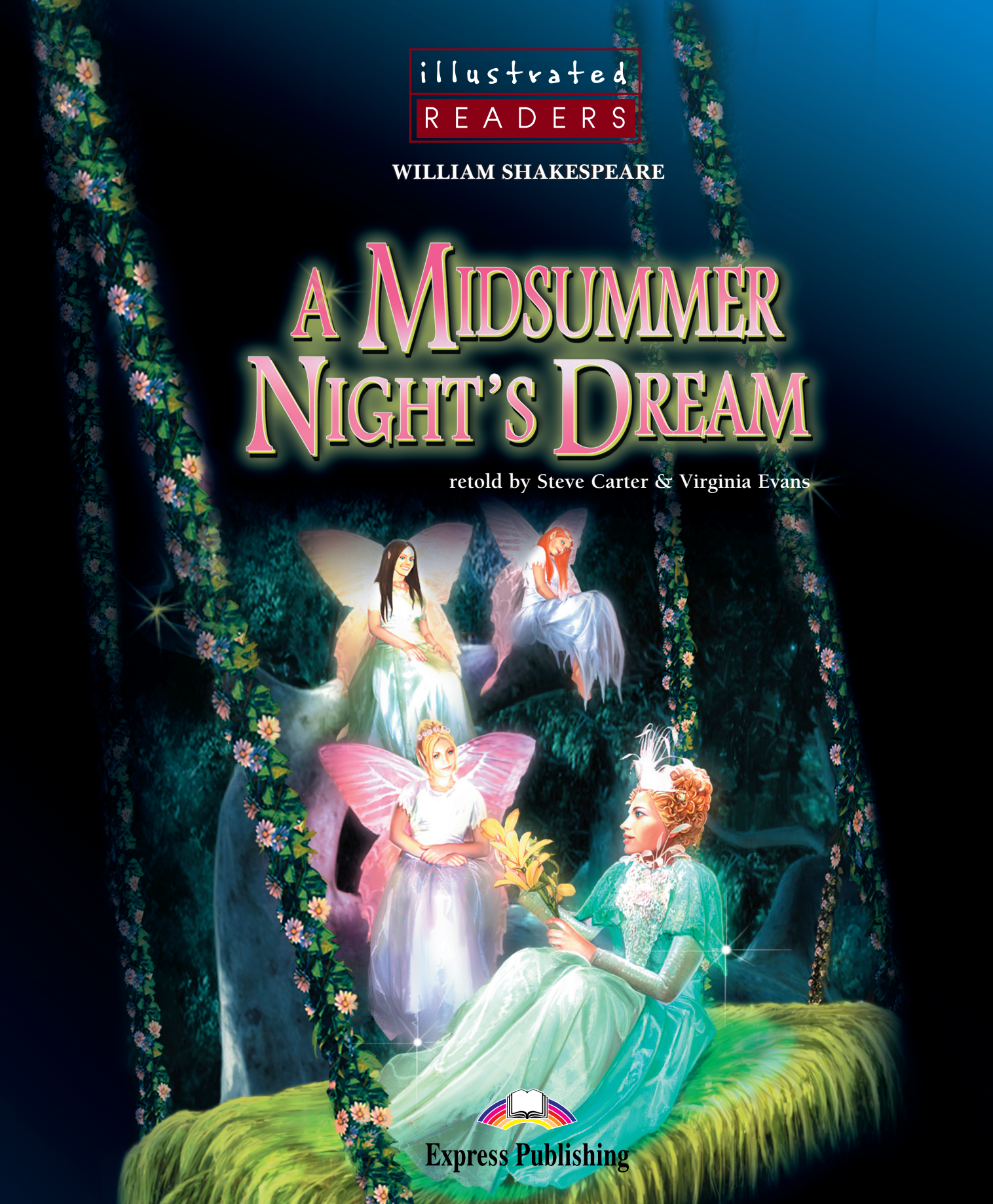
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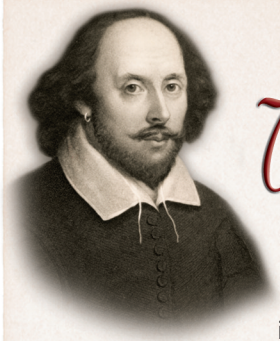
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

retold by Steve Carter & Virginia Evans



Express Publishing



William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare is England's most famous playwright. He was born in a small town called Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564, the third of eight children. On 28 November 1582, 18-year-old Shakespeare married 26-year-old Anne Hathaway. They had three children: Susanna, born in 1583, and twins, Hamnet and Judith, born in 1585.

Little is known about Shakespeare's life between 1585 and 1592, but at some time during this period he moved to London and became involved in the theatre. By 1592 he had become a well-known actor and playwright. When King James came to the throne in 1603, he chose Shakespeare's group of actors to become 'The King's Men'.

Around this time, Shakespeare wrote some of his most famous tragedies, including *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *King Lear*. Shakespeare also wrote many comedies, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *As You Like It*. Most of these plays were performed at the famous Globe Theatre, built in 1599.

Shakespeare moved back to Stratford, where he spent the last few years of his life. He died there on 23 April 1616.

For Review Only

Read William Shakespeare's biography, then answer the questions:

1 When and where was Shakespeare born?
.....

2 How many brothers and sisters did he have?
.....

3 When did he get married?
.....

4 When was the Globe Theatre built?
.....

5 When and where did Shakespeare die?
.....



A Midsummer Night's Dream

A Midsummer Night's Dream was probably written in 1594 and first performed in 1595. Some people believe it was written to be performed at an important wedding. It was written around the same time as *Romeo and Juliet* and there are similarities between the two plays, even though one is a tragedy and the other a comedy. Both plays are about love, young lovers, and the problems they have because they are in love. In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, some very bad actors perform a play called *Pyramus and Thisbe*, which many people believe is a funny version of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Theatre was very different when *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was performed. They did not have lights, curtains or other things that theatres have today. The 'magic' in the play had to be created by the actors and the words that Shakespeare wrote for them.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, which has been translated into almost every language and performed all over the world, is one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies.

For Review Only

1. HERMIA & LYSANDER

Long, long ago in the city of Athens ...

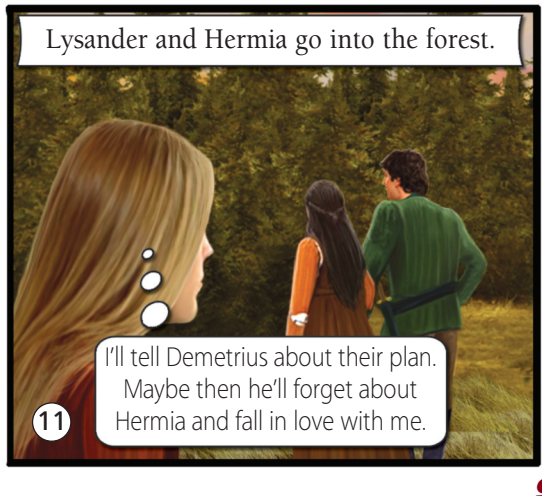


For review only









For review only

3. activities

Before Reading

1 Look at the title and the pictures in this episode. What is a 'magic potion'? What is the magic potion in this episode made from?

While Reading

2 Read or listen to the episode and match the people in these pictures to the sentences they say.



Demetrius



Helena



Oberon

1 But Demetrius, she doesn't love you. I do. .....
2 Poor Helena! I'll use some of the magic potion to make Demetrius fall in love with her. .....
3 Leave me alone! .....

3 Read the episode again and correct the sentences.

1 The potion will make Titania fall in love with the first person she hears when she wakes up.
2 Please don't leave me alone in the city!
3 Put this potion on the lips of the young man from Athens ...

After Reading

4 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.

5 What is going to happen to Titania when she wakes up?

6 Who is the 'young man from Athens' that Oberon wants to fall in love with Helena? Are there any other men from Athens in the forest? What do you think is going to happen?

For Review Only

Before Reading

1 Look at the title and the pictures in Episode 4. What mistake do you think Puck makes?

While Reading

2 Read or listen to the episode then answer the questions.

1 Who puts the magic potion on Titania's eyes?
2 Whose eyes does Puck put the magic potion on?
3 Who does Lysander fall in love with when he wakes up?
4 Who is left alone in the forest?

3 Read the episode again, then find the words to complete the phrases.

1 COME .....
2 FOR A .....
3 ..... IN LOVE
4 LEAVE ME .....
5 ..... READY
6 ..... UP

F	O	W	Z	V	L	Y	W	R	I	S	E	C	K	V
G	O	P	R	K	V	A	H	R	N	N	S	O	L	C
Q	P	R	M	K	K	W	U	J	O	K	S	M	Y	N
W	N	B	A	E	B	N	Q	L	T	C	E	E	K	A
Q	R	H	U	W	B	T	A	U	R	R	Y	B	U	M
O	O	P	U	Q	H	E	Z	C	B	K	D	A	E	E
G	X	T	K	U	M	I	V	J	P	O	A	C	T	F
M	S	F	J	E	P	V	L	N	T	Q	E	K	I	M
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Q	F	A	L	L	I	N	L	O	V	E	T	P	V	Z
K	E	E	R	S	G	L	K	E	N	D	E	D	U	O
L	Q	A	E	K	L	W	C	L	Y	W	G	Y	M	G

After Reading

4 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.

5 What do you think will happen in the next episode?

For Review Only

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Hermia and Lysander decide to get married and run into the forest. Demetrius and Helena follow them. Oberon, the King of the Fairies, and Puck, his mischievous helper, play tricks and use a magic potion. The result is an unforgettable Midsummer Night!

Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD

Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

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