

COTTINGLEY BECK

WARNING: CONTAINS PLOT SPOILERS!

Are you wondering if you've spotted each of the Shakespearean references? Did you discover all the hidden Easter eggs?

Well, here's what the author thinks (in addition, of course, to the obvious references that are made by the Cottingley characters during the rehearsal process.) However, of course, those mischievous faeries could have squeezed in a few more that he didn't find...

In <i>Cottingley Beck</i>	In <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	CB chapter	CB pages	MND reference*
The performing arts teacher is called Petra Quince.	The director of the play-within-a-play, <i>The most lamentable comedy, and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisbe</i> , is called Peter Quince: BOTTOM: First, good Peter Quince, say what the play treats on, then read the names of the actors, and so grow to a point.	2	8	Act 1 Scene 2 Lines 8-10
The pupils at Griffiths Middle School learn a dance routine to the <i>Grease</i> track <i>Summer Nights</i> , which includes the lyrics: <i>Summer loving happened so fast</i> <i>I met a girl crazy for me</i> <i>Met a boy cute as could be</i> <i>Was it love at first sight?</i>	The song as a whole, and especially the lines quoted, resonate with the theme and events of <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> . References to dancing occur throughout the text: OBERON: Come my queen, take hands with me,/ And rock the ground whereon these sleepers be.	2 See also: 36	9 252-253	Act 4 Scene 1 Lines 85-86
Petra has a reputation for taking registers at play rehearsals.	BOTTOM: Now, good Peter Quince, call forth your actors by the scroll.	2 See also: 5 9 18	10 31 67 133	Act 1 Scene 2 Lines 14-15

Steffi Almond points out it's a shame that the teachers at Griffiths do not have magical powers.	Titania points out the power of her magic: TITANIA: Thou shalt remain here, whether thou wilt or no./ I am a spirit of no common rate.	2	13	Act 3 Scene 1 Lines 146-147
The administration assistant's surname is Moth.	A member of Titania's fairy entourage is called Moth. TITANIA: Peaseblossom! Cobweb! Moth! and Mustardseed!	3	18	Act 3 Scene 1 Line 155
Mrs Moth proclaims that Mr Morgan is 'not just any man', which makes Petra question if he is 'a superhero from another dimension or something'.	When Bottom recovers from his encounter with Titania, he realises that he has had a 'dream' beyond his understanding: BOTTOM: man is but a patched fool,/ if he will offer to say what methought I had.	3	20	Act 4 Scene 1 Lines 208-209
Goody Puckle is closely linked to nature. Her clothing, other possessions and food are overwhelmingly green and she surrounds herself with items that are reminiscent of nature, such as hedgerows and birds' nests.	A fairy introduces Puck: FAIRY: you are that shrewd and knavish sprite/ Called Robin Goodfellow... Those that Hobgoblin call you, and sweet Puck/ You do their work, and they shall have good luck.	3 See also: 10 11 12 13 14 15 17 18 21 25 28 35	21 77 83 89 95 97-98 103 119, 123 124-126 145 170 194 235-236	Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 33-34 and 40-41
Flo's dad's first name is Egeus.	Hermia's father's first name is Egeus.	3	22	Act 1 Scene 1 Line 21

	THESEUS: Thanks good Egeus. What's the news with thee?			
Ron Morgan thinks the summer term is dragging to a close, but Steffi Almond's view is that things are going very quickly.	Theseus thinks time is going slowly, but Hippolyta has the opposite view: THESEUS: Four happy days bring in/ Another moon. But O, methinks, how slow / This old moon wanes HIPPOLYTA: Four days will quickly steep themselves in night,	4	25-27	Act 1 Scene 1 Lines 3-7
Ms Puckle is known as Goody and her maiden name was Goodfellow. She has come with Ron from 'where [he] was before'. She is described as 'a little bit of magic' who 'seems to be everywhere at once and can flit from one meeting to another in the blink of an eye'.	A fairy informs the audience of Puck's other name: FAIRY: you are that shrewd and knavish sprite called Robin Goodfellow.	4 See also:- 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 16 18 19 22 23 25 26 27 31 35 37	28-29 38-39 41, 44-45 55 63-64 70, 73-74 89 95 115 129 134 152 158 170-171 172 185 209 242-243 258-259	Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 33-34, followed by an explanation of Puck's exploits through to line 57

<p>Goody tells Ron that she'll be "swifter than an arrow" in transporting Styx into Steffi's office, and "I'll get there and back faster than if I was circumnavigating the globe in half a minute!" when she needs to go home to find the antidote to the love potion.</p>	<p>Puck comments on his speed: PUCK: I'll put a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes.</p> <p>PUCK: I go, I go; look how I go/ Swifter than arrow from the tartar's bow.</p>	<p>22 23</p>	<p>152 158</p>	<p>Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 175-176</p> <p>Act 3 Scene 2 Lines 100-101</p>
<p>The Griffiths pupils attending Petra Quince's play rehearsal are called Nicholas, Tom, Robyn, Francis and Snug (whom, Petra notices, only seems to have one word in his name).</p>	<p>The "Rude Mechanicals" attending their play rehearsal are called Nick Bottom, Tom Snout, Robin Starveling, Francis Flute and Snug the joiner.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>32-33</p>	<p>Act 1 Scene 1 Lines 16-60</p>
<p>Stella the therapy dog was given to Miss Almond by her previous owner before she died, and Ron wants to take her for his own.</p>	<p>Puck explains that Oberon wants the changeling boy entrusted to Titania: PUCK: jealous Oberon would have the child/ Knight of his train, to trace the forests wild. OBERON: I do but beg a little changeling boy,/ To be my henchman.</p> <p>Oberon confirms it is his intention to take the boy whilst Titania is besotted: OBERON: ere I take this charm from off her sight-/ as I can take it with another herb-/ I'll make her render up her page to me.</p> <p>The changeling boy was given to Titania by his mother before she died, which is why she will not give him up:</p>	<p>5 See also: 17</p>	<p>37 115</p>	<p>Puck: Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 24-25</p> <p>Oberon: Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 120-121</p> <p>Oberon: Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 183-185</p> <p>Titania: Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 125-127</p>

	TITANIA: But she, being mortal, of that boy did die;/ And for her sake do I rear up her boy,/ And for her sake I will not part with him.			
Ron is associated with magical language and actions.	Oberon’s supernatural powers are referenced throughout, such as: OBERON: I saw- but thou couldst not- /Flying between the cold moon and the earth,/ Cupid all armed.	6	40	Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 156-157
Flo talks of cobwebs as ‘one of nature’s greatest miracles’.	Bottom comments on Cobweb’s use as a wound covering: BOTTOM: I shall desire you of more acquaintance, good master Cobweb: if I cut my finger, I shall make bold with you.	6	46	Act 3 Scene 1 Lines 172-174
Sandy promises to be ‘the fairest Lysander that e’er played here’.	Puck comments on Bottom’s acting: PUCK: A stranger Pyramus than e’er played here.	6	47	Act 3 Scene 1 Line 84
Ron tells the students of Wright College, “So there, everyone, is a play fitted,” at the end of his cast announcements.	Peter Quince uses similar words after casting <i>Pyramus & Thisbe</i> :- QUINCE: and, I hope, here is a play fitted.	6	48	Act 1 Scene 2 Lines 60-61
Goody enjoys causing mischief and chaos, saying “Those things do best please me that befall preposterously!” on two occasions.	This echoes Puck’s speech: PUCK: Then will two at once woo one;/ That must needs be sport alone;/ And those things do best please me/ That befall preposterously.	7 26 37 See also: 14 29	49, 51 177 266 97-98 199	Act 3 Scene 2 Lines 118-121
Flo’s dad insists on meeting Ron with his daughter, Flick, Sandy and Bacc present. He asks each of the students to step	Egeus meets Theseus with Hermia, Lysander and Demetrius.	7 See also:	49-53	Act 1 Scene 1 Lines 22-27

<p>forward as he explains their characteristics. He suggests a link between Flo and Bacc would be beneficial to his business.</p>	<p>EGEUS: Full of vexation come I, with complaint/ Against my child, my daughter Hermia./ Stand forth, Demetrius. My noble lord, This man hath my consent to marry her./ Stand forth, Lysander. And my gracious duke,/ This man hath bewitch'd the bosom of my child.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>106-109</p>	
<p>Flo argues against her father and suggests that, if he likes Bacc so much, they should put on a double-act together.</p>	<p>Lysander makes a parallel point to Demetrius, suggesting he should marry Egeus: LYSANDER: You have her father's love, Demetrius;/ Let me have Hermia's. Do you marry him.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>53-54</p>	<p>Act 1 Scene 1 Lines 93-94</p>
<p>Petra tells Sandy that it would be in the spirit of <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> for the Griffiths pupils to perform badly.</p>	<p>Petra quotes Theseus: THESEUS: Never anything can be amiss/ When simpleness and duty tender it.</p>	<p>8 See also: 28</p>	<p>62 193</p>	<p>Act 5 Scene 1 Lines 83-84</p>
<p>Petra casts Nicholas as Pyramus, although he asks for additional parts on top. Robyn plays Moon and Thisbe's mother; Francis plays Thisbe; Tom plays the Wall and Snug is the lion. Petra convinces herself that Sandy will be able to work with Snug on his roaring.</p>	<p>In the Rude Mechanicals' play, Nick Bottom is cast as Pyramus, although he asks for additional parts on top- "An I may hide my face, let me play Thisby too... Let me play the lion too..." Francis Flute is cast as Thisbe; Robin Starveling is given the part of Thisbe's mother; Tom Snout as Thisbe's father (although he later plays the wall, following a suggestion from Bottom). Snug- who is only known as Snug the joiner- has</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>67-69</p>	<p>Act 1 Scene 2 Lines 18- 66 Pyramus: cast in line 18; requests other parts in lines 48 and 66 Flute: line 40 Starveling: 56 Snout: line 59, also Act 3 Scene 1 Lines</p>

	the part of the lion, which Peter Quince explains as “nothing but roaring”.			63-67 and Act 5 Scene 1 Line 155 Snug: line 60-65
Steffi says she would refuse to exchange the combined school’s headship for Stella the therapy dog.	Titania speaks to Oberon in a similar manner: TITANIA: Not for thy fairy kingdom. Fairies, away!/ We shall chide downright, if I longer stay.	9	72	Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 144-145
The weather deteriorates dramatically in the area around the school after the argument between Ron and Steffi.	Titania recognises that the bad weather in Athens is due to her argument with Oberon: TITANIA: And this same progeny of evils comes/ From our debate, from our dissension;/ We are their parents and original;	9 See also: 11 15	73 85, 87 104	Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 116-117 (but see entire speech from Titania which starts on line 81)
Flick points out a mud slick building up around the school picnic tables.	Titania comments in a similar way: TITANIA: The nine men’s morris is fill’d up with mud	10	78	Act 2 Scene 1 Line 98
Ron asks Goody to find the ingredients for a secret potion.	Oberon explains the magical powers of <i>Love in Idleness</i> : OBERON: The juice of it on sleeping eyelids laid, Will make or man or woman madly dote/ Upon the next live creature that it sees.	14 See also: 15	98 103-104	Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 171-172
The potion includes <i>viola tricolor</i> , also known as <i>Johnny Jump Up</i> and <i>Love in Idleness</i> .	Oberon asks Puck to find a <i>Love in Idleness</i> flower that was given magical powers by one of Cupid’s bows which missed its intended target, Queen Elizabeth I.	15 See also: 16 18 23	104 113 130 157	Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 156-174

<p>Goody associates following Ron's recipe with the radio track <i>Love Potion Number Nine</i> by a group called The Clovers.</p>	<p>Oberon is clear that <i>Love in Idleness</i> will produce a love juice: OBERON: Fetch me that flower; the herb I showed thee once./ The juice of it on sleeping eyelids laid,/ Will make or man or woman madly dote/ Upon the next live creature that it sees.</p>	<p>17 See also: 18 37</p>	<p>118 123 260-261</p>	<p>Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 169-172</p>
<p>Ron gives Goody specific instructions regarding <i>viola tricolor</i>, including picking it within an hour of sunrise and not falling asleep during the manufacturing process.</p>	<p>Oberon is fond of morning adventures: OBERON: But we are spirits of another sort./ I with the morning's love have oft made sport.</p>	<p>15 See also: 16 17 18 26</p>	<p>104 113 120 128 176</p>	<p>Act 3 Scene 2 Lines 388-389</p>
<p>Goody suspects that Ron is much more active during the hours of darkness.</p>	<p>Fairies are seen throughout the play as creatures of the night: OBERON: look thou meet me ere the first cock crow PUCK: My fairy lord, this must be done with haste./ For night's swift dragons cut the clouds full fast. Puck warns Oberon of the imminent dawn: PUCK: Fairy king, attend and mark/ I do hear the morning lark.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>124</p>	<p>Oberon: Act 2 Scene 1 Line 267 Puck: Act 3 Scene 2 Lines 378-379 Puck: Act 4 Scene 1 Lines 93-94</p>
<p>Ron calls Styx a <i>vile thing</i>, and tells Steffi to "<i>wake when some vile thing is near.</i>"</p>	<p>This is a direct quotation from Oberon: OBERON: Wake when some vile thing is near.</p>	<p>19 22</p>	<p>135 150</p>	<p>Act 2 Scene 2 Line 34</p>

Characters wake up, apparently under the influence of the love potion, and seem to fall in love with the first living being they see.	<p>This occurs to Lysander, Demetrius and Titania: LYSANDER: And run through fire I will for thy sweet sake.</p> <p>TITANIA: What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?</p> <p>DEMETRIUS: O Helena, goddess, nymph, perfect, divine!</p>	19 21 22 26 37 See also: 23 23 37	137 148 153 173 266 156 159 255-256	Lysander: Act 2 Scene 2 Line 103 Titania: Act 3 Scene 1 Line 123 Demetrius: Act 3 Scene 2 Line 137
Flick says, “And run through fire I will for thy sweet sake!” when she wakes and sees Bacc.	This is a direct quotation from Lysander: LYSANDER: And run through fire I will for thy sweet sake.	19	137	
When she sees Styx the rat, Steffi proclaims “How I love thee! How I dote on thee!”	This is a direct quotation from Titania: TITANIA: O, how I love thee! How I dote on thee!	22	154	Act 4 Scene 1 Line 45
Flick repeats the line “I have found Demetrius like a jewel!”	This is a direct quotation from Helena: HELENA: And I have found Demetrius like a jewel	19 See also: 22	139-140 151	Act 4 Scene 1 Line 191
Ron finds it easy to persuade Steffi to give him Stella when she is obsessed with Styx.	This mirrors how Oberon gains the changeling boy from Titania: OBERON: I then did ask of her her changeling child,/ Which straight she gave me, and her fairy sent/ To bear him to my bower in Fairyland.	22	154	Act 4 Scene 1 Lines 59-61
When Ron has Stella, he stops arguing with Steffi and the weather improves.	This is a consequence of Oberon and Titania’s argument being resolved.	23	155	Act 2 Scene 1 Lines 81-117

Ron is aware of a plant that can act as the antidote to <i>viola tricolor</i> and tells Goody, “Dian’s Bud o’er Cupid’s flower has such force and blessed power.”	This is a direct quotation from Oberon: OBERON: Dian’s bud o’er Cupid’s flower has such force and blessed power.	32 See also: 23	211-212 158	Act 4 Scene 1 Lines 73-74
Goody exclaims, “Oh what fools these mortals be!”	This is a direct quotation from Puck: PUCK: Lord what fools these mortals be!	24	166	Act 3 Scene 2 Line 115
Goody tells Ron, “My mistress with a monster was in love...”	This is a direct quotation from Puck: PUCK: My mistress with a monster is in love.	26	174	Act 3 Scene 2 Line 6
Petra and Sandy wake up Steffi, who remembers- with horror- what happened when she was under the influence of the potion. When seeing a video of her assembly, Steffi comments “Oh how mine eyes do loathe its visage now.”	This is a direct quotation from Titania: TITANIA: O, how mine eyes do loathe his visage now!	28	188-189	Act 4 Scene 1 Line 79
When Ron is frustrated with Goody, he mumbles “Thou mistak’st, or else commit’st thy knaveries wilfully,” and says “This is thy negligence!”	These are direct quotations from Oberon: OBERON: This is thy negligence: still thou mistak’st,/ Or else committ’st thy knaveries wilfully.	31 37	211 265	Act 3 Scene 2 Lines 345-346
Ron tells Goody that <i>Dian’s Bud</i> must be squeezed over the noses of people infected with <i>Love in Idleness</i> .	When releasing Titania from <i>Love in Idleness</i> , Oberon proclaims: OBERON: Be as thou wast wont to be;/ See as thou wast wont to see./ Dian’s bud o’er Cupid’s flower/ Hath such force and blessed power.	31	213	Act 4 Scene 1 Lines 71-74
Ron says he plans to think of Egeus Wilson as a “boar with bristled hair”.	This is a direct quotation from Oberon: OBERON: Be it ounce, or cat, or bear/ Pard, or boar with bristled hair	35	237	Act 2 Scene 2 Line 31
Goody encourages a relationship between Sandy and Bacc by concealing herself with	Puck imitates Demetrius to Lysander, and vice versa, until they become exhausted.	35	237-241	Act 3 Scene 2 Lines 401-430

them in the smoke-filled drama studio as she mimics their voices.				
Robyn delivers the final lines of the play, whilst Sandy runs with the sparkler.	Puck concludes the play with the couplet: PUCK: Give me your hands, if we be friends,/ And Robin shall restore amends.	36	248	Act 5 Scene 1 Lines 426-427
Ron and Goody are very familiar with <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> and the events depicted within it.	Relevant throughout the text	15 See also: 18 23	108 128-130 157	Throughout
Ron wishes for Titania to be nearby, then remembers she has stayed in Faerieland.	Relevant throughout the text	38	269	Throughout
Sandy realises Ron and Goody's real names.	Relevant throughout the text	38	270	Throughout

*all references are to the Heienemann Shakespeare edition of the play, ISBN 0435192027.