

# PART 3: OBERON & TITANIA

## Home learning resources



If you have one, use your 'Dream Journal' notebook to record your work in this home learning resource. If you don't have one, you could make your own or use paper...

Watch our video to find out more about Oberon and Titania, the feuding fairy king and queen who rule over the Athenian forest...

**['Home Learning Video 3: Oberon & Titania' on our YouTube channel](#)**

*Make sure you ask permission before using YouTube!*

### **TASK 1: RESEARCHING FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**You will need:** *to be able to see this [Forests and Jungles fact sheet](#) from World Wildlife Fund, your 'Dream Journal' or paper and a pen or pencil*

As Peter tells us in the video, climate change was something that Shakespeare's audience would have known a lot about. But, of course, we know a lot more about the weather and why it is changing than Elizabethans did.

Look at WWF's [Forests and Jungles fact sheet](#). Forests are a very important to the earth, but they are under threat and many scientists believe that we need to act now to save them.

[Click on 'Forests and Jungles fact sheet' above to link to this page or see page 4 for the web address]

- A. Look at the first two paragraphs of the [Forests and Jungles fact sheet](#) from World Wildlife Fund. Can you write down 3 things that forests provide us with?
- B. Read the section titled 'WHAT'S HAPPENING TO FORESTS?'. on page 1. In your own words, write down what the problem facing forests is...
- C. Read the section titled **SAVING THE JUNGLE** on page 5. What 3 things can be done to help save the world's forests and jungles?

## TASK 2: GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

**You will need:** your 'Dream Journal' or paper and a *pen or pencil and colouring pencils (if you have them)*

Which of the things you've read doing task 1 do you think might be the most important to do? Choose one. Can you create a poster to get the message across loud and clear?

## TASK 3: THE STOLEN BOY

**You will need:** your 'Dream Journal' or paper and a *pen or pencil and colouring pencils (if you have them)*

As Matt tells us in the video, Oberon and Titania are arguing over a small boy, who Titania has in her possession. Oberon wants her to give the boy to him, but she refuses. This isn't as strange as it sounds, as Elizabethans believed that fairies often took human children to live in the fairy world, and left a fairy child or 'changeling' in their place.

Now watch the part of Home Learning Video 3, where Joe tells us Oberon's version of the story - that Titania stole the boy from an Indian king!

[For a written version of this please see page 4]

Can you tell the story in 4 pictures, showing us how the boy was swapped for a fairy child? You could draw them or you could describe each picture...

## TASK 4: TITANIA TELLS THE TRUTH

**You will need:** your 'Dream Journal' or paper and a *pen or pencil*

Titania's version of the story is very different. Watch the part of Home Learning Video 3, where Sue tells us how Titania promised to look after the child when her friend, his mother, died.

[For a written version of this please see page 4]

When Titania and Oberon argue, she is furious that he is accusing her of stealing the boy and storms away through the forest with her fairy train. She retreats to her private space (perhaps inside the hollow trunk of a fallen tree) and decides that she will make the truth known to all her fairy subjects.

She is going to write a letter to declare the truth. She begins...

*My dearest fairy subjects,*

*I write to let the truth be known...*

Imagine that you are Titania, and write her letter to declare what the REAL story is.

### **TASK 5: TITANIA'S LULLABY**

**You will need:** a jar or clear container, a small light source (a torch, electronic candle or even a tea light candle if you have an adult to help), scissors, coloured tissue paper, string or ribbon

Soon it was time for Titania to go to bed. As the queen of the fairies, Titania would be attended by all of her fairy train. The woods are very dark at night, and her fairies would need to light the way as they lead their queen beneath the branches and across the leaf covered forest floor.

You can make your own fairy lantern, using a jar (or other clear container), and decorating the outside of it with coloured tissue paper or pens that can write on glass!

Will yours have patterns on it? Or will it show the forest or even moments from fairy history?

Once you've decorated it, wrap some string, wool or ribbon around the rim of the jar and form a loop over the top so that it can be held from above.



Then, place a small light source inside the jar and your fairy lantern is ready to go. You could darken the room or take it out into the garden when it's dark to see all the colours and patterns lit up!

You could even learn and sing the fairies' lullaby...

[For the words to this please see page 5]

## RESOURCES FOR HOME LEARNING VIDEO 3: TITANIA AND OBERON

### WEB ADDRESS FOR THE WWF FORESTS AND JUNGLES FACT SHEET

*Make sure to type it carefully!*

[www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/Our\\_Planet\\_ourforests\\_jungles.pdf](http://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/Our_Planet_ourforests_jungles.pdf)

### THE STOLEN CHILD (Oberon's story)

The truth is clear. The boy was stolen from an Indian king, as she well knows. She never had so sweet a changeling... who could blame her for stealing him away? But steal him she did!

It was a warm and breezeless evening, and the Indian queen was wishing beloved boy good night. The king looked lovingly over her shoulder as the boy closed his eyes and settled soundlessly in his crib.

Titania's fairies were watching, and as the king and queen tiptoed down the tiled hallway, they slipped into the child's nursery and in a flash the boy and the fairies were gone.

As the sun rose over the distant mountains, the queen went to rouse her sleeping babe. She looked into the cot and her horrified scream woke every person in the palace! For there in her child's place was a face that she did not know. A fairy child! A changeling!

As dawn broke, the changeling boy sat on a bed of beautiful wildflowers, smiling and wondering at the strange and magical faces peering back at him. He was now a child of the fairy world!

## TITANIA TELLS THE TRUTH (Titania's story)

Oberon doesn't not speak the truth, He is mistaken. Who else, but I, can tell the truth?

His mother was one of those who worshipped me, and we would sit together at night in India, gossiping and watching the merchant ships sailing on the ocean.

We would laugh to see the sails fill up with wind so that they looked like they had big, pregnant bellies. She was pregnant with the little boy - and she would bring me little gifts she had found as if she was a ship returning from a voyage.

But she was a mortal, and as mortals do she died. She asked me to look after the boy and for her sake I'm raising him and will not give him up. Not for all of fairyland!

## TITANIA'S LULLABY (from Shakespeare's text)

You spotted snakes with double tongue,  
Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen;  
Newts and blind-worms, do no wrong,  
Come not near our fairy queen.  
Philomel, with melody  
Sing in our sweet lullaby;  
Lulla, lulla, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby:  
Never harm, Nor spell nor charm,  
Come our lovely lady nigh;  
So, good night, with lullaby,  
So, good night, with lullaby.

Click the link below or carefully type it into your internet browser to listen to the song here, via SoundCloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/northwest-drama-services/titanias-lullaby> \

For more like this, visit [northwestdramaservices.co.uk/dreamathome](http://northwestdramaservices.co.uk/dreamathome)