

Subtext

Midsummer Night's Dream

“I’m glad you’re here this evening.”

1. Stress “I’m.” What is the meaning?
2. Stress “glad.” What is the meaning?
3. Stress “you’re.” What is the meaning?
4. Stress “here.” What is the meaning?
5. Stress “evening.” What is the meaning?

“The Fairyland buys not the child of me.”

1. Stress “Fairyland.” What is the meaning?
2. Stress “buys.” What is the meaning?
3. Stress “not.” What is the meaning?
4. Stress “child.” What is the meaning?
5. Stress “me.” What is the meaning?

Determining Subtext

1. what the context of the lines is
2. what the speaker wants in this particular scene
3. what the character's ultimate objective is
4. what obstacles prevent the character from attaining his or her goal

Practicing Subtext with 2.2.310-317

Each group will prepare two interpretations of Oberon's scene using different subtext and perform one for class.

1. "I will have my revenge on you, Titania."
2. "Titania, the joke that I play on you will be hilarious."

Practicing Subtext with 2.2.318-348

Each group will prepare two interpretations of this scene between Hermia and Lysander using different subtext and perform one for class.

1. Lysander is macho; Hermia is sarcastic.
2. Lysander is innocent; Hermia is seductive.
3. Lysander is seductive; Hermia is cold.
4. Lysander is smitten; Hermia is tempted.
5. *another subtext of your choice*