*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* Audition Monologues

Auditions

Choose 2 monologues below to prepare for your audition. They may be for any 2 characters, regardless of gender. Remember that monologues must be memorized and rehearsed. I am looking for lots of physicality in this show, so don’t be afraid to move around more than you are used to. See character breakdown sheet for more information on each character. “Beat” means pause and that there should be a major change – often that the character has just gotten an idea.
*\*5th graders only need to prepare 1 monologue\**

HELENA:

*In love with Demetrius, who doesn’t love her back. BFFs with Hermia, who she’s comparing herself to.*

How happy some o’er other some can be! Through Athens I am thought as fair as she. But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so. He will not know what all but he do know. And, as he errs, doting on Hermia’s eyes, so I , admiring of his qualities. *(Beat)*  I will go tell Demetrius of fair Hermia’s flight; Then to the wood will he tomorrow night pursue her. But herein mean I to enrich my pain, to have his sight thither, and back again.

HERMIA:

*BFFs with Helena, but currently in a massive fight. The boy referred to is Lysander, Hermia’s boyfriend who is suddenly (magically) in love with Helena.*

Puppet?  Why so! Now I perceive that she hath made compare between out statures; she hath urged her height, and with her personage, her tall personage, her height, forsooth, she hath prevailed with him. And are you grown so high in his esteem because I am so dwarfish and so low?  How low am I? Thou painted maypole? Speak! How low am I? I am not yet so low but that my nails can reach unto thine eyes.

LYSANDER:

*Dating Hermia, but her dad doesn’t want them to get married. He suggests his idea to run away & elope.*

A good persuasion. Therefore, hear me, Hermia: I have a widow aunt, a dowager from Athens is her house remote seven leagues. There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee; If thou lov’st me, then steal forth thy father’s house tomorrow night; And in the wood, a league without the town, where I did meet thee once with Helena there I will stay for thee.

OBERON:
*He’s just had a big fight with his wife Titania.*

*(angry)* Well, go thy way!  Thou shalt not from this grove till I torment thee for this injury. Gentle Puck, come hither. Fetch me that herb I showed you once. The juice of it on sleeping eyelids laid will make man or woman madly dote upon the next live creature that it sees. *(Beat)* I pray thee, give it to me.  There sleeps Titania, and with the juice of this I’ll streak her eyes and make her full of hateful fantasies. Take thou some of it. A sweet Athenian lady is in love with a disdainful youth.  Anoint his eyes, but do it when the next thing he espies may be the lady. Thou shalt know the man by the Athenian garments he hath on.

TITANIA:
*Titania is in a fight with her husband Oberon.*

Set your heart at rest. The fairyland buys not the child of me. His mother was a vot’ress of my order, but she being mortal of that boy did die; and for her skae do I rear up her boy, and for her sake I will not part with him. *(Oberon demands the boy)* Not for thy fairy kingdom! Fairies, away. We shall chide downright if I longer stay.

BOTTOM:
*After the donkey head is removed, he wakes up, searching for his friends and remembering this “dream” with the donkey features.*

*(waking)*  When my cue comes, call me, and I will answer.  My next is “Most fair Pyramus”. Hey-ho! Peter Quince!  Flute! Snout! Starveling! What stolen hence and left me asleep!  I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it was. Methought I was a… And methought I had a … Man is but an ass if he go about to expound his dream.

PUCK:
*Puck has been instructed to find the lovers, but hasn’t been able to… yet.*

Through the forest have I gone, but Athenian found I none.  Night and silence. Who is here? Weeds of Athens he doth wear.  This is he, my master said, despised the Athenian maid; And here the maiden, sleeping sound on the dank and dirty ground.  Churl, upon they eyes I throw all the power this charm doth owe. *(applies the potion)*  When thou wakest, let love forbid sleep his seat on thy eyelid. So awake when I am gone, for I must now to Oberon.

BOTTOM :
*As Pyramus, in ‘Pyramus and Thisbe’ play. He’s a bad actor, very over the top, and a major ham.*

Sweet moon, I think thee for thy sunny beams; I thank thee moon for shining now so bright; For by thy gracious, golden, glittering, gleams…But stay!  O spite! What dreadful dole is here? Eyes, do you see? O dainty duck! O dear! Thy mantle good, What, stain'd with blood! O wherefore, Nature, didst thou lions frame?  Since lion vile hath here deflower'd my dear: Come, tears, confound; Out, sword, and wound the pap of Pyramus; Ay, that left pap, where heart doth hop: *(Stabs himself)*  Thus die I, thus, thus, thus.  Now am I dead, now am I fled; My soul is in the sky:  Tongue, lose thy light; Moon take thy flight: Now die, die, die, die, die. (*Dies)*

EGUS:
*Doesn’t want Hermia to marry Lysander, but instead Demetrius. He’s speaking to Theseus.*

Full of vexation come I with complaint against my daughter Hermia.

Stand forth, Demetrius.  My noble lord, this man hath my consent to marry her.

Stand forth, Lysander. And, my gracious Duke, this man hath bewitched the bosom of my child; be it so she will not here before your grace consent to marry Demetrius, as she is mine, I may dispose of her; Which shall be either to this gentleman or to her death.