



A Midsummer Night's Dream Shakespeare's Contribution to Comedy

Romantic Love	3 couples
Movement in space to reach a happy ending	Athens to the woods (nature) representing freedom, tolerance, justice, security, no-social controlled corruption, rules e.g The Winter's Tale (Bohemia) The Tempest (deserted island) As You Like It (Arden Forest) The Merchant of Venice (Belmont)
Use of supernatural elements	Potion, Fairies, magic
Use of more than one plot (main and sub-plot)	Main Plot: The story of the young lovers Sub-plot: The story of Bottom and Titania The play presented by the guild brings the two plots together. -Marriage of Theseus & Hippolyta/related festivities -Eugus as obstacle to the marriage of Lysander and Hermia -Love triangle Helena & Demetrius [in love with Hermia, then both men in love with Helena] -Problem between Oberon & Titania: quarrel over an Indian boy
Blending of comedy and tragedy	More applicable to plays such as the <i>Merchant of Venice</i> , <i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> <i>Midsummer</i> begins with death, potential for tragedy, then turns into a comedy.
Marriage after the happy ending (regeneration/giving birth)	Marriage of the three couples

In Common:

- Love and money matters are both Classical and Shakespearean

- Character types are both Classical and Shakespearean
e.g. Stubborn Father=Egeus
Young Lovers= Lysander and Hermia
Stupid/Clever Slave=Puck
Helpers=Oberon
Farcical Characters= trade guild actors
- Farce is both Classical and Shakespearean (everything that happens to Bottom is farce)

A **Shakespearean comedy** is one that has a happy ending, usually involving marriages between the unmarried characters, and a tone and style that is more light-hearted than Shakespeare's other plays. Shakespearean comedies tend to also include:

- A greater emphasis on situations than characters (who is inferior to the audience)
- A struggle of young lovers to overcome difficulty, often presented by elders
- Separation and re-unification
- Mistaken identities, often involving disguise
- A clever servant
- Disputes between characters, often within a family
- Multiple, intertwining plots
- Use of all styles of comedy (slapstick, puns, dry humour, earthy humour, witty language, practical jokes) Puck making Titania fall in love with Bottom.
- Pastoral element (courtly people living an idealized, rural life), originally an element of Pastoral Romance, exploited by Shakespeare for his comic plots and often parodied therein for humorous effects
- Happy Ending