

NPAT RSC Character Information - Demetrius

Demetrius is a young gentleman in the court, who used to be in a relationship with Helena. He is now in love with Hermia and has her father's blessing to marry her. He follows Hermia into the forest when he learns from Helena that she has run away with Lysander. While in the forest he has a magic spell put on him that makes him fall in love with Helena. At the end of the play he recognises that he has loved Helena all along and they get married.

Facts we learn about Demetrius at the start of the play:

- He has been engaged to Helena in the past.
- He is favoured by Egeus over his rival Lysander.
- He is angry at Helena for following him and loving him despite how badly he treats her.

THINGS THEY SAY

'But I shall do thee mischief in the wood.' (Demetrius, 2:1)

Demetrius threatens Helena when she chases him in the wood.

'Now I do wish it, love it, long for it / And will for evermore be true to it.' (Demetrius, 4:2)

Demetrius reveals how much he loves Helena.

THINGS OTHERS SAY ABOUT HIM

'Demetrius is a worthy gentleman. (Theseus, 1:1)

In court, Demetrius is well thought of.

'The wildest hath not such a heart as you.' (Helena, 2:1)

Demetrius' behaviour towards Helena is not kind.

'Demetrius, I'll avouch it to his head / Made love to Nedar's daughter, Helena, And won her soul.' (Lysander, 1:1)

Demetrius has had a relationship with Helena in the past and it seemed serious to Lysander.