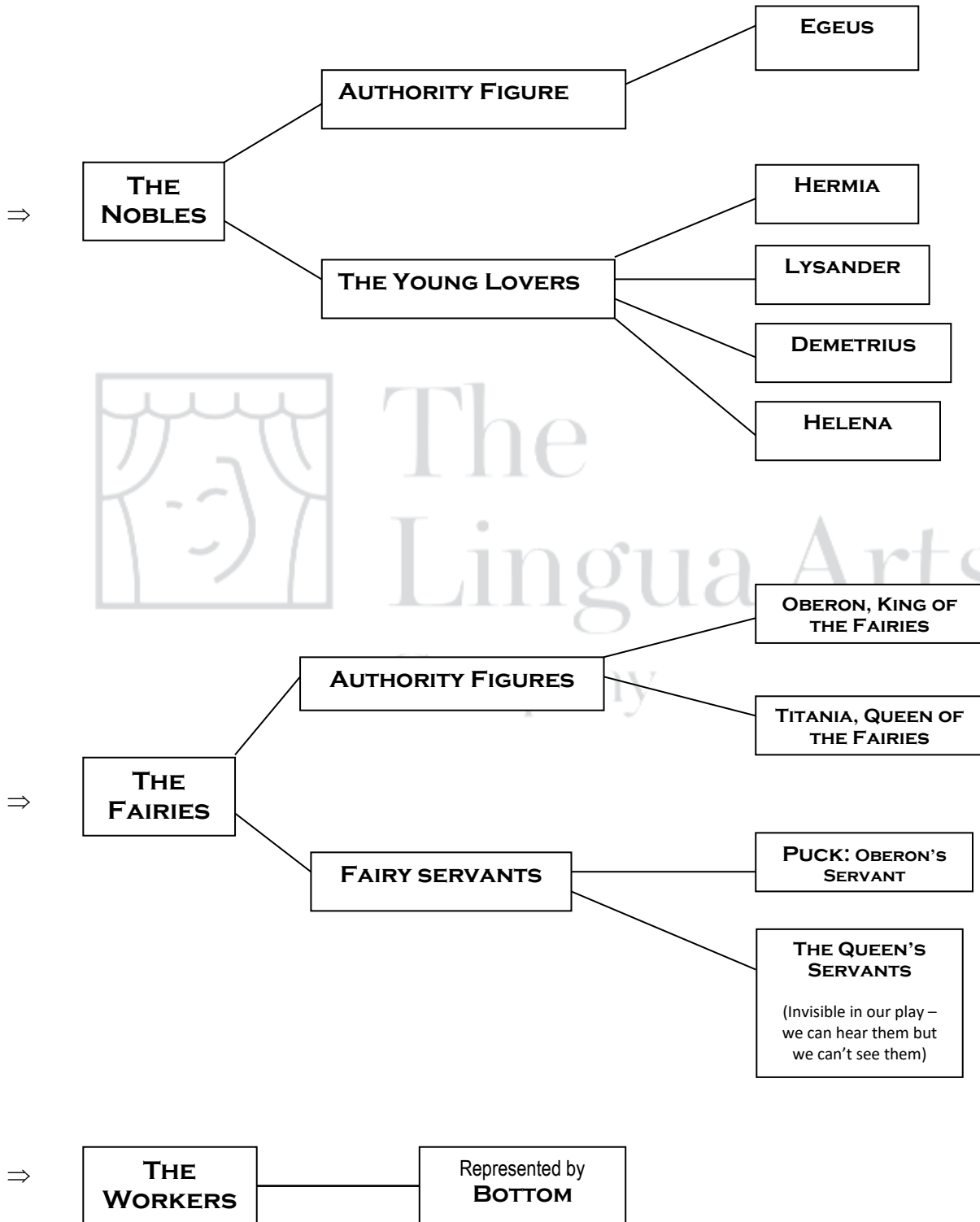


## Who is Who?

Before we look at the story and the themes, here is a description of the characters in MIDSUMMER MADNESS (our version of William Shakespeare's comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*). There are three main types of characters in this play: **The Nobles**, **The Fairies** and **The Workers**. As you can see in the diagram below, these groups have been divided into smaller sub-groups: -

(Please study the vocabulary at the foot of the page 2.)



## The Nobles

**Egeus** - He is the father of Hermia. Hermia's father represents **PATERNAL AUTHORITY** in the family. He is a possessive man and will not tolerate **disobedience**<sup>1</sup> from his daughter. He orders Hermia to marry Demetrius and **forbids**<sup>2</sup> her to marry Lysander.

**Hermia** - Hermia is a **strong-minded**<sup>3</sup>, romantic young girl. She is in love with Lysander and is prepared to disobey her father in order to marry the man she loves.

**Lysander** - He is a young nobleman who is in love with Hermia. He is a romantic and is prepared to break the law and **run away**<sup>4</sup> from Athens so that he can marry her.

**Demetrius** - At the start of the play, Demetrius is **selfish**.<sup>5</sup> He is **determined**<sup>6</sup> to marry Hermia even though she is in love with Lysander. He also treats Helena cruelly simply because she loves him and he doesn't love her. However, after his adventure in the wood, Demetrius becomes a better person.

**Helena** - Helena and Hermia are friends, but there is a problem: Helena is in love with Demetrius, and he wants to marry Hermia. Helena wishes she could find the same kind of love that Hermia has with Lysander. **Jealous**,<sup>7</sup> she betrays her friend to Demetrius.

## The Fairies

**Oberon, the King of the Fairies** – Oberon represents AUTHORITY and LAW<sup>8</sup> in Fairyland in the Wood. His **spells**<sup>9</sup> are responsible for most of the crazy action that takes place in the **wood**.<sup>10</sup> He is also an authoritative and possessive husband. Because she disobeys him, he **punishes**<sup>11</sup> his wife by casting a perverse spell on her.

**Titania, the Queen of the Fairies** – The **headstrong**<sup>12</sup> wife of Oberon, Titania disobeys her husband because she suspects Oberon is attracted to female humans in Athens. However, after Titania suffers the magic of her husband, she changes and becomes more docile and obedient.

**Puck** – He is Oberon's **faithful**<sup>13</sup> fairy servant. He is **mischievous**<sup>14</sup> and, at times, a little cruel. He likes to play **tricks**<sup>15</sup> on others, particularly on mortals. He is particularly cruel to Bottom whom he changes into a donkey.

## The Workers

**Bottom** – He represents the working classes of Athens. In the original **play**<sup>16</sup> (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Bottom is a **weaver**<sup>17</sup> who is seen **rehearsing**<sup>18</sup> a play with his friends in the fairy wood. The play is to be **performed**<sup>19</sup> for the Duke of Athens on his wedding day. In our version, we include only Bottom. His character is very funny, and **although**<sup>20</sup> he has a comical name, he takes himself very seriously. He has very little education, but thinks he knows everything and believes himself to very talented.

<sup>1</sup> disobedience = *desobediencia*

<sup>2</sup> to forbid = *prohibir*

<sup>3</sup> strong-minded = *de fuerte carácter*

<sup>4</sup> to run away = *huir / fugarse*

<sup>5</sup> selfish = *egoísta*

<sup>6</sup> determined = *decidido (a)*

<sup>7</sup> jealous = *celoso(a)*

<sup>8</sup> law = *la ley*

<sup>9</sup> a spell = *un hechizo*

<sup>10</sup> wood = *bosque*

<sup>11</sup> to punish = *castigar*

<sup>12</sup> headstrong = *obstinado(a) / cabezudo(a)*

<sup>13</sup> faithful = *fiel*

<sup>14</sup> mischievous = *travieso (a) malévalo (a)*

<sup>15</sup> tricks = *travesuras, trampas*

<sup>16</sup> a play = *una obra de teatro*

<sup>17</sup> a weaver = *un tejedor*

<sup>18</sup> to rehearse = *ensayar*

<sup>19</sup> to perform = *representar, actuar*

<sup>20</sup> although = *aunque*