**Love Letters**

Today you will be writing an in-class love letter to/from two of the loving (or feuding) characters in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. You have two options for this activity: you may either write one love letter independently from/to characters of your choice or you may work with a partner and write two love letters (the first to/from a character of your choice and the second a return to the first).

You don’t have to be Shakespeare to write the perfect love letter. All you need to know is how you feel. What makes a love letter so romantic is that it is deeply personal. It shows your beloved how well you know him or her, and that knowledge is the very stuff of love. Here’s how:

1. Before you start writing, take a few moments to think about your beloved. The following questions can help to get your thoughts going:

* What is their greatest strength?
* What do you see in them that they don’t see in themselves?
* What is the most romantic thing they have ever done for you?
* What do they do that shows you they care about you?
* When did you fall in love with them?
* What about them pleasantly surprised you?
* What is your favorite memory of the two of you?

2. You can start your letter anyway you like as long as you include their name. You don’t have to be super-mushy right from the start, a simple “Dear \_\_\_\_\_” works well. Make the sentence exclusive. For example, “I’ve never met anyone as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as you” or “No one has ever made me feel as\_\_\_\_ as you do when you \_\_\_\_” Starting out this way shows them that they rank higher than anyone else in the world – a great way to start a love letter.

3. As you are write, be specific. Tell the person exactly how they make you feel and what they do that makes you feel that way.

4. Write in the second person (use the pronoun “you”) so that your letter speaks directly to them.

5. As you write, tell them exactly how you feel. Use specific examples that show that you’ve been paying attention. Remind them of the things they have done that really meant something to you. Share a favorite memory and a hope for the future.

6. Don’t forget to say “I love you.”

7. There’s no rule that says you have to use poetry in a love letter, but if you’re stumped finding just the right words, one or two carefully chosen lines from a poem or a song can work really well.

8. Once your letter is complete, read it over carefully and check for errors. This letter will be read over and over. You don’t want a mistake spoiling the mood.

9. Drop the letter in the mail and wait for a response. If you’re lucky, you might just get a love letter yourself.