

Context Knowledge Overview Text: A Midsummer Night's Dream  
 Year Group: 2 Author: William Shakespeare  
 Term: Summer 1

**Geographical Focus**

Location where play is set



Athens in Greece

Authorial Focus	
Shakespeare's Life	
Author	William Shakespeare 
Date of birth	Born in 1564 (450 years ago)
Place of Birth	Stratford-upon-Avon
Early life	William grew up in Stratford-upon-Avon, and moved to London when he became a successful writer.
Education	Unlike many children at the time, Shakespeare went to school where he was taught the alphabet and Latin.
Published	Hamlet, Macbeth, A Midsummers Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Othello, The Taming of the Shrew.

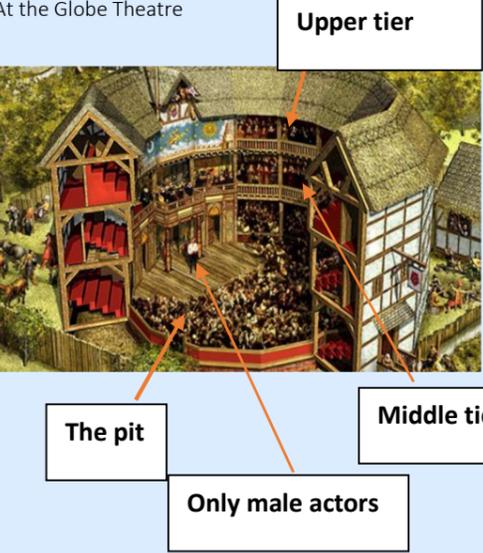
PSHE	
Love	Love comes in different forms: friendship, family, marriage and unrequited love.
Marriage	A legal commitment between two people to stay with each other for their life time.
Unrequited Love	To love someone who doesn't love you back.
Jealousy	A feeling of unhappiness and anger because someone has something or someone that you want.
Power	Someone or something who has control over others.

Historical Focus	
The Ancient Greeks lived over 2, 500 years ago.	
States	Ancient Greece was split into lots of different states.
	All states shared the same language and religion. Each state had different laws, government and currency.
Influence of Ancient Greece today	The influences in our lives today are Greek myths, democracy, tragedy, comedy, and theatre.
Democracy	The word democracy means "ruled by the people."
Monarchy	A country that is ruled by one person (usually a King or a Queen).  During the time of the Ancient Greeks, Greece was ruled by the monarchy (the royal family).
Royal Family Members	The Queen and the King had the highest positions of power and made the final decisions on how the country was run.  The Prince and Princess were the sons and daughters of the King and Queen.

**How the Shakespeare plays were performed**

Where they were performed

At the Globe Theatre



Upper tier

Middle tier

The pit

Only male actors

Performances

Plays had to be performed in the day as there was no electricity and candles were too dangerous to light as the stage was wooden.

Costs

It cost the poor people one penny to watch a play, but they would have to stand in the pit just in front of the stage which was often noisy and smelly.

For a seat in the middle, the people who could afford it would pay two pence.

The rich people would pay three pence for a seat at the top and they would get to sit on cushions and eat a meal with meat.

Actors

The actors in Shakespearean time would all be men or boys who played the female characters too. Only men were allowed to act.