**ACT 4 Scene 1**

The couples are awoken by the arrival of the Duke and Hippolyta (along with Egeus who still wishes Hermia to marry Demetrius).

Theseus asks the four young lovers to explain how they came to be in the wood.

**LYSANDER**

My lord, I shall reply amazedly,

Half sleep, half waking: but as yet, I swear,

I cannot truly say how I came here;

But, as I think,--for truly would I speak,

And now do I bethink me, so it is,--

I came with Hermia hither: our intent

Was to be gone from Athens, where we

might,

Without the peril of the Athenian law.

**DEMETRIUS**

My lord, fair Helen told me of their

stealth,

Of this their purpose hither to this wood;

And I in fury hither follow'd them,

Fair Helena in fancy following me.

But, my good lord, I wot not by what

power,--

But by some power it is,--my love to

Hermia,

Melted as the snow, seems to me now

As the remembrance of an idle gaud

Which in my childhood I did dote upon;

And all the faith, the virtue of my heart,

The object and the pleasure of mine eye,

Is only Helena. To her, my lord,

Was I betroth'd ere I saw Hermia:

But, like in sickness, did I loathe this food;

But, as in health, come to my natural

taste,

Now I do wish it, love it, long for it,

And will for evermore be true to it.

**THESEUS**

Fair lovers, you are fortunately met:

Of this discourse we more will hear anon.

Egeus, I will overbear your will;

For in the temple by and by with us

These couples shall eternally be knit:

Away with us to Athens; three and three,

We'll hold a feast in great solemnity.

Come, Hippolyta.

*Exeunt THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, EGEUS, and train*

**DEMETRIUS**

These things seem small and

undistinguishable,

**HERMIA**

Methinks I see these things with parted

eye,

When every thing seems double.

**HELENA**

So methinks:

And I have found Demetrius like a jewel,

Mine own, and not mine own.

**DEMETRIUS**

Are you sure

That we are awake? It seems to me

That yet we sleep, we dream.

**YOUR TASKS:**

1. How do most of the dreamers respond to the dream experience upon waking? Which character is changed permanently by the dream experience?
2. How does Theseus’s current decision regarding Hermia and Lysander contradict his earlier statement?
3. What does Egeus still want to happen?
4. When Theseus says ‘Egeus, I will overbear your will;’ what is he saying and doing? What will this mean for the four lovers?

**Challenge:** Select any of the four lovers and explain how they feel about each other now. Is it infatuation or real love? Explain include quotations.