

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

### What is a euphemism?

A euphemism is a word that is substituted for another often because the truth is unpleasant. For example there are many euphemisms for death such as: kicked the bucket; lost; gone to a better place.

Personal adverts in newspapers, used by people to find a partner, often have euphemisms and employers often complain that applications from prospective employees are full of euphemisms! See if you can match up the euphemism with the reality in the list below:

Energetic	Forgetful
Spontaneous	Always at the McDonalds drive through
Loves star gazing	Changes mind all the time
Loves surprises	Always losing keys
Sense of humour	Fidgets all the time and can't sit still
Enjoys eating out	Owens a joke book
Loves sharing	Doesn't like being with anyone
Puzzles are a hobby	Hasn't paid the electric bill
Independent	Constantly forgetting way when out
Loves to travel	Who ever pay for a date

### What do they like?

Now you've considered possible meanings of the above euphemisms think how the four lovers in *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* might write about themselves if they were writing a personal advertisement to find their perfect partner.

Think about what we have learnt about each character so far and then design a short advertisement for each of the characters. Remember that at the place in the play we are at: Hermia loves Lysander; Demetrius loves Helena; Helena loves Demetrius (but is angry at what she sees as a trick); Lysander loves Helena.