




Word/Pg #	Quote	Definition	Picture
Nuptial / 2	Now faire Hippolyta, our nuptial houre Drawes on apace	Relating to marriage or weddings	
Apace/ 2	Now faire Hippolyta, our nuptial houre Drawes on apace	Swiftly quickly	
Wanes/ 2	This old Moon wanes	of the moon) have a progressively smaller part of its visible surface illuminated, so that it appears to decrease in size.	
Dowager/ 2	She lingers my desires Like to a Step-dame or a Dowager Long withering out a young man's revenue.	a widow with a title or property derived from her late husband.	
Solemnities/ 2	And then the Moone, like to a silver bow, Now bent in heaven, shall behold the night Of our solemnities .	a formal, dignified rite or ceremony.	
Pert/2	Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth,	attractive because neat and jaunty	
Mirth/ 2	Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth	amusement, especially as expressed in laughter	
Vexation/ 3	Full of vexation , come I, with complaint Against my childe, my daughter Hermia	the state of being annoyed, frustrated, or worried.	
Bosome/ 3	This man hath bewitch'd the bosome of my childe:	a woman's chest	

A Midsummer Night's Dream Glossary 2


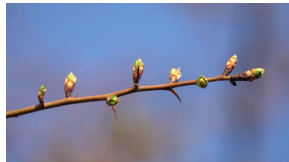

Filch/ 3	With cunning hast thou filch'd my daughter's heart	pilfer or steal (something, especially a thing of small value) in a casual way.	
Abjure/ 4	Either to die the death, or to abjure For ever the society of men.	solemnly renounce (a belief, cause, or claim)	
Livery/ 4	You can endure the livery of a Nunne,	special uniform worn by a servant or official.	
Cloister/ 4	For aye to be in shady Cloister mewd,	a covered walk in a convent, monastery, college, or cathedral, typically with a wall on one side and a colonnade open to a quadrangle on the other.	
Mewd/ 4	For aye to be in shady Cloister mewd	caged	
Betwixt/ 4	The sealing day betwixt my love and me,	between	
Austerity/ 4	Or on Diana's Altar to protest For aye, austerity , and single life.	sternness or severity of manner or attitude.	
Derived/ 5	I am my Lord, as well deriv'd as he,	obtain something from (a specified source)	
Avouch/ 5	Demetrius, I'll avouch it to his head, Made love to Nedar's daughter, Helena,	affirm or assert	


A Midsummer Night's Dream Glossary 3

Dotes/ 5	and she (sweet Lady) dotes , Devoutly dotes, dotes in Idolatry, Upon this spotted and inconstant man	be extremely and uncritically fond of.	
Idolatry/ 5	and she (sweet Lady) dotes, Devoutly dotes, dotes in Idolatry , Upon this spotted and inconstant man	extreme admiration, love, or reverence for something or someone	
Inconstant/ 5	and she (sweet Lady) dotes, Devoutly dotes, dotes in Idolatry, Upon this spotted and inconstant man	(of a person or their behavior) not faithful and dependable.	
Extenuate/ 5	Or else the Law of Athens yields you up (Which by no meanes we may extenuate) To death, or to a vow of single life.	cause (an offense) to seem less serious.	


Beteeme/ 6	Belike for want of raine, which I could well Beteeme them, from the tempest of my eyes	To befit	
Aught/ 6	Hermia, for aught that I could ever reade, Could ever hear by tale or history, The course of true love never did run smooth, But either it was different in blood.	anything at all	
Misgraffed/ 6	Or else misgraffed, in respect of yeares.	badly matched	




Collied/6	Briefe as the lightning in the collied night	Blackened as if by with coal dust	
Spleen/6	That (in a spleene) unfolds both heaven and earth; And ere a man hath power to say, behold, The jaws of darkness do devour it up: 150 So quicke bright things come to confusion.	???	
Edict/ 6	It stands as an edict in destiny:	an official order or proclamation issued by a person in authority.	
Customary Crose	Then let us teach our trial patience Because it is a customary crosse , 155 As due to love, as thoughts, and dreames, and sighes, Wishes and teares, poore Fancy's followers.	A normal part of something	
Fancy/ 6	Then let us teach our trial patience Because it is a customary crosse, 155 As due to love, as thoughts, and dreames, and sighes, Wishes and teares, poore Fancy's followers.	Fantasy, not real	
Morne/ 7	(Where I did meete thee once with Helena, To do observance for a morne of May)	Morning	
Knitteth/7	By that which knitteth soules and	Join together	



	prospers love		
Carthage/ 7	And by that fire which burn'd the Carthage Queene	Capital city of Carthaginian state, close to the site of modern day Tunis	
Whither/ 7	God speede, faire Helena, whither away?	To which place	
Loadstarres/7	Your eyes are loadstarres and your tongue's sweet air More tunable than Larke to shepherd's eare	Guiding star, beacon	
Hawthorne Buds/ 7	When wheate is greene, when hawthorne buds appeare.	A type of shrub that bears fruit used to make medicine that improves heart function	
Folly/ 8	His folly Helena, is none of mine	Lack of good sense or foolishness	
Phoebe/8	Tomorrow night, when Phoebe doth behold Her silver visage, in the wat'ry glasse, Decking with liquid pearle, the bladed grasse	Roman goddess of the Moon	
Visage/ 8	Tomorrow night, when Phoebe doth behold Her silver visage , in the wat'ry glasse, Decking with liquid pearle, the bladed grasse	Appearance	


Primrose/ 9	And in the wood, where often you and I, Upon faint Primrose beds, were wont to lie, Emptying our bosomes, of their counsel swell'd:	One of the first flowers to appear in spring, medicinally was made into a tea to cure colds.	
Counsel/ 9	And in the wood, where often you and I, Upon faint Primrose beds, were wont to lie, Emptying our bosomes, of their counsel swell'd:	Secrecy or privacy	
Swell'd/ 9	And in the wood, where often you and I, Upon faint Primrose beds, were wont to lie, Emptying our bosomes, of their counsel swell'd :	Magnify or Puff Up	
Lovers' Foode	From lovers' foode till morrow deepe midnight.	Seeing each other	




Err/ 9	He will not know, what all, but he doth know, And as he errs , doting on Hermia's eyes	To go astray	
Transpose / 9	So I, admiring of his qualities: Things base and vile, holding no quantity, Love can transpose to forme and dignity,	Change form, shift	
Beguil'd / 9	Because in choice he is so oft beguil'd ,	To charm of enchant someone in a deceptive way	
Waggish / 9	As waggish boyes in	Playful or impish	




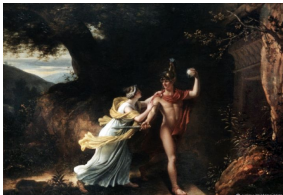
	game themselves forswear		
Ere / 9	For ere Demetrius look'd on Hermia's eyne,	before	
Eyne/ 9	For ere Demetrius look'd on Hermia's eyne ,	Plural of eye	
Thither/ 9	To have his sight thither , and back again.	There, to that place	
Treats/ 10	First, good Peter Quince, say what the play treats on: then read the names of the actors: and so grow on to a point.	behave toward or deal with in a certain way. In this context what is the play about	
Grow on to a point / 10	First, good Peter Quince, say what the play treats on: then read the names of the actors: and so grow on to a point .	Get to the point	
Condole/ 10	If I do it, let the audience look to their eyes. I will move storms; I will condole in some measure.	Grieve with or express sympathy	
Ercles / 10	I could play Ercles rarely, or a part to tear a cat in, to make all split:	Hercules	


<p>Phibbus/ 11</p>	<p>And Phibbus' car Shall shine from far And make and mar</p>	<p>Apollo</p>	
<p>Bellows/ 11</p>	<p>Francis Flute, the bellows-mender.</p>	<p>a device with an air bag that emits a stream of air when squeezed together with two handles, used for blowing air into a fire.</p>	
<p>Tinker/ 11</p>	<p>Tom Snout, the tinker</p>	<p>a person who travels from place to place mending metal utensils as a way of making a living.</p>	
<p>Extempore/ 12</p>	<p>You may do it extempore, for it is nothing but roaring.</p>	<p>Spoken or done without preparation</p>	
<p>Orange-Tawny/ 12</p>	<p>I will discharge it in either your straw-color beard, your orange-tawny beard, your purple-in-grain beard,</p>	<p>Dull yellowish brown</p>	
<p>Purple-in-grain/ 12</p>	<p>I will discharge it in either your straw-color beard, your orange-tawny beard, your purple-in-grain beard,</p>	<p>A shade of red, originally a fast dye from certain insects</p>	

Cut Bowstrings /13	Enough, hold or cut bowstrings .	Military code for retreat	
Dale/ 14	Over hill, over dale , through bush, through brier	An especially broad valley	
Ye/ 14	I do wander everywhere, swifter than ye Moon's sphere;	your	
Dew her Orbs/ 14	And I serve the Fairy Queene, to dew her orbs upon the green.	Place dew on the mushrooms that grow where fairies dance.	


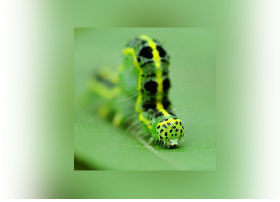

Cowslip's Ear/ 14	I must go seeke some dewdrops here And hang a pearl in every cowslip's eare .	An herbaceous perennial in the primrose family	
Lob/ 14	Farewell thou Lob of spirits, I'll be gone, Our Queen and all her Elves come here anon.	clown	
Changeling/ 14	A lovely boy stolne from an Indian King, She never had so sweet a changeling .	a child believed to have been secretly substituted by fairies for the parents' real child in infancy.	
Sheen / 14	By fountaine cleare or spangled starlight sheene ,	Bright, Shining	
Square/ 14	But they do square , that all their Elves for fear Creep into	quarrel	


	Acorne cups and hide them there.		
Querne/ 14	That frights the maidens of the villagery, Skim milke, and sometimes labor in the querne , And bootlesse make the breathless housewife churn,	A hand mill for grinding corn	
Barm/ 15	And sometime make the drinke to beare no barme ,	Yeast to ferment ale	
Dewlap/15	And on her withered dewlap poure the Ale.	Loose skin at the throat	
Tarry/ 15	Tarry rash Wanton, am not I thy lord?	Wait or stay	
Wanton/ 15	Tarry rash Wanton , am not I thy lord?	Promiscuous person, especially Female	
Corin and Phillida/ 15-16	And in the shape of Corin , sat all day,Playing on pipes of Corne, and versing love To amorous Phillida	Mortal women whom Oberon disguises himself as mortal to court	

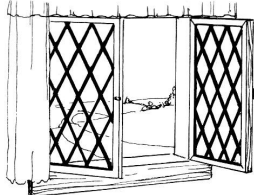
But that/ 16	But that forsooth the bouncing Amazon	Only because	
Forsooth/ 16	But that forsooth the bouncing Amazon	In truth, to speak frankly	
Bouncing/ 16	But that forsooth the bouncing Amazon	spirited	
Buskins/ 16	Your buskin'd Mistresse, and your warrior love	A boot worn by hunters and warriors	
Perigouna/ 16	From Perigouna , whom he ravished?	A former lover of Theseus	
Aegles/ 16	And make him with fair Aegles breake his faith, With Ariadne and Antiopa?	Nymph whom Theseus had an affair with	
Ariadne/ 16	And make him with fair Aegles breake his faith, With Ariadne and Antiopa?	Ex wife of Theseus	

<p>Antiopa/ 16</p>	<p>And make him with fair Aegles breake his faith, With Ariadne and Antiopa?</p>	<p>Hippolyta's sister whom Theseus had a child with</p>	
<p>Childing/ 17</p>	<p>The Spring, the Summer, The childing Autumne, angry Winter change Their wonted Liveries, and the mazed world,</p>	<p>fruitful</p>	



<p>Wonted Liveries/ 17</p>	<p>The Spring, the Summer, The childing Autumne, angry Winter change Their wonted Liveries, and the mazed world,</p>	<p>Accustomed garb or appearance</p>	
<p>Progeny</p>	<p>And this same progeny of evils, Comes from our debate, from our dissension, We are their parents and original.</p>	<p>offspring</p>	
<p>Vot'ress</p>	<p>His mother was a Vot'ress of my Order,</p>	<p>Vowed follower of a deity</p>	
<p>Chide</p>	<p>We shall chide downe right, if I longer stay.</p>	<p>Quarrel openly</p>	



<p>Leviathan/ 18</p>	<p>Ere the Leviathan can swim a league.</p>	<p>Biblical Sea Monster</p>	
<p>Adamant/ 19</p>	<p>You draw me, you hard-hearted Adamant</p>	<p>Being both strong and attractive</p>	
<p>Roundell/ 22</p>	<p>Come, now a Roundell, and a Fairy song;</p>	<p>A type of round dance</p>	
<p>Cankers/ 22</p>	<p>Some to kill Cankers in the muske rose buds,</p>	<p>Caterpillars that destroy plants</p>	
<p>Reremice/ 22</p>	<p>Some warre with Reremice, for their leathern wings</p>	<p>Bats</p>	
<p>Philomel/ 22</p>	<p>Philomel, with melody, Sing in our sweet lullaby</p>	<p>Women who was turned into a nightingale after her brother raped her</p>	
<p>Languish/ 23</p>	<p>Love and languish for his sake</p>	<p>lose or lack vitality; grow weak or feeble.</p>	
<p>Ounce/ 23</p>	<p>Be it Ounce, or Cat, or Beare, Pard, or Boar with bristled haire,</p>	<p>Lynx</p>	


Pard/ 23	Be it Ounce, or Cat, or Beare, Pard , or Boar with bristled haire,	Leopard	
Beshrew/ 24	Now much beshrew my manners and my pride,	Cursed, a mischief upon	
Churl/ 24	Churl , upon thy eyes I throw All the power this charm doth owe:	Villain, ungrateful one	
Darkling/ 24	O wilt thou darkling leave me? Do not so	In the dark	
Keen/ 26	Wherefore was I to this Keen mockery borne?	Cutting, sharp	
Flout/ 26	But you must flout my insufficiency?	Insult, make fun of	
Perforce/ 26	But fare you well; perforce I must confesse I thought you Lord of more true gentlenesse.	Having no choice in the matter	
By 'r lakin/ 27	By 'r lakin , a parlous fear.	By our lady kin	



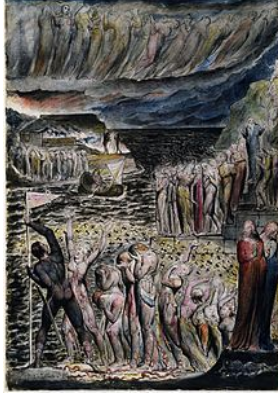
Parlous/ 27	By 'r lakin, a parlous fear.	Perilou with a more vulgar flavor	
Casement/ 28	Why then may you leave a casement of the great chamber window (where we play) open, and the Moon may shine in at the casement	A hinged section of a window	

<p>Loam/ 29</p>	<p>Some man or other must present wall, and let him have some Plaster, or some loam, or some roughcast about him.</p>	<p>Building material made from a mixture of sand and clay</p>	
<p>Roughcast/ 29</p>	<p>Some man or other must present wall, and let him have some Plaster, or some loam, or some roughcast about him.</p>	<p>A mortar of lime and gravel used to plaster walls.</p>	
<p>Hempen Homespuns/ 29</p>	<p>What hempen homespuns have we swagg'ring here</p>	<p>Lowly people wearing cheap clothes made from hemp</p>	
<p>Brisky/ 30</p>	<p>Most brisky juvenal and eke most lovely Jew</p>	<p>lively</p>	
<p>Eke/ 30</p>	<p>Most brisky juvenal and eke most lovely Jew</p>	<p>Archaic flavoring word, moreover, also</p>	
<p>Ninus/ 30</p>	<p>"Ninus' tomb," man: why, you must not speak that yet; that you answer to Pyramus.</p>	<p>Ancient Assyrian King</p>	
<p>Ouzel Cock/ 31</p>	<p>The ouzel cock, so black of hue, With orange-tawny bill. The throstle with his note so true, The wren with little quill</p>	<p>Male Blackbird</p>	



<p>Throstle/ 31</p>	<p>The ouzel cock, so black of hue, With orange-tawny bill. The throstle with his note so true, The wren with little quill</p>	<p>Thrush</p>	
<p>Little Quill/ 31</p>	<p>The ouzel cock, so black of hue, With orange-tawny bill. The throstle with his note so true, The wren with little quill</p>	<p>Thin voice</p>	
<p>Gambole/ 32</p>	<p>Hop in his walkes and gambole in his eyes,</p>	<p>To leap</p>	
<p>Bower/ 33</p>	<p>Come waite upon him, lead him to my bower.</p>	<p>Arbor or leafy glade</p>	
<p>Consecrated/ 34</p>	<p>Neare to her close and consecrated bower, While she was in her dull and sleeping hour</p>	<p>Having been declared Sacred</p>	
<p>Noll/ 34</p>	<p>An Ass's noll I fixed on his head.</p>	<p>Head, Elizabethan slang equivalent to noodle</p>	
<p>Cur/ 36</p>	<p>Out dog, out cur, thou driv'st me past the bounds Of maiden's patience. Hast thou slaine him then?</p>	<p>Dog, insult</p>	
<p>Mispris'd/ 36</p>	<p>You spend your passion on a</p>	<p>mistaken</p>	


	mispris'd mood,		
Bankrout/ 36	For debt that bankrout sleep doth sorrow owe,	bankrupt	
Tartar/ 37	I go, I go, looke how I goe, Swifter than arrow from the Tartar's bowe.	a true recurve bow and shorter than most other bows at the time. Made of horn and other stiff material	
Taurus/38	That pure congealed white, high Taurus' snow	Range of Mountains in Turkey	

Sojourn/ 39	My heart to her but as guest-wise sojourn'd ,	To travel, usually a temporary stay	
Oes/ 40	Than all yon fiery oes and eyes of light.	Small round spangles	
Asunder/ 40	And will you rent our ancient love asunder	Divided into pieces	
Spurn/ 41	Who even but now did spurne me with his foote	hurt	
Burr/ 42	Hang off thou cat, thou burr ; vile thing let loose, Or I will shake thee from me like a serpent.	A prickly seed pod	

Tartar/ 42	Thy love? Out, tawny Tartar , out; Out loath'd med'cine; O hated potion hence.	Wrongly thought to be dark skinned	
Cankerblossome/ 43	O me, you juggler, you cankerblossome	A wild flower, or a term to describe infectious skin	
Minimus/ 45	You minimus , of hind'ring knotgrass made, You bead, you acorne.	Tiniest of all creatures	
Knotgrass/ 45	You minimus, of hind'ring knotgrass made, You bead, you acorne.	A common weed	
Jangling/ 46	As this their jangling I esteeme a sport.	Quarrelling, bickering	
Welkin/ 46	The starry Welkin cover thou anon	Heavenly sky	
Acheron/ 46	With drooping fog[ge] as blacke as Acheron	River of the underworld	
Harbinger/ 46	And yonder shines Aurora's harbinger ;	A person or thing that announces an arrival	
Plainer/ 47	Follow me then to plainer ground.	Clearer, more open	

Recreant/ 48	Come recreant , come thou childe,	Coward, heretic	
Wot/ 48	Abide me, if thou dar'st. For well I wot , Thou runn'st before me, shifting every place,	Learn or know	
Abate/ 49	O weary night, O long and tedious night, Abate thy heures,	Lessen, lower diminish	
Bedabbled/ 49	Bedabbl'd with the dew and torne with briers,	Stain or splash with dirty liquid or blood	
Amiable/ 50	While I thy amiable cheekes do[e] coy,	Having a pleasant or friendly manner	
Coy/ 50	While I thy amiable cheekes do[e] coy ,	caress	

Tongs/ 51	I have a reasonable good ear in music. Let's have the tongs and the bones.	A crude musical device, metal tons struck with a key	
Woodbine/ 51	So doth the woodbine , the sweet Honeysuckle, Gently entwist; the female Ivy so Enrings the barky fingers of the Elm. O how I love thee! how I dote on thee!	Another name for honeysuckle	
Enrings/ 51	So doth the woodbine, the sweet Honeysuckle, Gently entwist; the female Ivy so Enrings the	Girds or embraces	

	barky fingers of the Elm. O how I love thee! how I dote on thee!		
Swaine/ 52	And gentle Pucke, take this transformed scalpe, From off the head of this Athenian swaine ,	Rustic, a countryside fool	
Amity/ 53	Now thou and I are new in amity	A friendly relationship	
Vaward/ 53	since we have the vaward of the day	Early part, start	
Cadmus/ 54	I was with Hercules and Cadmus once	Founder and first king of Thebes	
Sanded/ 54	My hounds are bred out of the Spartan kinde, So flew'd, so sanded , and their heads are hung With eares that sweepe away the morning dew	Of a sandy color	
Woodbirds/ 54	Begin these woodbirds but to couple now?	Punning lovebird and wood	
Concord/ 55	How comes this gentle concord in the world,	harmony	
Gaude/ 55	Seems to me now as the remembrance of an idle gaude	Plaything	
Expound/ 57	Man is but an Asse if he go[e] about to expound this dreame.	Present and explain	

Transported/ 58	He cannot be heard of. Out of doubt he is transported .	Carried off by supernatural forces	
Paragon/ 58	You must say, Paragon ." A Paramour is (God bless us) a thing of naught.	A person or thing regarded as a perfect example	
Paramour/ 58	You must say, Paragon." A Paramour is (God bless us) a thing of naught. E	A lover	
Bacchanals/ 61	The riot of the tipsy Bacchanals , Tearing the Thracian singer, in their rage?	Festival of drunken revelry	
Thracian/ 61	The riot of the tipsy Bacchanals, Tearing the Thracian singer, in their rage?	A group of tribes north of Greece	
Broach/ 65	He bravely broach'd his boiling bloody breast	Pierced	
Twaine/ 65	Let Lion, Moonshine, Wall, and Lovers twaine	Separated	
Lanthorne/68	This lanthorne doth the horned Moone present: Myself, the man i' th' Moon do seeme to be.	Lantern	

A Midsummer Night's Dream Glossary 22

Dole/ 69	What dreadful dole is here?	A sorrowful lament	
Pap/70	The pap of Pyramus: Ay, that left pap, Where heart doth hop.	Breast	
Videlicet/ 71	And thus she means, videlicet—	Permission to see	
Bergomask/ 71	Will it please you to see the Epilogue or to heare a Bergomask dance, between two of our company?	A rustic dance associated with clowns	
Hecate/ 72	By the triple Hecate's teame,	Goddess of magic and witchcraft	