

A Midsummer Night's Dream

William Shakespeare

How can Helena understand that love has no judgment and still choose to follow it?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Helena knows love has no judgment
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Act I, Scene I
START	How happy some o'er other some can be!
END	To have his sight thither and back again.
PASSAGE ID	sec-msnd-01

THE MOVE

Track contradiction between insight and choice

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Helena can diagnose love’s blindness with unusual clarity, yet she immediately chooses behavior driven by that same blindness. The interest of the passage lies in the gap between intellectual insight and emotional action.

MARK

Underline Helena’s statements about how love distorts judgment. Circle the action she decides to take despite knowing that. Write KNOWS beside the diagnosis and DOES beside the contradictory choice.

NOTICE

- What does Helena understand about the unreliability of love?
- Which decision proves that understanding is not the same thing as control?
- Why does Shakespeare let Helena articulate the problem so accurately if she is still going to repeat it?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How can Helena understand that love has no judgment and still choose to follow it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How can Helena understand that love has no judgment and still choose to follow it? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Helena understands intellectually that love distorts judgment, yet insight does not give her control over desire. Shakespeare makes the contradiction visible by placing her accurate diagnosis beside the choice to keep following Demetrius.
EVIDENCE	Use Helena's statements about love's blindness or lack of judgment and then the action she chooses despite that understanding.
WATCH FOR	Do not call Helena simply irrational. The point is that self-knowledge and self-control are different capacities.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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How can Helena understand that love has no judgment and still choose to follow it?

START ANCHOR	How happy some o'er other some can be!
END ANCHOR	To have his sight thither and back again.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline Helena’s statements about how love distorts judgment. Circle the action she decides to take despite knowing that. Write KNOWS beside the diagnosis and DOES beside the contradictory choice.
2. NOTICE - What does Helena understand about the unreliability of love? Which decision proves that understanding is not the same thing as control? Why does Shakespeare let Helena articulate the problem so accurately if she is still going to repeat it?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How can Helena understand that love has no judgment and still choose to follow it?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.