

NPAT RSC Character Information - Egeus

Egeus is a courtier in Athens. His daughter Hermia is in love with Lysander, a gentleman of the court, but he wants her to marry Demetrius. He asks the Duke's permission for his daughter to either marry Demetrius or be put to her death – as is decreed in an old law. By the end of the play he still wants Hermia to marry Demetrius, but he is overruled by Duke Theseus.

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

- He is determined for Hermia to marry Demetrius.
- He is willing to sacrifice his daughter rather than listen to her views.
- He is well-regarded by the Duke.

THINGS THEY SAY

'Full of vexation come I.' (Egeus, 1:1)

Egeus is acting out of anger at Hermia's refusal to marry Demetrius rather than rationally.

THINGS OTHERS SAY ABOUT HIM

'...good Egeus...' (Theseus, 1:1)

Egeus is well-regarded by the court and the Duke of Athens.