

Reader's Theatre: A Note from Book-It Arts Education

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Midsummer Mischief has roles for nine readers. Characters are written with she, he, or singular they for specific characters to maintain clarity, but **pronouns can be adjusted as needed to match the pronouns of the readers in your class**. Please do not change the names of the characters.

When you read the script, try different ways of speaking as your character. Your **character voice** can sound however you want it to but start with your own voice. Imagine the world of the play, listen to the lines of the other readers, take a deep breath, and speak as if the character is really you.

Lines written (*like this*), in parentheses and italicized, are **stage directions**. They give you information about how a character is feeling or what is happening at that moment in the script. (You can read them out loud, if you want to.) **Use these guidelines to incorporate action, tableaux, or scenic art into your reading.**

This script uses **line numbering**. Use these numbers to help find your spot or to work on a certain part of the script. You can also use a highlighter to highlight your lines or responsibilities.

Happy reading!

MIDSUMMER MISCHIEF

by Annika Bennett

(with a nod to William Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*)

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CHARACTERS

OBERON: (he/him) The King of the Forest. Puck's best friend.

TITANIA: (she/her) The Queen of the Forest. Puck's other best friend.

PUCK: (they/them) The greatest troublemaker who ever lived. Chaos personified. Could've burned the forest down years ago. Only didn't because it would've upset Oberon and Titania. (Might still do it someday.)

PEASEBLOSSOM: (they/them) The teacher's pet of the forest fairies.

COBWEB: (he/him) The most pessimistic of the forest fairies. His bangs are *always* in his eyes.

MOTE: (she/her) The tiniest and least threatening of the forest fairies. But don't say that to her face...

MUSTARDSEED: (he/him) The sleepest of the forest fairies. Never totally sure what's going on, but always happy to see what happens.

QUINCE: (she/her) An elementary school student who carries a briefcase to class.

BOTTOM: (he/him) An elementary school student who says the Pledge of Allegiance 3x as loud as anyone else because he just loves to be heard.

1 *(An enchanted forest ruled by Titania and Oberon, Queen and*
2 *King of the Fairies. Everything is perfect, beautiful, and*
3 *peaceful here - there isn't a leaf out of place. The forest is*
4 *protected from intruders by a magical barrier.)*

5 **PUCK:** Once upon a time... there was a very magic forest.

6 **OBERON:** Full of very magic trees?

7 **TITANIA:** And very magic butterflies?

8 **OBERON:** And very magic bees?

9 **PUCK:** All of that's true, of course, but... let's try not to get started rhyming,
10 or we'll never be able to stop.

11 **TITANIA:** Of course. Sorry. But... do you know what I like best about our
12 very magic forest?

13 **OBERON:** Is it... how it's the safest place to play?

14 **TITANIA:** You know it! Because we hide it from the mortals with the magic
15 spells we say!

16 **PUCK:** Oberon. Titania. You're doing it again.

17 **OBERON:** I don't think so.

18 **TITANIA:** We would definitely notice if we were rhyming. Now, what were
19 we –

20 Oh, *that's* right.

21 **OBERON:** Here, obscured by fog and magic mist, we laugh and dance and
22 sing!

23 **TITANIA:** In our very magic forest with its magic queen and king!

24 **PUCK:** And me, Puck. I'm also here, remember?

25 **OBERON:** Of course! Puck! Our very best friend.

26 **TITANIA:** Which is why you're going to be watching the forest for us today
27 while we're away on fairy business.

28 **PUCK:** ...What?

29 **OBERON:** Have fun! And remember to keep the enchantment on the
30 magic barrier up! Protect us from those troublesome mortals!

31 **TITANIA:** Byeeee!

32 *(And they're gone.)*

33 **PUCK:** "Our very best friend."

34 The three of us have spent a thousand years together in this forest. And
35 now they're going on *trips* together and *rhyming* together, and... well, it
36 doesn't matter. *I* don't care.

37 Peaseblossom?

38 *(Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Mote, and Mustardseed enter.)*

39 Cobweb?

40 Mote?

41 Mustardseed?

42 **PEASEBLOSSOM:** Can we help with something, Puck? Can I help? I love
43 to help!

44 **COBWEB:** Peaseblossom, not so loud, that was, like, right in my ear.

45 **MOTE:** What's up, Puck? You wanna fight? I'll fight you! You think you're
46 so big? You aren't so big! Put 'em up!

47 **MUSTARDSEED:** Who are you again?

48 ...Who am I?

49 **PEASEBLOSSOM:** Oh, Mustardseed. Don't worry. It'll come back to you
50 eventually.

51 **PUCK:** Hello, little friends. Did you hear the news?
52 I'm the new King of the Forest.

53 *(The fairies are confused. But excited! They cheer.)*

54 **MUSTARDSEED:** That's big news! That's the most important job anyone
55 could *have* in the forest, probably.

56 **PUCK:** No probablies about it, Mustardseed.
57 And as my first act as King, I'm bringing down the barrier between the
58 forest and the mortal realm.

59 **PEASEBLOSSOM:** Okayyyy.
60 Not to question you, your Kingliness, but... are you sure that's a good
61 idea?

62 **MOTE:** Don't worry about it, Peaseblossom. If any scary, dangerous
63 mortals *did* get into this forest, I'd just fight 'em off!

64 *(Bottom and Quince enter.)*

65 **COBWEB:** It's official. We're all doomed.

66 **PUCK:** No, no, no. Even if mortals *were* to come in, our magic brambles
67 would trip them up. Our magic spiders would wrap them up in silky
68 spiderwebs and spin them back out into civilization.

69 **QUINCE:** HELLO?

70 **BOTTOM:** IS THERE ANYONE IN HERE?

71 **PUCK:** ...Huh.

72 I guess the mortals have gotten wilier since the last time I left the forest.
73 Everyone hide!

74 **QUINCE:** Bottom, I *told* you we shouldn't have gone into the magic forest!
75 Who do you know who's ever gone into the magic forest? Or come out of it,
76 for that matter?

77 **BOTTOM:** We're artists! We're brave. We're adventurous.

78 **QUINCE:** We're *lost*.

79 **BOTTOM:** Oh, Quince. You know I hate it when you use that word.

80 **QUINCE:** What even is this place?

81 **BOTTOM:** I don't know. But it sure is beautiful. You could almost call it...
82 magical.

83 **PUCK:** So there are mortals in the forest. So what? What are they going to
84 do?

- 85 **PEASEBLOSSOM:** Trample Queen Titania's flowers?
- 86 **COBWEB:** Throw trash everywhere?
- 87 **MOTE:** Start fires they don't know how to put out?
- 88 **MUSTARDSEED:** ...Oh, this could get *bad*.
- 89 **QUINCE:** Did you hear that? I think someone's talking!
- 90 **PUCK:** Oh *no!* I forgot that mortals have ears!
- 91 **QUINCE:** Excuse me, who are you?
- 92 **PUCK:** I'm... definitely *not* the King of the Forest... and these aren't my
93 minions...
- 94 Look, I know I let you walk on in here, but *please* don't burn the whole
95 place down. They'll never forgive me!
- 96 **BOTTOM:** We don't want to burn anything down! We're on *tour*.
- 97 **QUINCE:** Bottom's an actor, and I'm a writer, and we're putting on a play!
- 98 **PUCK:** Just the two of you?
- 99 **BOTTOM:** We... don't have a ton of other friends.
- 100 **PUCK:** Oh. Well... my only friends recently abandoned me, actually.
101 What's your play about?
- 102 **QUINCE:** That's inconsequential.
- 103 **PUCK:** Okayyy... well, where are you touring to?

104 **BOTTOM:** We'll figure it out.

105 **PUCK:** It kind of sounds like maybe you're just on a walk in the woods.

106 **QUINCE:** Whatever. Who are you to judge?

107 Seriously, though... who are you?

108 **PEASEBLOSSOM:** Puck? Can we all talk to you over here for a minute?

109 **COBWEB:** This is bad. This is very, very, very bad.

110 **PUCK:** You always say that, Cobweb.

111 **COBWEB:** Well, this time I mean it. Mortals are *dangerous*, remember?

112 **MUSTARDSEED:** I dunno. These two don't seem so bad, right?

113 **PEASEBLOSSOM:** That's exactly what makes them dangerous!

114 Puck, between the five of us, maybe we can drive them out of the forest
115 and somehow put the magic barrier back up before Titania and Oberon get
116 back.

117 **MOTE:** *Now* we're talking.

118 **PUCK:** But...

119 But they make the forest *interesting*. Don't you feel it?

120 The place has always been magic. Now it feels *alive*.

121 **PEASEBLOSSOM:** So, what, you're just going to let them roam free?

122 You'll have to go through us.

123 **MUSTARDSEED:** Um... look, I'll be honest, I don't *totally* know what's
124 going on, but... since when do you speak for all of us?

125 **MOTE:** Yeah! Maybe I should summon the magic bees to give you a sting
126 or two and show you who's boss!

127 **PEASEBLOSSOM:** Oh yeah? Well, maybe I should enchant the magic
128 rivers to wash you out of here along with the mortals!

129 **MUSTARDSEED:** ZING! Magic lightning bolts!

130 **MOTE:** CRUNCH! Magic carnivorous flowers!

131 **PEASEBLOSSOM:** WHOOOOOSH! Magic mists! If you can't see me, you
132 can't get me!

133 **COBWEB:** Puck! You have to do something! This is chaos!

134 **PUCK:** I know.
135 I *love* being the King of the Forest!

136 **QUINCE:** (*whispering*) Hey, Bottom?

137 **BOTTOM:** Yeah, Quince?

138 **QUINCE:** I think I might have a good idea for our play.

139 **—THE END—**