

A Midsummer Night's Dream

William Shakespeare

What does Bottom's desire to play every role reveal about what he thinks acting is for?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Bottom wants every role
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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 II
START	What is Pyramus—a lover, or a tyrant?
END	Therefore you must needs play Pyramus.
PASSAGE ID	sec-msnd-04

THE MOVE

Infer a character's idea of performance from repeated choices

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Bottom repeatedly volunteers for roles that conflict with one another because he treats acting as a chance to display himself rather than serve the play. His choices reveal a theory of performance built around visibility, versatility, and applause.

MARK

Underline every role Bottom asks to play. Beside each request, write what opportunity for attention it gives him. Star the moment Quince has to limit Bottom in order for the play to remain possible.

NOTICE

- What attracts Bottom to roles that require completely different qualities?

- Why does he imagine he can improve each role simply by performing it himself?
- What does his eagerness reveal about whether he sees acting as collaboration or self-display?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Bottom's desire to play every role reveal about what he thinks acting is for? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Bottom's desire to play every role reveal about what he thinks acting is for? 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	Bottom treats acting as a chance for personal display. His repeated desire to play incompatible roles suggests he values attention, versatility, and showing what he can do more than serving the play as a collaborative whole.
EVIDENCE	Use multiple role requests and the reasons Bottom gives for why he should perform them.
WATCH FOR	Do not answer merely that Bottom is enthusiastic. Explain what his choices reveal about his theory of performance.
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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What does Bottom's desire to play every role reveal about what he thinks acting is for?

START ANCHOR	What is Pyramus—a lover, or a tyrant?
END ANCHOR	Therefore you must needs play Pyramus.

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.

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 every role Bottom asks to play. Beside each request, write what opportunity for attention it gives him. Star the moment Quince has to limit Bottom in order for the play to remain possible.
2. NOTICE - What attracts Bottom to roles that require completely different qualities? Why does he imagine he can improve each role simply by performing it himself? What does his eagerness reveal about whether he sees acting as collaboration or self-display?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does Bottom's desire to play every role reveal about what he thinks acting is for?
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.