



ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP THE TEXT IN PERFORMANCE

- Look at **Act 1 Scene 1, edited script**. How have the director's cuts emphasised the seriousness of Egeus's threat to his daughter and given this scene more pace?
- Go to **Puck's Character Page**, read the profile and listen to the **audio clips** from Fergal McElherron (the actor playing the role of Puck). Read **Backstage Blog Week 5** where comments are made about how the characterisation is developing. Now read **Act 2 Scene 1** and Puck's description of himself. He is a strange and fascinating character. In this production Puck is a male, but in other productions he has become a she. When you think about Puck what do you see? Is he tall? Short? Young? Old? How is he dressed? How would you play the role? Working with a friend as Puck, direct them to deliver the verse from **Act 2 Scene 1**.
- Look at the photographs taken in the rehearsal room in **Backstage Pass Week 4**. The actors are rehearsing **Act 3 Scene 2**. Can you find the quotations that match their actions?
- Read **Act 3 Scene 2** and note down all the names Hermia and Helena call one another. Then read **Week 4** of the **Backstage Blog**. What do you learn there about how to act this scene? Working in pairs face each other as Hermia and Helena, and hurl your insults.
- With power comes responsibility. Do you think all those who have power behave responsibly in this play? Read what Titania says to Oberon in **Act 2 Scene 1** about what is happening to the natural world because they are not ruling in harmony. Explore different ways of performing her speech – is she angry? Sad? Pleading with Oberon? Which approach best demonstrates power with responsibility?
- Everything is resolved in **Act 5** – after all, this is a comedy and all Shakespeare's comedies end happily and with a wedding (and in this play there are three weddings to celebrate!). But does everyone get what they want? Do you think Egeus is as happy as his daughter about the outcome? He does not have any more lines after demanding justice in **Act 4 Scene 1** and is denied that by Theseus.

*I beg the law, the law upon his head.
They would have stolen away; they would, Demetrius,
Thereby to have defeated you and me,
You of your wife and me of my consent,
Of my consent that she should be your wife.'*

What advice could you give the actor playing Egeus in that final scene – he does not say anything, so how does he show what he feels?