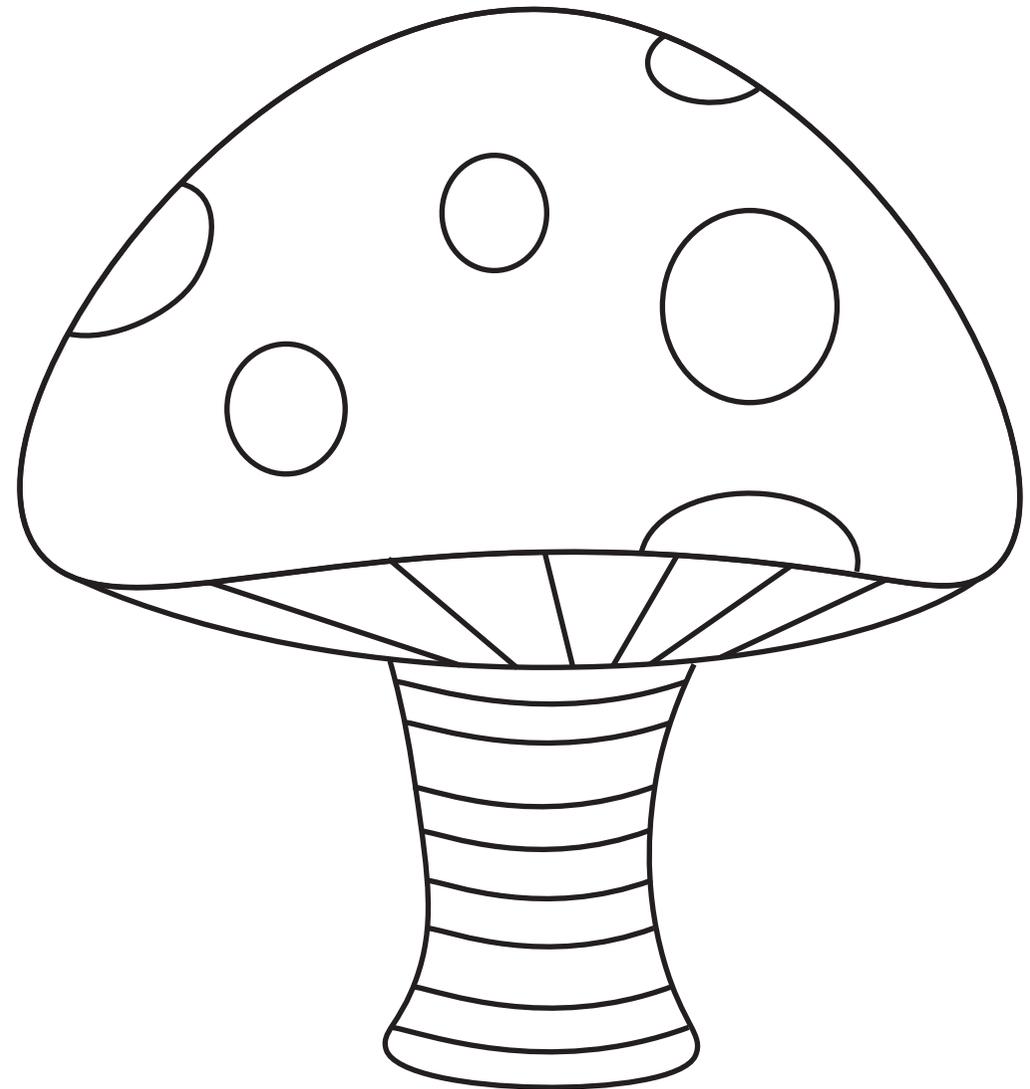
Early the next morning, the Duke of Athens finds all four lovers asleep in the forest and wakes them up. Lysander says that he wants to marry Hermia, and Demetrius declares his love for Helena. (9) On the day of their weddings, the Duke also marries the Amazonian Queen and their marriages are blessed by all of the fairies. (10)

1. The course of true love never did run smooth.
2. In the wood Lysander and myself shall meet,
And thence from Athens turn away our eyes,
To seek new friends and stranger companies.
3. I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.
Where is Lysander and fair Hermia?
The one I'll slay, the other slayeth me.
4. Fetch me that flower,
The juice of it on sleeping eye-lids laid
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees.
5. A sweet Athenian lady is in love
With a disdainful youth. Anoint his eyes!
6. My mistress with a monster is in love.
Titania waked and straightway loved an ass.
7. What hast thou done? thou hast mistaken quite
And laid the love-juice on some true-love's sight!
8. O me! you juggler! you canker-blossom!
You thief of love! what, have you come by night
And stolen my love's heart from him?
9. Now all the faith, the virtue of my heart,
The object and the pleasure of mine eye,
Is only Helena.
10. Now, until the break of day,
Through this house each fairy stray.

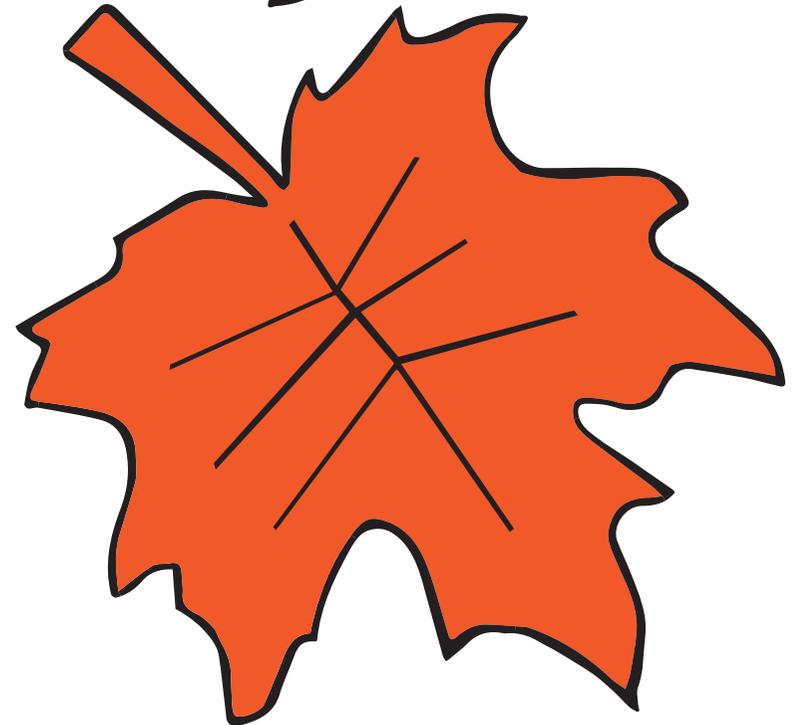
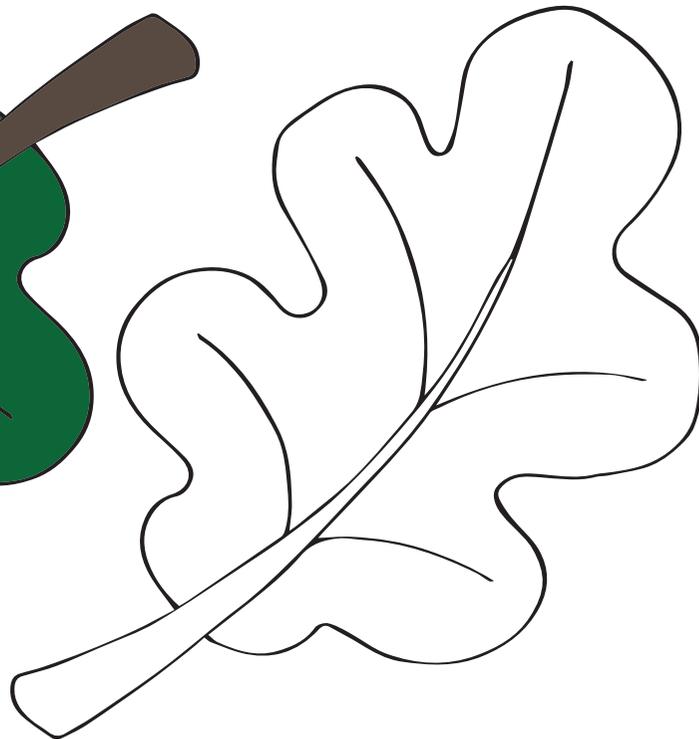
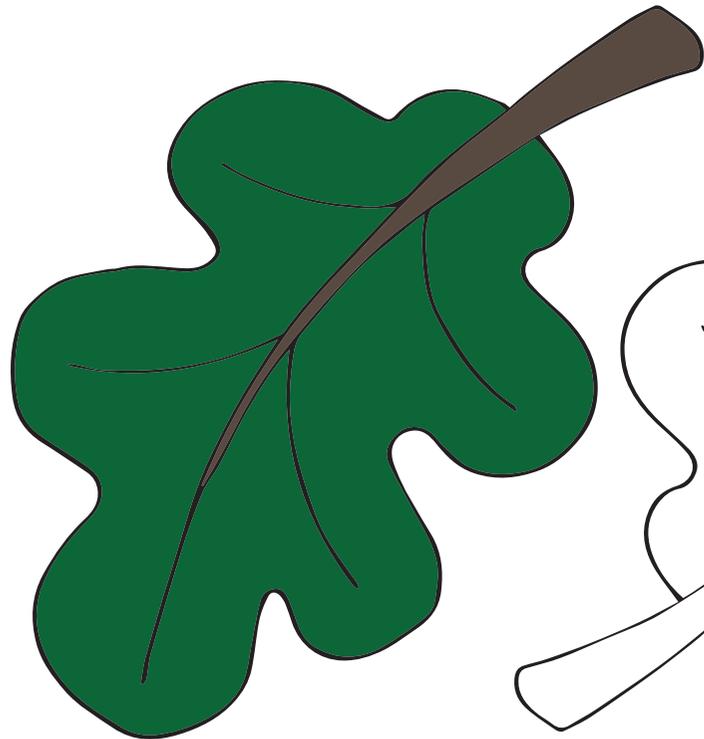
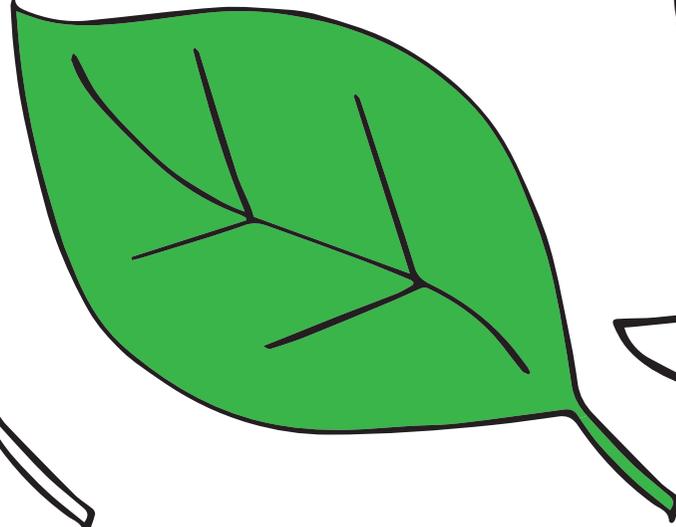
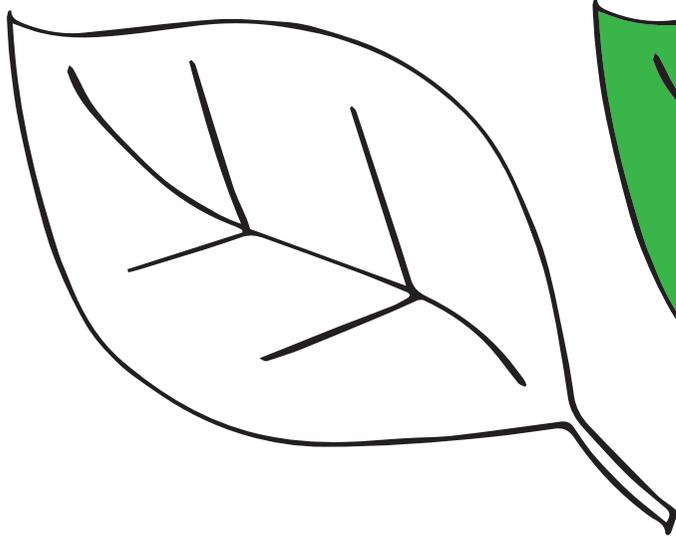


DECORATIONS CRAFT ACTIVITY

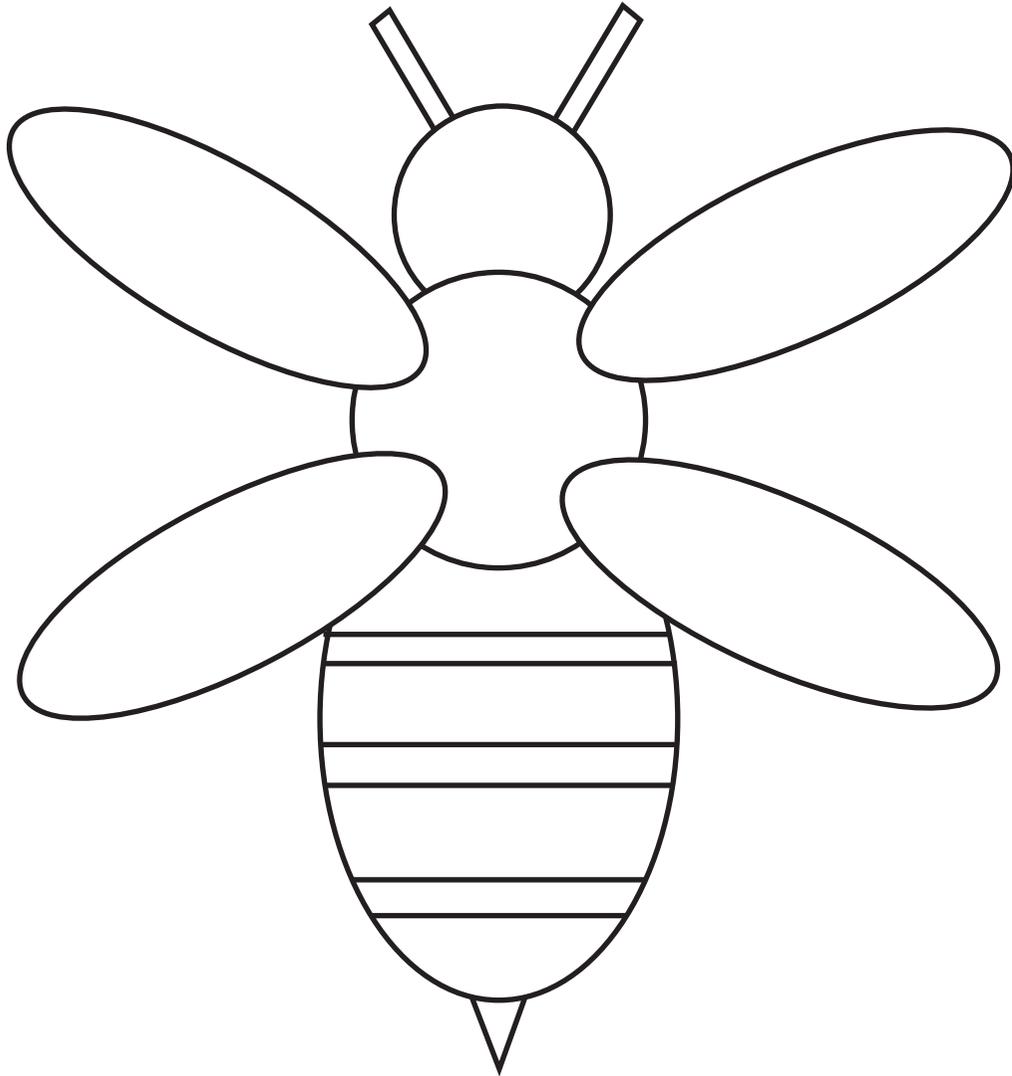
Use these templates to make a magical woodland setting and create atmosphere for your Midsummer Night's Dream activities.



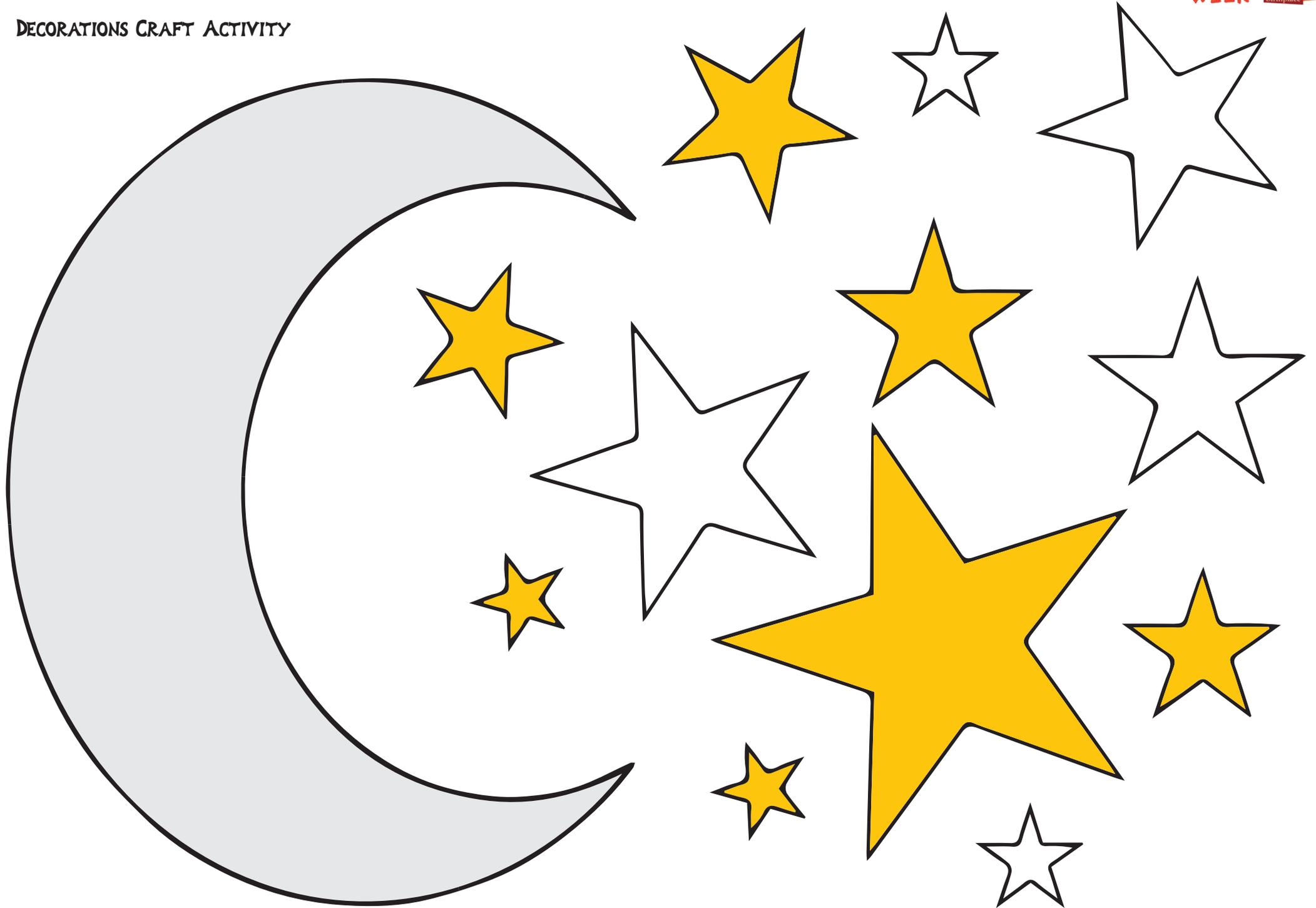
DECORATIONS CRAFT ACTIVITY



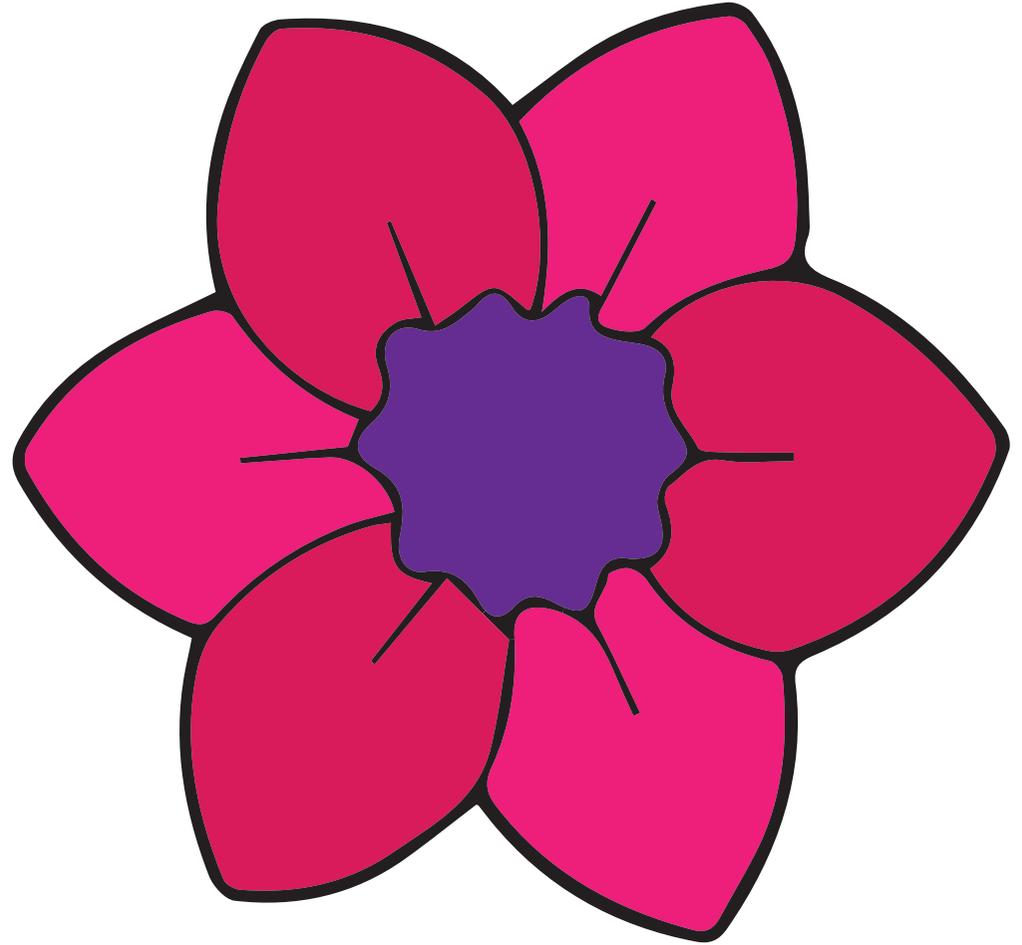
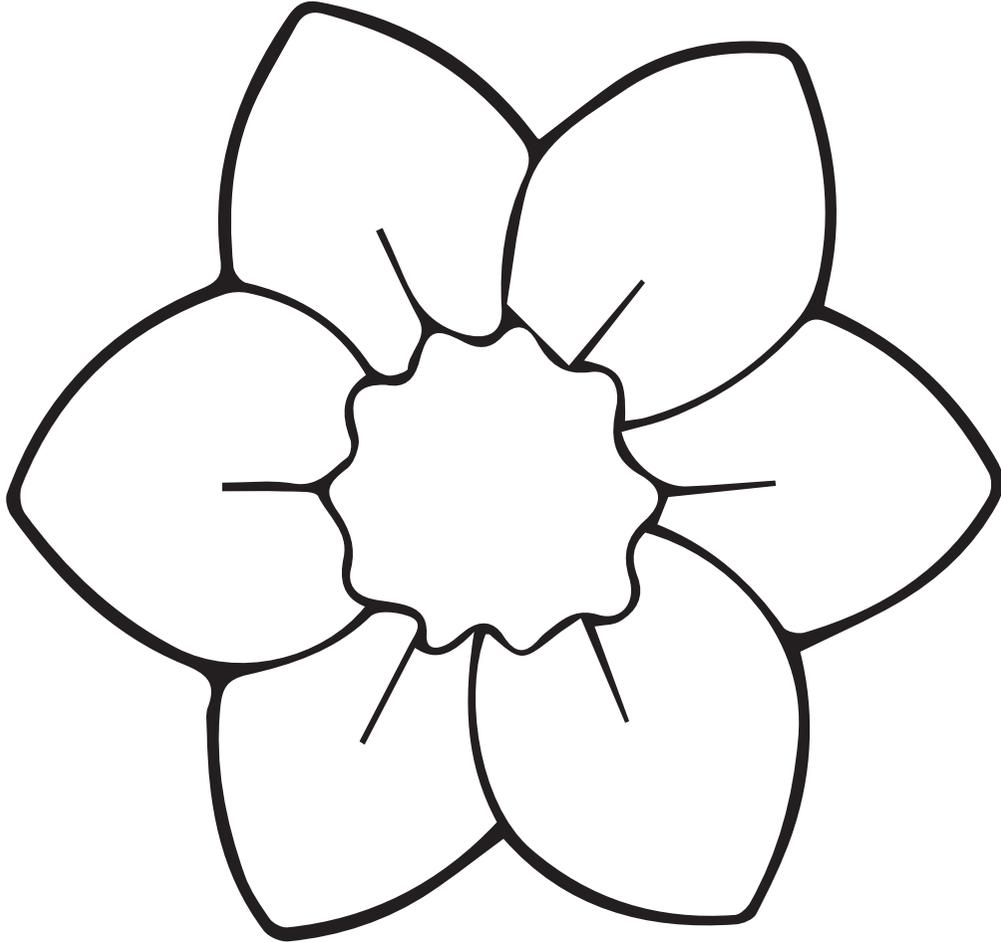
DECORATIONS CRAFT ACTIVITY



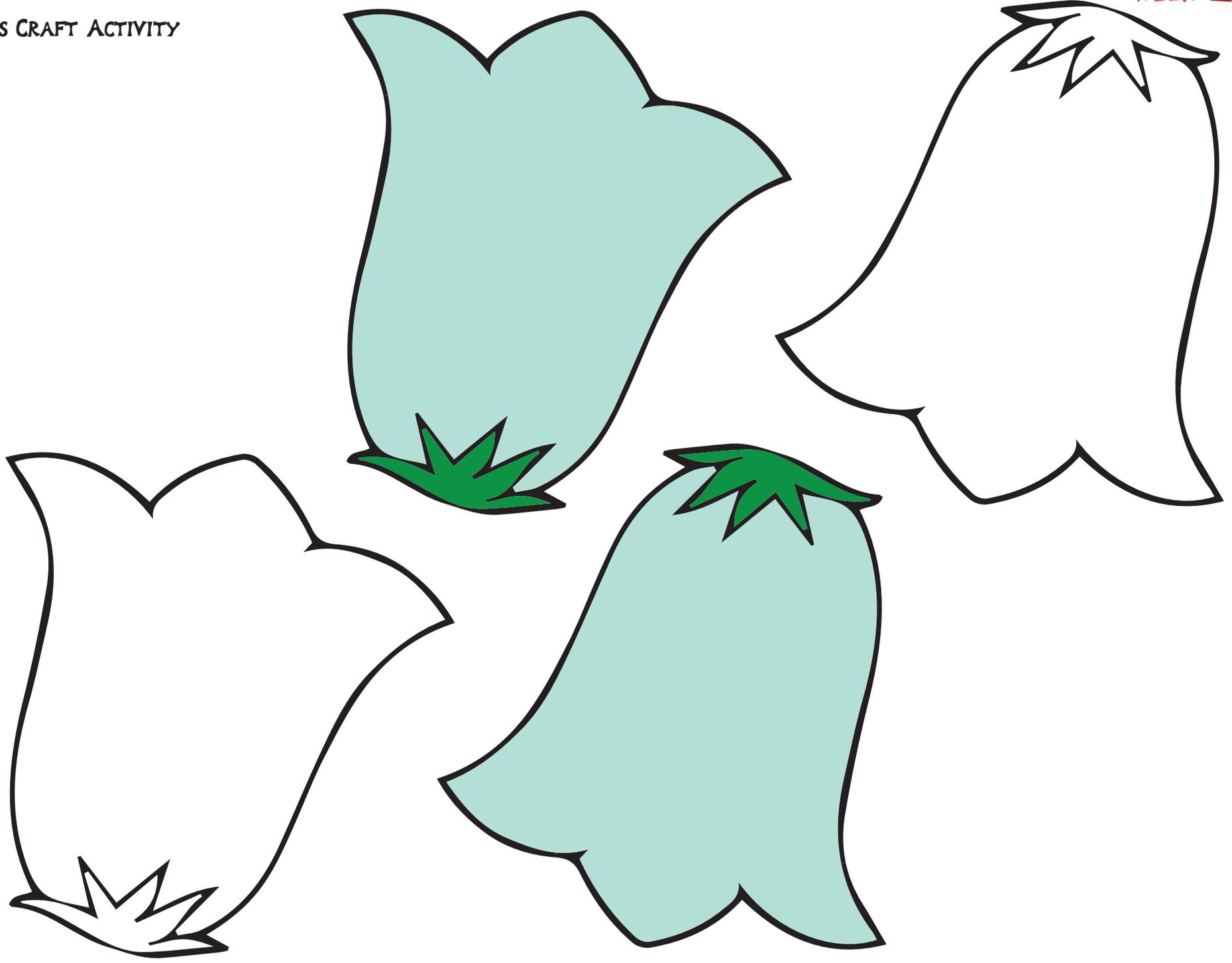
DECORATIONS CRAFT ACTIVITY



DECORATIONS CRAFT ACTIVITY



DECORATIONS CRAFT ACTIVITY



DREAM SCULPTORS GAME

After sharing the story, play this fun game to encourage the children to think about the characters from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Get all of the children into pairs and ask them to decide who is A and who is B. As are sculptors and B's are lumps of clay. Explain that the As will then turn their partner into a statue of the character that you are going to describe through posture, attitude and expression, etc. Ask them not to start sculpting until you have finished describing the character.

Using the notes given below – plus some context from the play – describe one of the characters. Give the children one or two minutes to create their statues. Next, allow the sculptors a little time to walk around your area looking at the other sculptures. They are not allowed to touch the statues or disturb them in any way. Give some feedback to the sculptors on their creations.

Repeat the game with a new character, with A's as the lumps of clay and B's as the sculptors.

You could also play a version of charades. Give the A's one of the character descriptions below and ask them to act out the traits for their partner, without using any words. Can the B's guess which one they are? Ask them to take turns being the actor.

Character Descriptions



PUCK

- A mischievous fairy
- Loves playing pranks
- Makes unfortunate mistakes
- Quick-witted

NICK BOTTOM

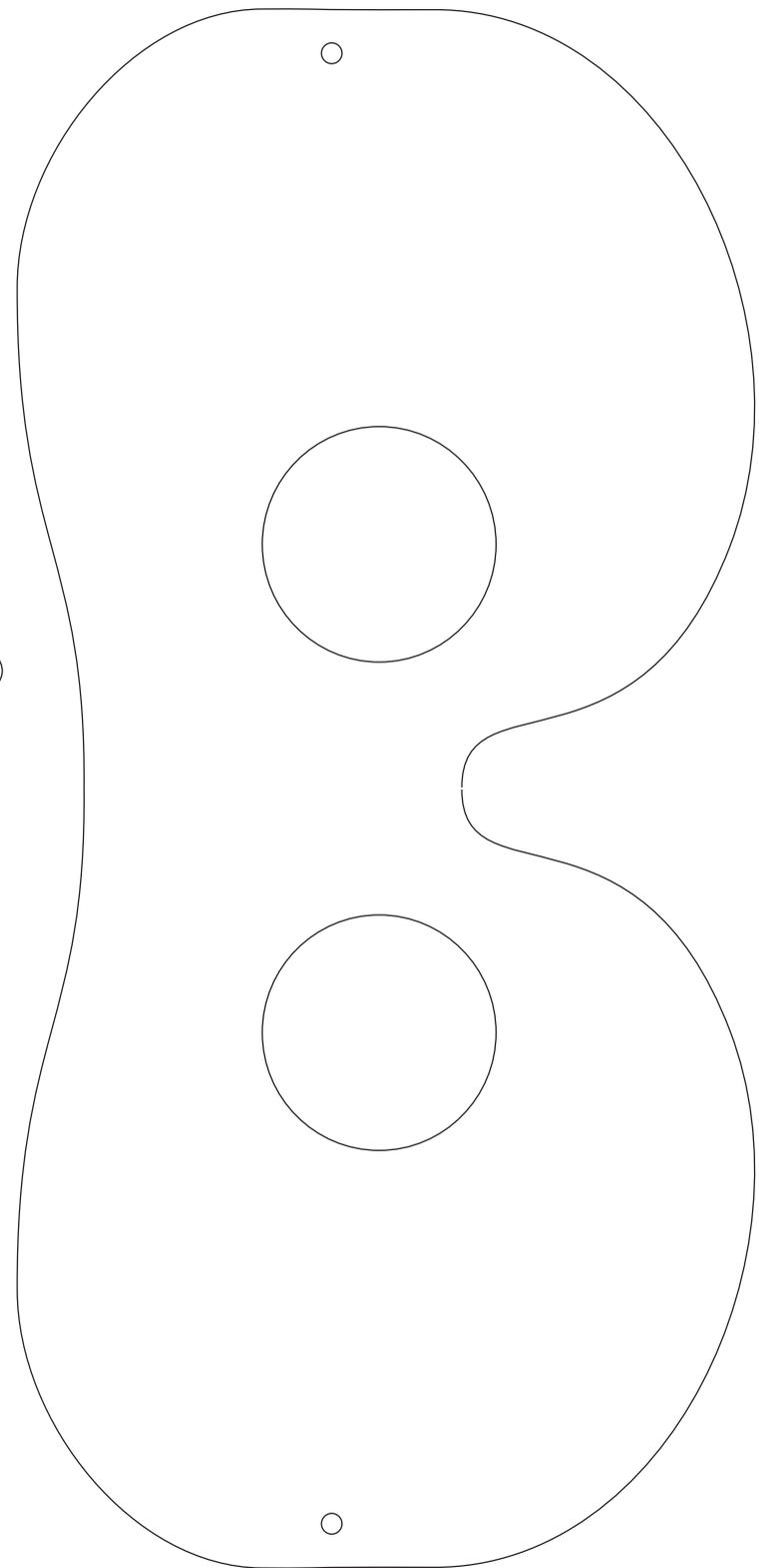
- Over-confident
- Likes to advise people
- Arrogant
- Foolish

TITANIA

- Strong-minded
- Beautiful
- Compassionate
- Caring

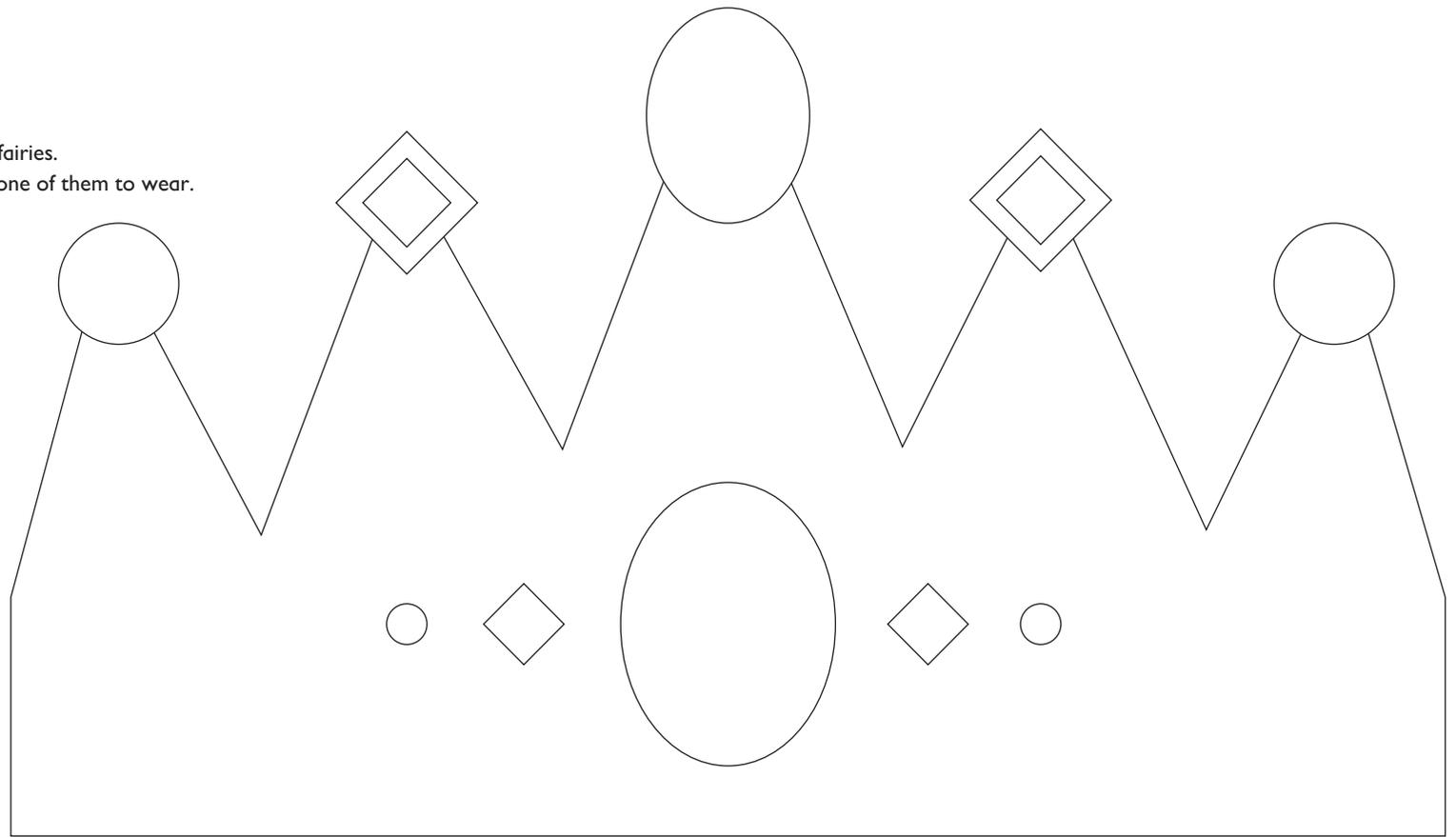
DONKEY'S EARS CRAFT ACTIVITY

Puck, the mischievous sprite casts a spell to turn Nick Bottom's head into a donkey's head!
Use this template to make your own set of donkey's ears. How will you decorate them?

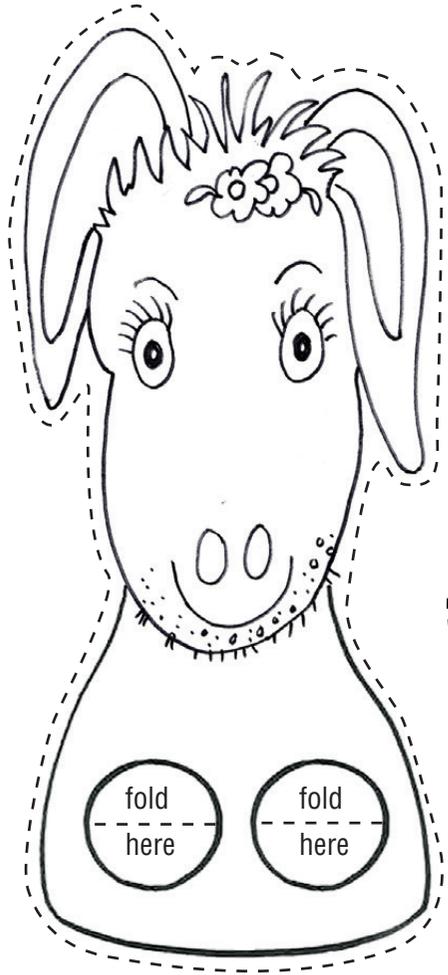


MAKE A CROWN CRAFT ACTIVITY

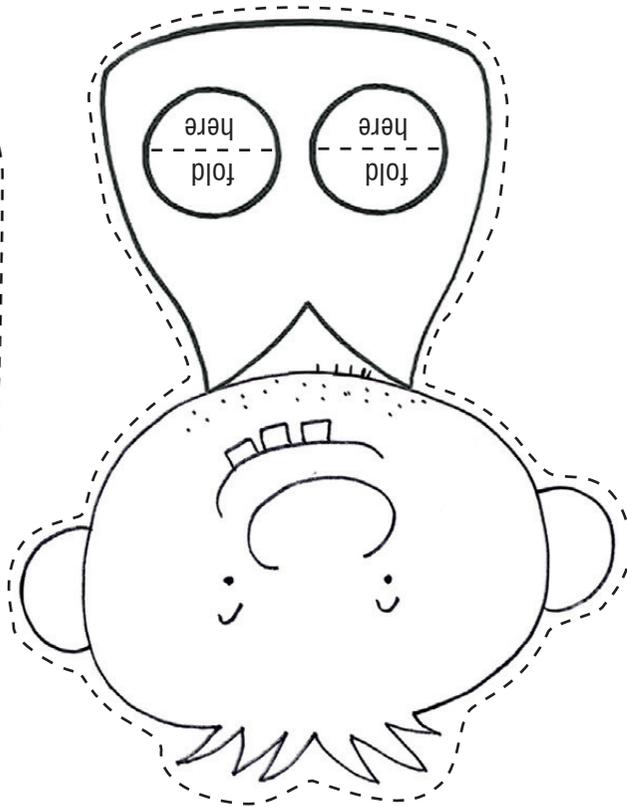
Oberon and Titania are the king and queen of the fairies.
Use the template to design and make a crown for one of them to wear.



FINGER PUPPETS CRAFT ACTIVITY



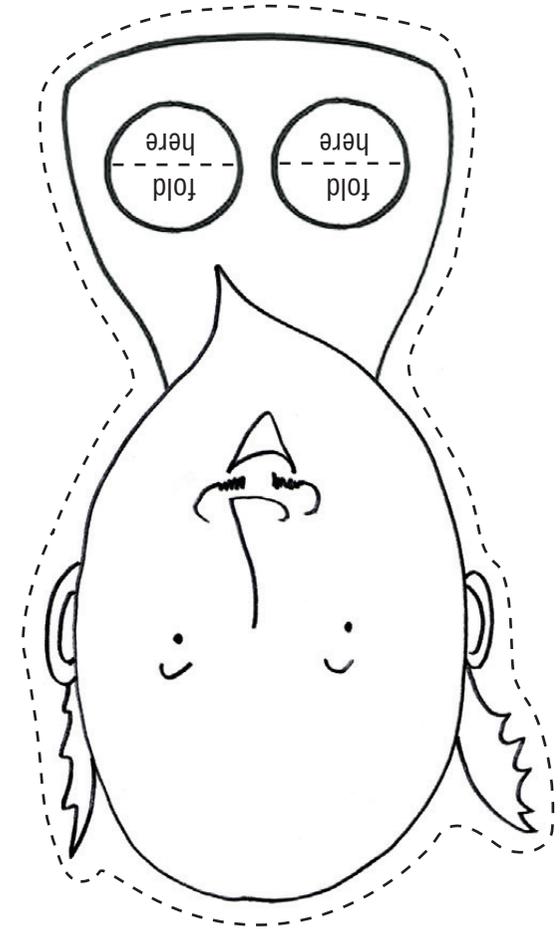
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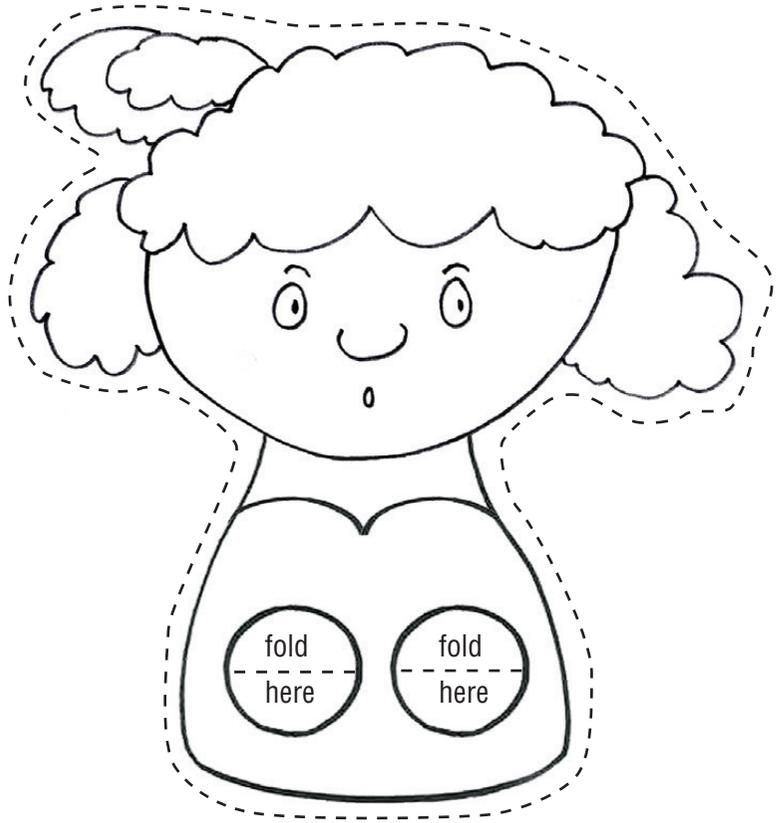


Demetrius

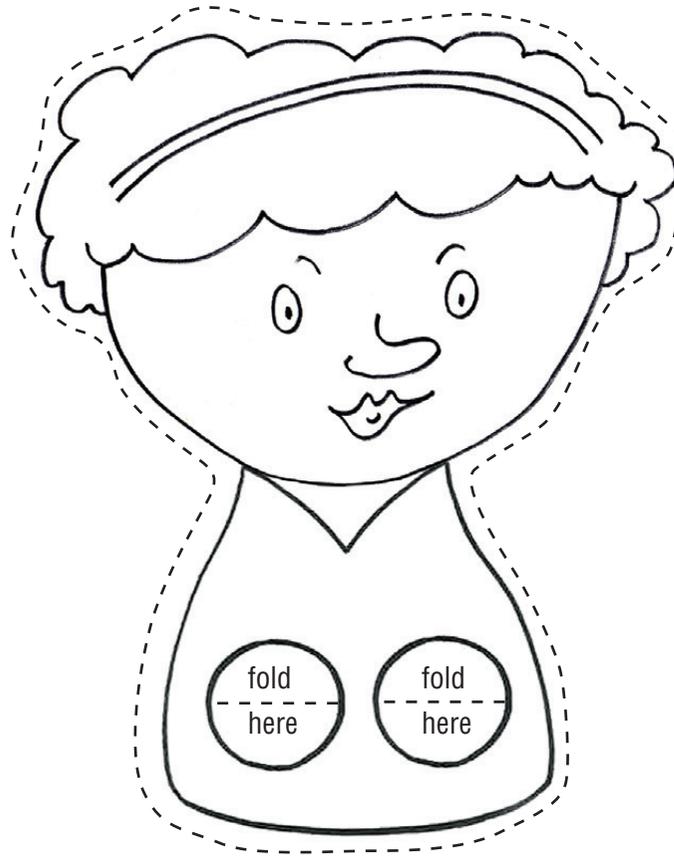


Peter Quince

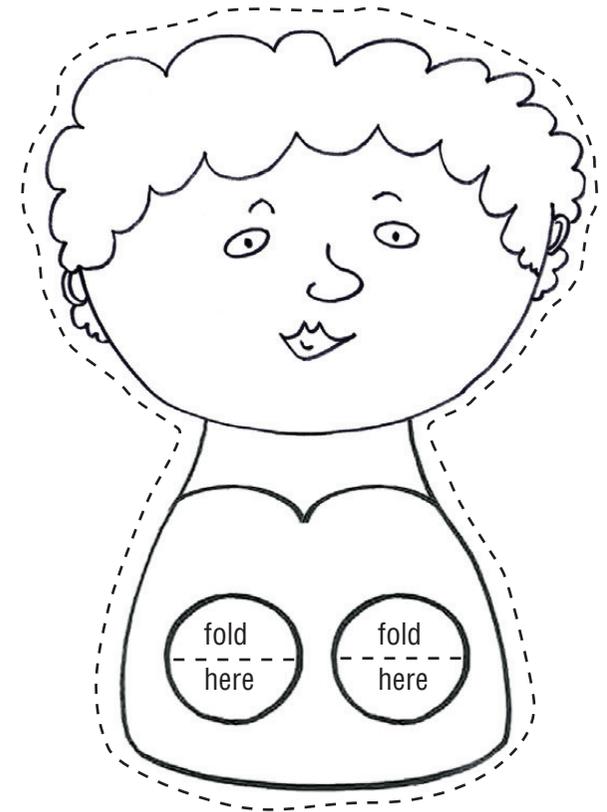
FINGER PUPPETS CRAFT ACTIVITY



Helena

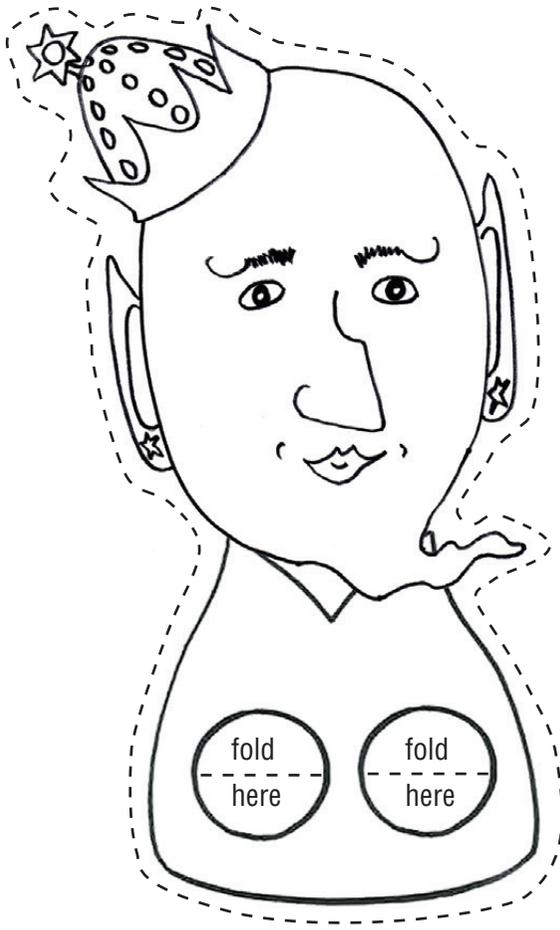


Lysander

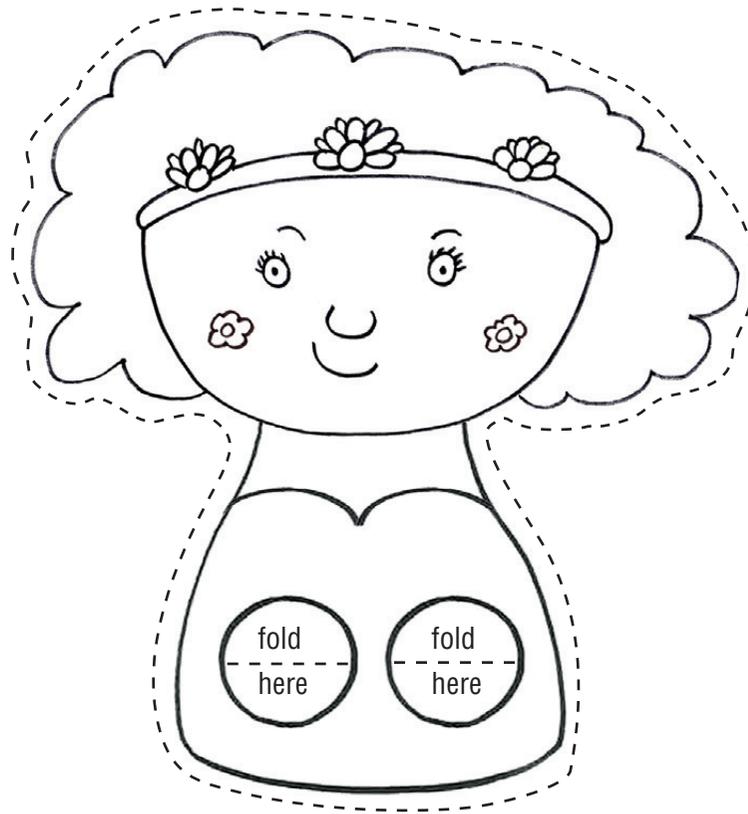


Hermia

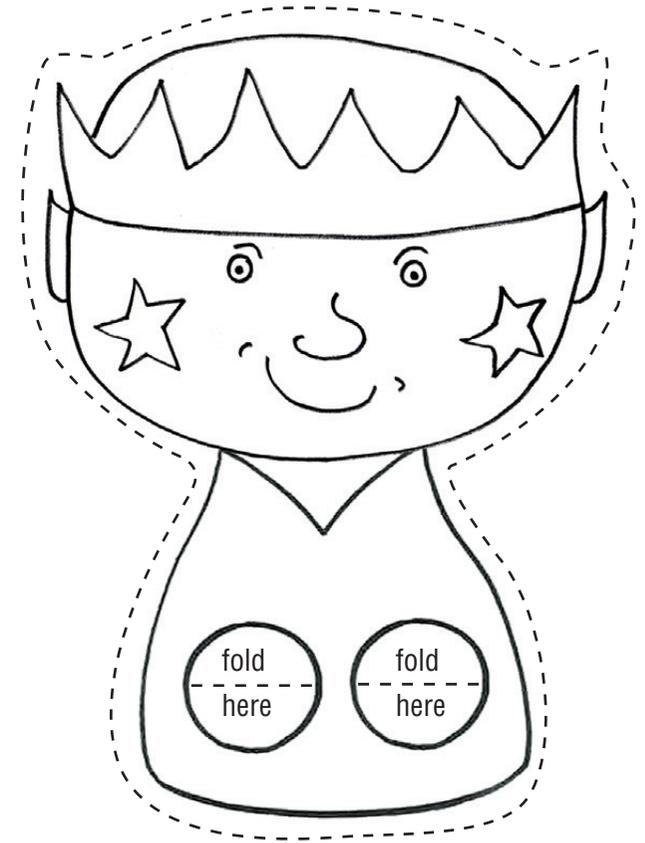
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Oberon

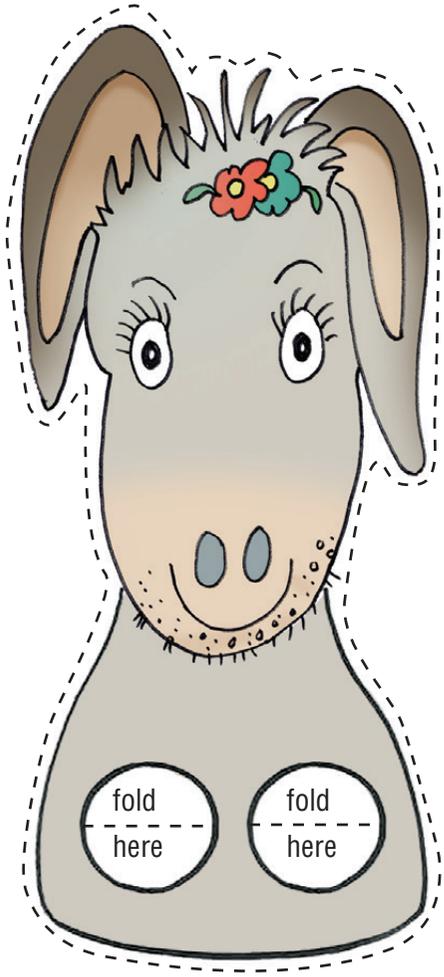


Titania

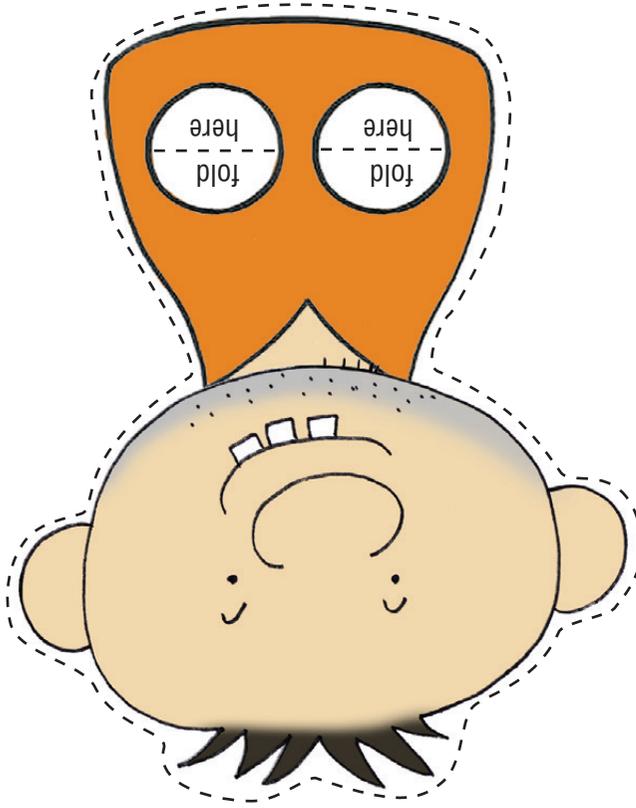


Puck

FINGER PUPPETS CRAFT ACTIVITY



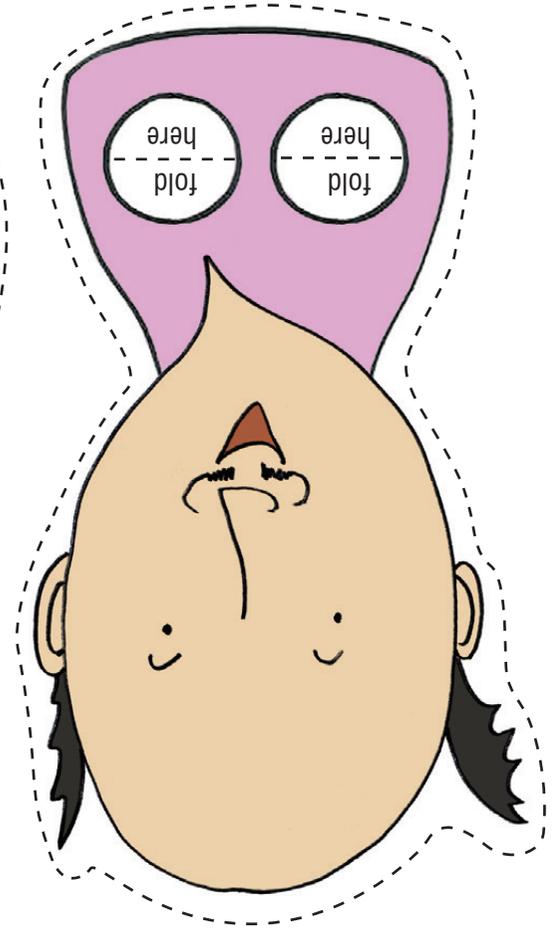
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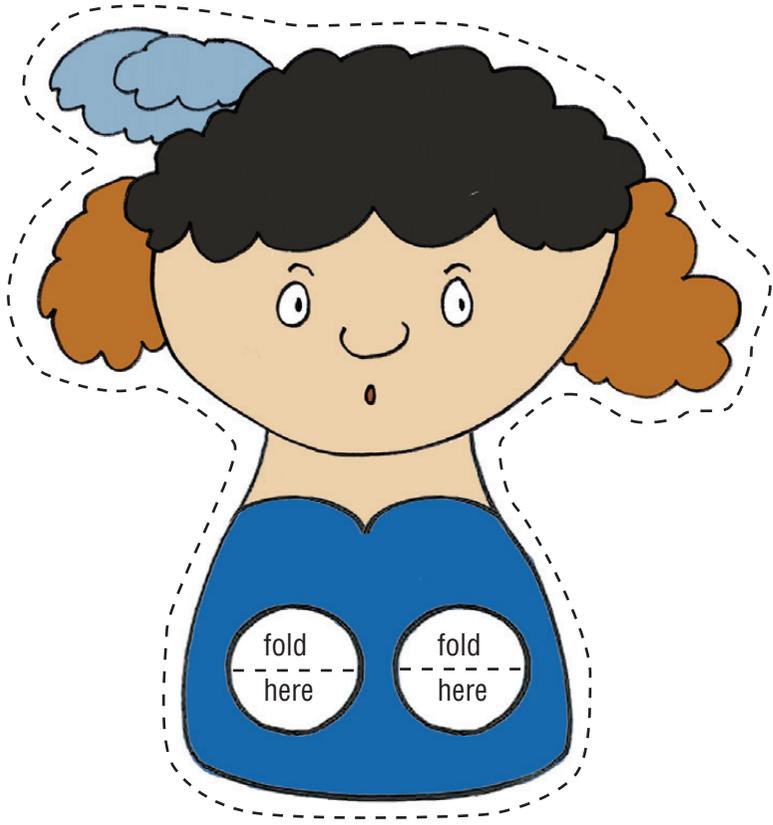


Demetrius



Peter Quince

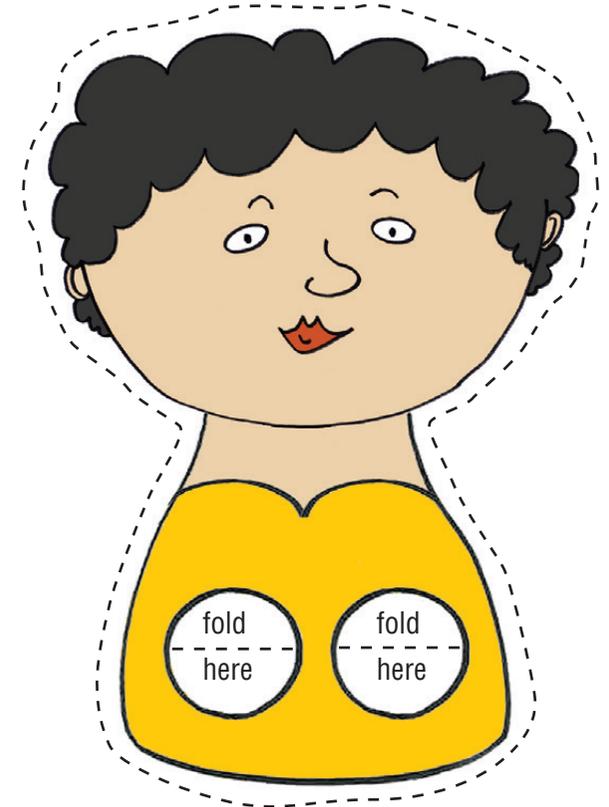
FINGER PUPPETS CRAFT ACTIVITY



Helena

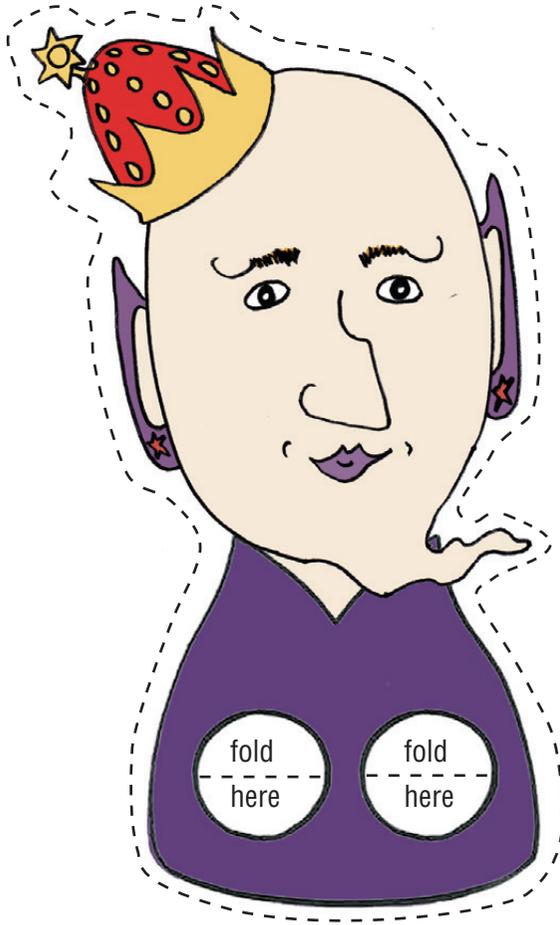


Lysander

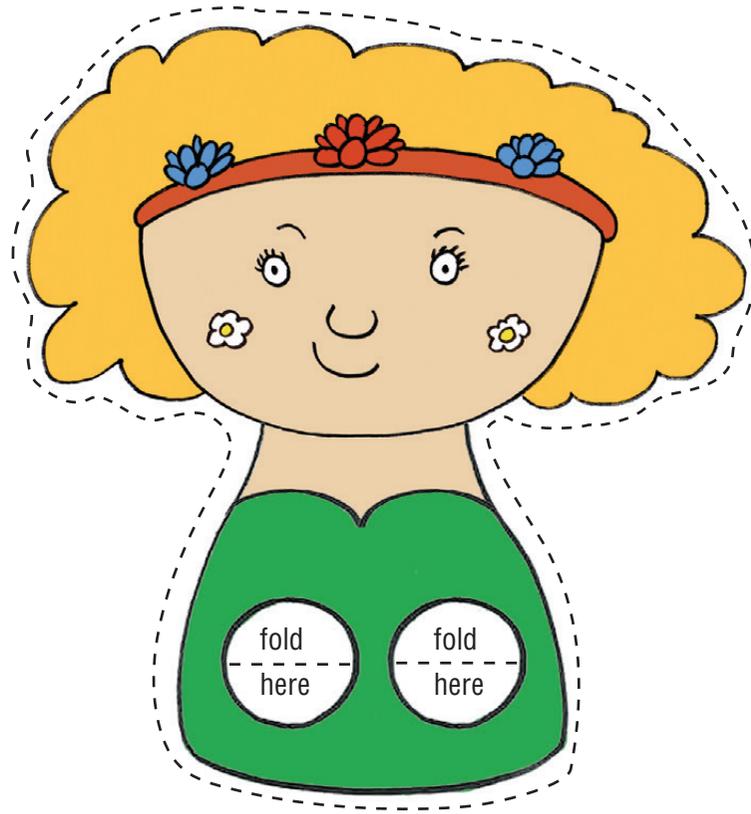


Hermia

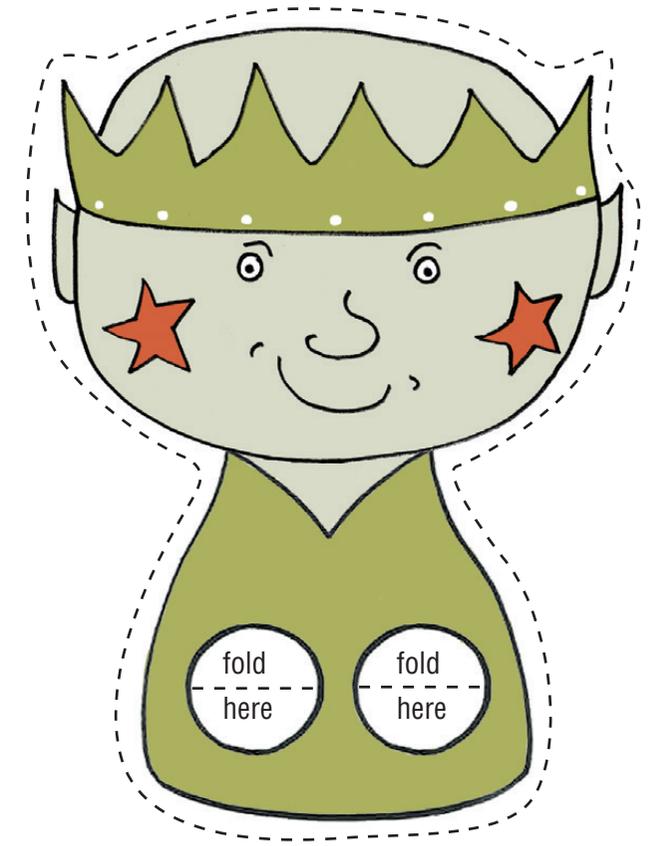
FINGER PUPPETS CRAFT ACTIVITY



Oberon



Titania



Puck

COLOURING SHEET



This play is full of couples – and some of them aren't very happy. Luckily it all gets sorted out in the end ... with a bit of help from the fairies.

If you are thinking of pretty creatures with shimmery wings and magic wands, think again. Shakespeare's fairies argue and fight as much, if not more, than human beings. And they aren't above playing some nasty tricks. As Robin Goodfellow says when he apologises to the audience at the end, it's probably best not to take all this too seriously. Perhaps it was all a dream...

*"If these shadows have offended,
Think but this and all is mended:
That you have but slumbered here
While these visions did appear."*

Now find a copy of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the library shelves and see if you can answer these questions ...

QUESTIONS

1. When the play begins, how long is it before Theseus and Hippolyta are to be married?

- a) Four weeks
- b) Four hours
- c) Four days
- d) Four years

2. Hermia's father wants her to marry Demetrius, but who does she want to marry instead?

- a) Lysander
- b) Oberon
- c) Theseus
- d) Egeus

3. Helena is Hermia's best friend but she is a bit jealous of her – why is that?

- a) Hermia is said to be more beautiful than Helena
- b) Helena loves Demetrius – the man Hermia is supposed to marry
- c) Helena is jealous of Hermia because her father allows her to do anything she likes
- d) Helena wants to marry Lysander herself

4. In the next scene we meet a group of workmen who plan to stage a play as part of Theseus and Hippolyta's wedding celebrations. Shakespeare has a lot of fun with these characters, starting with their names. Which one of these is not a member of the group?

- a) Puck
- b) Bottom
- c) Starveling
- d) Snout

5. The play will be about two tragic lovers. What are the names of the unhappy couple?

- a) Romeo and Juliet
- b) Antony and Cleopatra
- c) Pyramus and Thisbe
- d) Troilus and Cressida

6. Off to the woods, where we find that Oberon is very angry with Titania. Why?

- a) She wants to become human and marry a human man
- b) She wants to take over his kingdom
- c) She's cast a wicked spell on him
- d) She won't give Oberon her adoptive son to be his slave

7. What is the name of the flower that Oberon sends Puck to find?

- a) Love in Idleness
- b) Love in a Mist
- c) Heart's Ease
- d) Ragged Robin

8. Oberon makes a potion that will make Titania fall in love with the first person she sees when she wakes up. Who does this turn out to be?

- a) Bottom
- b) Puck
- c) Demetrius
- d) Lysander

9. Which of these four couples do not get married in Act Five?

- a) Theseus and Hippolyta
- b) Demetrius and Helena
- c) Oberon and Titania
- d) Lysander and Hermia

10. Finally the workmen get to perform their play. Which fearsome creature does Snug get to play?

- a) A lion
- b) A tiger
- c) A bear
- d) An elephant

Bonus question: There is a link between Shakespeare and the other three couples in question 5. Do you know what it is?

TOTAL:

WORDSEARCH

Find and circle all of the words below from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The words may be hidden in any direction.

- HIPPOLYTA
- DEMETRIUS
- LYSANDER
- TITANIA
- THESEUS
- FAIRIES
- FOREST
- OBERON
- HERMIA
- HELENA
- COMEDY
- MAGIC
- EGEUS
- PUCK
- LOVE

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WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

Here are the answers to the *A Midsummer Night's Dream* wordsearch.

- HIPPOLYTA
- DEMETRIUS
- LYSANDER
- TITANIA
- THESEUS
- FAIRIES
- FOREST
- OBERON
- HERMIA
- HELENA
- COMEDY
- MAGIC
- EGEUS
- PUCK
- LOVE

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SHAKESPEARE WEEK



Certificate of Completion

AWARDED TO

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for finding out about Shakespeare's famous play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

SIGNED

DATE

