



*Shakespeare I*  
*Notes for Midsummer Night's Dream*  
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**Comedy**

The term 'comedy', in its usage in the Elizabethan period, had a very different meaning from modern comedy and generally referred to a play with a happy ending.

**Plot Mechanism of Classical Comedy**

<p><b>1. Complication</b></p> <p>-Essential difficult situation (always based on Money and Love)          [Egeus wants Hermia to marry Demetrius not Lysander] Hermia has 3 choices: 1. To marry Demetrius 2. To be executed 3. Being isolated from the society of men by living in a nunnery</p> <p>-Complication (mistaken overhearing):          Oberon overhears Helena and Demetrius' conversation in the forest.</p> <p>-Mistaken identity: Puck mistakes Lysander for Demetrius. Lysander (due to the potion) sees Helena first and falls in love.</p> <p>-intentional/unintentional disguise          Puck disguises himself as Lysander so that Demetrius will follow him to the other side of the forest.</p> <p>-chance elements/happenings:          Puck overhears the rehearsal of the guild actors in the forest, and turns Bottom's head into an ass.</p> <p>Titania sees Bottom first and falls in love with him due to the potion</p>	<p><b>2. Resolution</b></p> <p>-Overhearing corrected          -True identification (recognition through ring, a gold necklace, spot on face etc.,)          -Reconciliation after recognition.          -(After reconciliation) Happy ending.</p>
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