**Act 1, Scene 1**

1. How is Hippolyta’s reasoning concerning the speed with which the next four days will pass different from that of Theseus? Note how Shakespeare portrays the patience and calmness of Hippolyta in contrast to the impatience and need for action of Theseus.

2. Why has Egeus brought his daughter and her two suitors to Theseus? What does Egeus expect him to do? What was the proper role for women/daughters in Athenian society, according to Egeus and Theseus?

3. What is Theseus’ ruling concerning Hermia?

4. How does Lysander’s comment about Demetrius’ previous love affair with Helena complicate things?

5. What do Lysander and Hermia plan to do about this seemingly impossible situation?

6. Hermia complains that she “frowns upon [Demetrius], yet he loves me still...I give him curses, yet he gives me love.” Why, do you suppose, Demetrius continues to pursue a young woman who doesn’t want him?

7. Why do Lysander and Hermia tell Helena their plans?

8. Even though Helena loves Demetrius and is Hermia’s old school friend, why does she decide to tell Demetrius of Hermia and Lysander’s plans? What does this show us about Helena?

9. Some people say that parents know their teenagers better than anyone else in the world, while others say that parents know only one side of their teenagers’ personalities and rarely know the full person. With which side do you agree?

**Act 1, Scene 2**

1. Why does Nick Bottom want to play all the parts?

2. What other famous Shakespearean story does the plot of Pyramus and Thisby echo?

3. How do you suppose the threat of being hanged if they scare the ladies will affect the tradesmen’s interpretation of the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisby?

4. In what way is this scene funny?

5. Where are the actors to meet the following night? Why are they rehearsing in this remote place?

6. Who else is meeting in these same woods at the same time? Why do you suppose Shakespeare has set up this coincidence?