

A Midsummer Night's Dream

William Shakespeare

Why does Theseus group the lunatic, the lover, and the poet together?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Theseus explains imagination
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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 V, Scene I
START	More strange than true. I never may believe
END	How easy is a bush supposed a bear?
PASSAGE ID	sec-msnd-03

THE MOVE

Map an analogy across three kinds of people

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Theseus groups the lunatic, lover, and poet because each imagination transforms limited evidence into a reality larger than what the senses provide. The analogy lets students test both the similarity and the limits of his skeptical argument.

MARK

Draw three labels: LUNATIC, LOVER, POET. Under each, copy the action of imagination Theseus assigns to that figure. Circle the feature all three share.

NOTICE

- What does imagination do for each of the three figures?
- Where are the three cases genuinely similar?

- Does Theseus’s analogy explain imagination fairly, or does it dismiss meaningful differences between delusion, love, and art?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Theseus group the lunatic, the lover, and the poet together? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Theseus group the lunatic, the lover, and the poet together? 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	Theseus groups the lunatic, lover, and poet because all three use imagination to create more than the senses directly supply. His analogy treats imagination as a power that transforms limited evidence into a larger reality.
EVIDENCE	Identify what imagination does for each of the three figures and name the common feature Theseus emphasizes.
WATCH FOR	Do not assume the analogy proves all three are equally deluded. A strong answer can also note where the comparison oversimplifies important differences.
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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Why does Theseus group the lunatic, the lover, and the poet together?

START ANCHOR	More strange than true. I never may believe
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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 - Draw three labels: LUNATIC, LOVER, POET. Under each, copy the action of imagination Theseus assigns to that figure.

Circle the feature all three share.

2. NOTICE - What does imagination do for each of the three figures? Where are the three cases genuinely similar? Does Theseus's analogy explain imagination fairly, or does it dismiss meaningful differences between delusion, love, and art?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Theseus group the lunatic, the lover, and the poet together?
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.