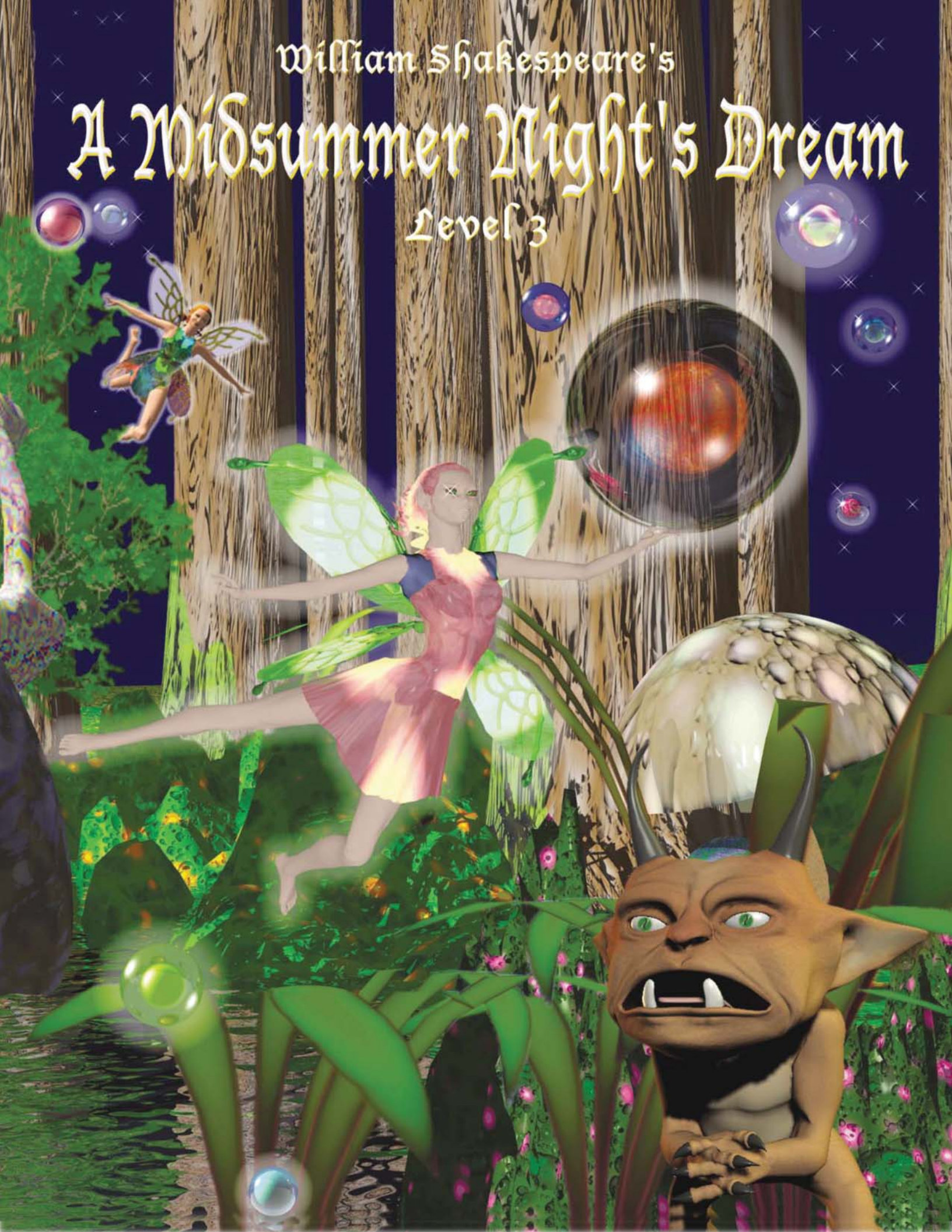


William Shakespeare's

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Level 3



“Easy Reading Old World Literature”

A Midsummer Night's Dream

LEVEL 3

Series Designer
Philip J. Solimene

Editor
Laura Algiere, M. Ed.

Cover Art by
Donald V. Lannon III

Black & White Illustrations
Kenneth Landgraf

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Laura Algiere

Author
William Shakespeare

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29	That's Not Imagining	Athens is the place for feasting. Will the workmen's play be on the Duke's program?	54
30	Now, See for Yourself	The wedding feast ends, and the fairies visit Athens after midnight. The lovers are blessed by the fairies.	60

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About the Author

William Shakespeare was born in 1564. He lived in England. His mother's name was Mary Arden. His father was John. We know very little about Shakespeare's early life. Some think he went to a free school near his home. There, children learned about God. They learned how to read and write. When he was 18, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. They had a daughter and a set of twins.

Shakespeare moved to London, an important city in England. People knew him to be an actor. He was famous for writing plays, as well. He and his actors opened a playhouse, the Globe, in 1599. They acted plays there in the summer. Later, they worked under King James I. They were called "The King's Men." Then, they bought a playhouse for acting in winter. The Globe burned down in 1613. Shakespeare stopped writing while they were building a new Globe. He died in his hometown on April 23, 1616. His plays have been acted more times, in more countries, than any other writer!

Interdisciplinary Teaching Suggestions

Language Arts:

Create a Fairy Tale: Form groups of about ten students. One student begins the tale with, "Long, long ago..." making up fairy characters, setting, and plot along the way. Each student adds to the previous one's story, and the last student brings the tale to a close.

Study Greek Myths: In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, students learned about four characters from Greek myths: Cupid, Hercules, Hippolyta, and Theseus. Have students read about these characters and draw detailed pictures of them in action, or write about them. Compare this new information with Shakespeare's version.

Math:

Estimate Travel Time: Puck "circles the Earth" in no time. Have students determine the circumference of the Earth, and estimate how long it takes various modern vehicles to circle the Earth.

Science:

Illustrate Phases of the Moon: Shakespeare's characters wait for the full moon to change to a new moon. Draw and label pictures of the moon in all its phases.

Explain the Weather: The Fairy Queen, Titania, believed that disrupting the fairies' activities would cause problems in Nature, disturbing the wind, rain, sun, etc. Have your class illustrate and report on how science explains weather changes and environmental problems today.

Social Studies:

Explore Marriage Customs: Egeus arranged his child's marriage, according to ancient Greek custom. Have students report on marriage customs of different cultures.

Dramatize Problem-Solving Strategies: King Oberon used magic to solve relationship problems. Divide students into small groups. In each group, two act as friends having a problem in their relationship; the others take turns advising the friends.

General:

Plan Entertainment: Many people think this play was written as entertainment for an important wedding in Queen Elizabeth's family. Have students work in groups to plan the entertainment for a large-scale, contemporary celebration, ex. The Olympics.

Discover Connections: Listen to Mendelssohn's *Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream*, containing the famed *Wedding March*. Compare the music with the story.

WORDS USED

Story 21

Story 22

Story 23

Story 24

Story 25

KEY WORDS

dream	beard	circle	breath	add
either	blind	earth	certain	calendar
feast	fault	elves	complain	half
forward	heaven	serve	continue	practice
law	instead	spirit	harm	shine
queen	learn	travel	ugly	space

NECESSARY WORDS

daughter	act	arrow	arrived	meet
delight	hate	dale	heart	opinion
die	mask	dew	repeated	perfect
happiness	pray	eyelids	sake	speech
marry	tailor	flood	sick	stage
punish	tears	jealous	snake	wall
spoke	weaver	quarrel	wake	
wedding	yet			

Story 26

Story 27

Story 28

Story 29

Story 30

KEY WORDS

body	disappoint	blossoms	awake	bless
chuckle	forgotten	hounds	clear	enjoy
gun	moan	joy	famous	explain
imagine	single	scratch	sense	kiss
indeed	star	shape	usually	lying
shoot	truth	touch	won	signal

NECESSARY WORDS

bow	astonish	celebrate	battle	actors
dullest	exclaimed	creature	choice	fade
laughter	praise	music	onions	gentlemen
monster	realize	power	program	midnight
rustle	scorn	silence	servant	smart
sigh	upset		tales	sword
worse				tore

Waiting for Midsummer

PREPARATION

Key Words

dream	(drēm)	a wish; something one hopes for <i>Tara works to make her <u>dream</u> of being a dancer come true.</i>
either	(ē´ ƒHər) (ī´ ƒHər)	one or the other of two <i>Duke said it will <u>either</u> rain or snow tomorrow.</i>
feast	(fēst)	a big party for an important day <i>My family always has a <u>feast</u> on New Year's Day.</i>
forward	(fōr´ wərd)	to the front <i>Nelson stepped <u>forward</u> to be first in line.</i>
law	(lò)	a rule made by a country, state, king, etc. <i>What happens if you break the <u>law</u>?</i>
queen	(kwēn)	a woman who runs a country. She may be the wife of a king. <i>The princess may be a <u>queen</u> when she grows up.</i>

Waiting for Midsummer

Necessary Words

daughter	(dô' tər)	any girl baby of a father and mother <i>Lisa is the <u>daughter</u> of Keith and Jan.</i>
delight	(di lit')	to please greatly <i>"These flowers will <u>delight</u> Rana," said Dave.</i>
die	(dī)	to stop living <i>Billie Jean cried, "Why did my dog <u>die</u>?"</i>
happiness	(hap' ē nis)	a feeling of being happy; gladness <i>Brad felt <u>happiness</u> when he saw his brother win the race.</i>
marry	(mar' ē)	to come together as man and wife <i>Hayley and Dylan will <u>marry</u> soon.</i>
punish	(pun' ish)	to make another pay in some way for what they have done <i>Will Dan <u>punish</u> Spencer for breaking his new lock?</i>
spoke	(spōk)	said something; talked <i>Gina <u>spoke</u> to her father about the car.</i>
wedding	(wed' ing)	the event (happening) at which two people get married <i>Hugh and Ingrid will have a summer <u>wedding</u>.</i>

People

Amazon	a very tall, strong lady, good at fighting. Greek stories of long ago spoke of such ladies. They did not like men and would not marry them. Hippolyta was their queen.
---------------	--

Places

Athens	a very important city in Europe, in the country of Greece
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Events

midsummer	the day in the middle of summer; the longest day of the year. The night before midsummer day is the shortest night of the year, but very dark because there is no moon. Midsummer night is a time for fairies, love, and magic.
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Waiting for Midsummer



*Egeus pointed to the unhappy woman with him.
“I’m angry with my daughter, Hermia.”*

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentences under the picture.
 4. Read the first six paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

- You learned from your preview that Hippolyta
- a. will become Amazon Queen.
 - b. is angry with Egeus.
 - c. will marry Theseus.
 - d. is fighting with Theseus.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read on to find out how the Duke will answer Egeus.

Waiting for Midsummer

“Fair Hippolyta,” whispered Theseus, “how slowly this old moon fades away! I can’t wait for the new moon. That’s the happy midsummer day we will marry.”

“It’s only four more days and nights. They will quickly pass. Then it will be the night at the middle of summer. Our dream will come true. And the silver moon will smile down on our feast,” answered Queen Hippolyta.

“You’re right,” said Theseus. He smiled. “Our wedding feast will delight all of Athens. No more fighting as we did before, my Amazon Queen!”

Just then, Egeus came in. “Happiness to you, Theseus, Duke of Athens!”

“Thank you,” answered Theseus. “How are you, Egeus?”

Egeus pointed to the unhappy woman with him. “I’m angry with my daughter, Hermia. I wish her to marry this man.” Egeus made a sign for Demetrius to step forward. Hermia turned away.

Then Egeus pointed to a second young man. “This is Lysander,” said Hermia’s father. “He has given my daughter presents. He has told her that he loves her. And she believes him!” Egeus’ voice was angry. “Now Hermia will not listen to me! She says she will not marry Demetrius.”

“If Hermia tells you, Duke Theseus, that she will not have Demetrius, then punish her. My daughter no longer delights me. She should be punished under the law of Athens. Either she marries Demetrius, or she will die under the law.”

“Hermia, what do you say?”

asked the Duke. “You know, don’t you, that you should listen to your father. Your father gave life to you in the first place. Under the law of Athens, your father can take back that life. Demetrius is a good man.”

Hermia stepped forward and spoke. “So is Lysander.”

“Yes, both are good men,” said the Duke. “But your father’s wish for Demetrius makes him the better one.”

“I wish my father would look with *my* eyes,” said Hermia.

“No,” answered Theseus. “You must see things your father’s way.”

“Please, hear me!” cried Hermia. “I would have no happiness with Demetrius. I will not marry him. How will you punish me?”

“Take time to think this over,” said the Duke. “On my wedding day, I will ask you again. Either you marry Demetrius, or your father can ask that you die. If your father lets you live, you can never marry.”

Demetrius spoke. “Let your feelings change, dear Hermia. And you, Lysander, let her go!”

Lysander’s eyes flashed. “You have her father’s love, Demetrius. Let me have Hermia’s. Why don’t *you* marry *him*! Besides, you were in love with Hermia’s best friend before. And she still loves you, you fox.”

“I’ve heard about that,” said the Duke. “You may have told me yourself, Demetrius. But I didn’t remember it. I’ve been busy getting ready for my wedding.” Then, he looked at the others. “Demetrius, come with me, and you, too, Egeus. I want to talk

with the both of you. Hippolyta, you come, too. We need to talk about our wedding feast.”

Theseus turned to Hermia. “Take time to think about all this. Either you must listen to your father, or be punished. We cannot change the law. Either you must die, or you can never marry.

With those words, the Duke and his Queen left. Egeus and Demetrius followed them. Hermia and Lysander stood alone.

“How now, my love?” whispered Lysander. He took Hermia’s soft hands in his. “True love never did have it easy.”

“How true!” said Hermia. With her hands in Lysander’s, Hermia felt safe. “Trouble is as much a part of love as dreams and wishes!” she answered.

Lysander’s face brightened. “Hermia, I have an idea. I have an aunt who loves me like a son. Her husband died, and he left her a lot of money. She lives far from Athens. There, the law cannot hurt you. If you love me, Hermia, leave your father’s house tomorrow night. Come to the woods. You know the place. I’ll wait for you.”

“For sure, I’ll be there.” Hermia’s voice was strong again.

“Keep your word, love,” whispered Lysander.

Waiting for Midsummer

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

Preview Answer:
c. will marry Theseus.

1. By the nighttime of midsummer day
 - a. the old moon is not yet faded.
 - b. the full moon is in the sky.
 - c. the new moon is in the sky.
 - d. it is dark because there is no moon.
2. The Duke will marry Queen Hippolyta
 - a. in four days when the moon is new.
 - b. when the Duke and Queen stop fighting.
 - c. when the moon is full over Athens.
 - d. when there is no moon over Athens.
3. Egeus is angry with Hermia because she says she won't marry
 - a. the Duke.
 - b. Lysander.
 - c. Theseus.
 - d. Demetrius.
4. Egeus thinks that
 - a. Lysander has tricked Hermia into loving him.
 - b. Hermia should not marry.
 - c. Hermia should keep the law of Athens.
 - d. the Duke should be angry with Hermia.
5. The Duke tells Hermia to
 - a. punish Demetrius.
 - b. listen to her father.
 - c. leave Athens.
 - d. speak with Lysander.
6. Lysander is angry with
 - a. Theseus.
 - b. Demetrius.
 - c. Hermia.
 - d. Egeus.
7. If Hermia does not listen to her father, she breaks the law of Athens. For breaking the law,
 - a. she must either die or never marry.
 - b. she must either leave Athens or die.
 - c. she can never marry.
 - d. she must die.
8. First, the Duke says Hermia must give her answer by his wedding day. Then, everyone leaves and Hermia is alone with Lysander. Next,
 - a. Hermia and Lysander go to the woods.
 - b. Egeus says that trouble is part of love.
 - c. Lysander's aunt's husband dies.
 - d. Lysander gets an idea for Hermia to leave Athens with him.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - a. "Two Midsummer Weddings."
 - b. "The Amazon Queen."
 - c. "Dreams are Part of Love."
 - d. "Hermia's Troubles."
10. This story is mainly about
 - a. two pairs of people who are angry.
 - b. Hermia running away with Lysander.
 - c. Hippolyta fighting for the Amazons.
 - d. two pairs of people who are in love.

Check your answers with the Key on page 67.

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Waiting for Midsummer

VOCABULARY CHECK

dream	either	feast	forward	law	queen
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I. Sentences to Finish

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.

- _____ Mac or Rico will drive the tractor.
- Larry stepped _____ to get his prize.
- Cher had a wonderful _____ about her wedding.
- The daughter of a king and _____ is called a princess.
- Killing someone is against the _____ .
- “Ida knows how to cook a real _____ !” said her husband with a smile.

II. Making Sense of Sentences

Are the following statements true or false? Place an X next to the correct answer:

- To have a ***dream*** means that you have no hope. _____ True _____ False
- To keep the ***law*** means to do what your country says you should do. _____ True _____ False
- Having a ***feast*** means staying home. _____ True _____ False
- A man who runs a country is a ***queen***. _____ True _____ False
- To go ***forward*** is to move back. _____ True _____ False
- Either*** the moon is full or it is not full. _____ True _____ False

Check your answers with the Key on page 69.

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