

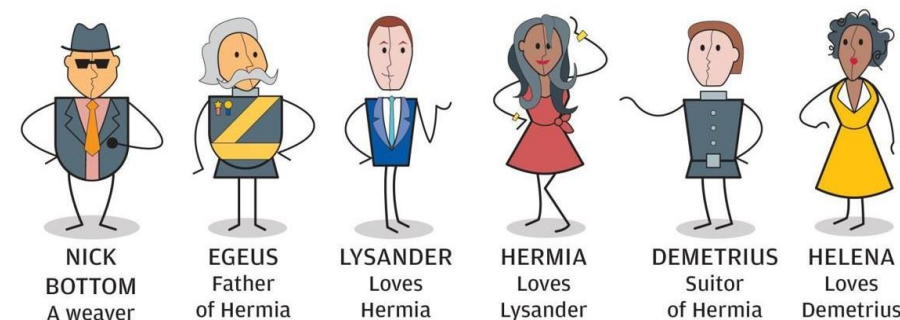
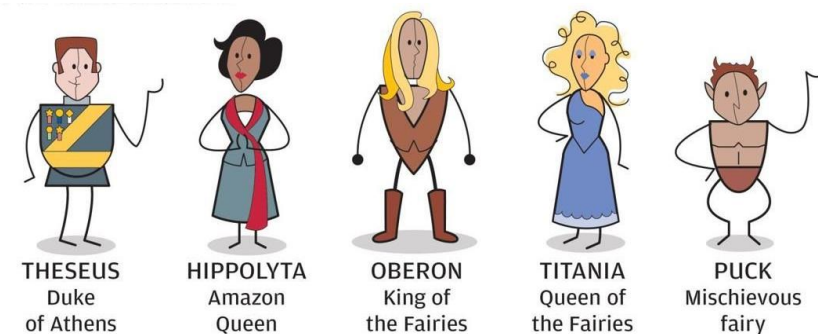
# English Knowledge Organiser Y8 A Midsummer Night's Dream Autumn 2

Key term	Definition
<b>Scene</b>	A scene is a piece of action which takes place in a single place without a break in time
<b>Prose and blank verse</b>	<b>Prose</b> is defined as "ordinary language". It is the language that people speak in. Shakespeare's poorer characters often speak like this. <b>Blank verse</b> is a type of poetry. Shakespeare's characters of higher status usually speak like this.
<b>Satire</b>	A technique employed by Shakespeare to critique societal norms, particularly through the character of Bottom.
<b>Iambic pentameter</b>	A verse rhythm often used in <b>Shakespeare's</b> writing. It has 10 syllables per line. Syllables alternate between unstressed and stressed beats, creating this pattern: "de/DUM de/DUM de/DUM de/DUM de/DUM."
<b>Soliloquy</b>	Shakespeare's plays are full of soliloquies. A soliloquy is a speech a character gives which we as the audience can hear it, but none of the characters in the play can.
<b>Rhyming couplets</b>	Two lines which rhyme, often (but not only) used at the end of a scene. E.g. "This precious book of love, this unbound lover, To beautify him only lacks a cover." - Romeo and Juliet
<b>Acts</b>	An act is a part of a play which gives it structure through usual story elements such as rising action, climax and resolution. Shakespeare plays have five acts
<b>Beat and meter</b>	The beat, or the rhythm, refers to the overall tempo, or pace, at which the blank verse unfolds, while meter refers to the patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables.
<b>Plot</b>	The <b>plot</b> is a series of events inside a story.

## Life in Ancient Greece - Setting

In ancient Greece, life was characterised by bustling city-states, vibrant cultural rituals, and the significance of mythology. Citizens participated in grand festivals honouring deities, while philosophers debated the essence of existence. This rich tapestry of daily life, intertwined with nature and social responsibility, shaped the foundations of Western civilisation.

In Shakespeare's [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#), these elements of ancient Greek culture are echoed through themes of love, magic, and the interplay between reality and imagination.



## Life in Elizabethan England – When the play was written

In Elizabethan England, life was shaped by social classes and the excitement of theatre. People loved going to plays in London, which often showed their everyday lives and feelings. Superstitions were common, and these ideas can be seen in the magical forest of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

## Greater Depth:



**Key Themes:** Love



Order and disorder



Appearance and Reality

