

Drama - Acting Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Imagery and rhythm in Shakespeare's language

Worksheet

Mr Burt



Oberon's monologue

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk roses and the eglantine:



Oberon's monologue

There sleeps Titania sometime of the night,
Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight;
And there the snake throws her enamell'd skin,
Weed wide enough to fit a fairy in:
And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes,
And make her full of hateful fantasies.



Task 1

Imagery

Read through the monologue.

Highlight everything that could be considered imagery.



Task 2

Shakespeare's rhythm

Read through the second half of the monologue.

Underline the natural rhythm like I have done with the first half.



Task 3

Perform the monologue

Act out the whole monologue using the rhythm we have just explored.

Change the way your voice sounds as you describe the imagery of the lovely bank of flowers and then as you describe your act of revenge!



References

- A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare.

