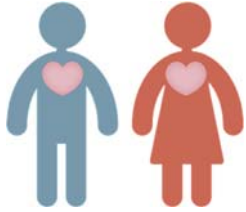


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Loves in Parallel

**Instructions:** Shakespeare uses a “play within the play” (*Pyramus and Thisbe*, performed by the mechanicals) to mirror and poke fun at the main love story of Hermia, Lysander, Helena, and Demetrius. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting these two love stories. Address the following points:

- **Similarities** - How are the two stories alike? (Think about forbidden love, misunderstandings, or obstacles.)
- **Differences** - How does the tragic love story of *Pyramus and Thisbe* differ from the comedic resolution of the four lovers?
- **Purpose** - Why do you think Shakespeare included the comic performance of *Pyramus and Thisbe* inside his play? How does it affect the audience's understanding of love, fate, or foolishness?
- **Personal Reflection** - Which story (the main play or the play within the play) do you think is more powerful, and why?

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