*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

Act III, Scene 1

* The Mechanicals meet to rehearse. All are concerned (Bottom in particular) that their performance will be so authentic the audience will be afraid.
* Their plans to reassure the audience add to the comedy, and makes them appear even more comical (note as well the malapropisms – comically misused words: for example, line 35, Bottom means to say “effect”, but instead says “defect.” The meaning is opposite to what he meant, but is actually quite accurate; also “odious” instead of “odorous”).
* (108-111) Bottom’s irony: He claims Snout is acting like an ass; also claims the others are making an “ass” of him.
* (132-136) Bottom’s response to Titania’s declaration of love is actually quite astute: “…reason and love keep little company together…” It is a direct statement of theme.

*Act III, scene ii*

* (1-40) Puck gives Oberon an account of what has happened.
* (42) Demetrius enters, and Oberon believes that Puck has put the spell on him. Puck reveals that he in fact put the spell on another young Athenian.
* (43-80) Hermia is distraught over Lysander’s disappearance, and accuses Demetrius of being involved. He still professes his love to her, but realizes that it is better to leave her alone while she is so angry. He collapses from exhaustion.
* Puck is ordered to fix the mess, with hilarious results: both Lysander and Demetrius proclaim their love for Helena (though both are under spells). Helena believes all are playing a cruel trick on her (122-339), even her friend Hermia. This shows that Helena has very low self-esteem. Both women argue.
* (351-480) The men go off to fight. Puck confuses them, and leads them on a chase until both collapse. Both young women soon tire as well.