

Taylor Swift and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

The following is a series of playlists—divided by the overall play, setting, character (by groups), and character (by individual)—that compares the text of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to Taylor Swift's discography. Comparisons were made both on superficial bases and with intent to uncover the deeper characterization of each categorized element. This summarizes the dramaturgical work of exploring the play's text through comparisons to an external body of poetry. Each song is referred to in the following format: "Song Title", *Album Title*. (Note: Lyrics from Swift's songs are attributed to T.S., or Taylor Swift, and lines from *Dream* are attributed to W.S., or William Shakespeare.)

OVERALL <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	"epiphany", <i>folklore</i>
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SETTING	
<i>Athens</i>	Woods
"Look What You Made Me Do", <i>reputation</i> "The Man", <i>Lover</i> "Picture To Burn", <i>Taylor Swift</i> "champagne problems", <i>evermore</i>	"Wonderland", <i>1989</i> "Welcome to New York", <i>1989</i> "long story short", <i>evermore</i> "Out of the Woods", <i>1989</i>

CHARACTERS (by group)		
<i>Character</i>	<i>Song</i>	<i>Lyrics & Lines</i>
LOVERS	"Lover", <i>Lover</i> "Haunted", <i>Speak Now</i> "New Year's Day", <i>reputation</i> "Delicate", <i>reputation</i>	"Darling, you're my, my, my, my lover" –T.S. "Come on, come on, don't leave me like this / I thought I had you figured out / Something's gone terribly wrong" –T.S. "But I'll be cleaning up bottles with you on New Year's Day" –T.S.
COURT	"False God", <i>Lover</i>	"But we might just get away with it / Religion's in your lips / Even if it's a false god" –T.S.
MECHANICALS	"Long Live", <i>Speak Now</i> "no body, no crime", <i>evermore</i>	"'Cause for a moment, a band of thieves / In ripped up jeans got to rule the world" –T.S. "No, no body, no crime / But I ain't letting up until the day I die" –T.S.
FAIRIES & ATTENDANTS	"Enchanted", <i>Speak Now</i> "the lakes", <i>folklore</i> "willow", <i>evermore</i> "Ready For It", <i>reputation</i> "This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things", <i>reputation</i>	"In the middle of the night, in my dreams / You should see the things we do, baby / In the middle of the night, in my dreams / I know I'm gonna be with you / So I take my time / Are you ready for it?" –T.S. "This is why we can't have nice things, honey / Did you think I wouldn't hear all the things you said about me?" –T.S.

CHARACTERS (by individual)		
<i>Character</i>	<i>Song</i>	<i>Lyrics & Lines</i>
HERMIA	"Better Than Revenge", <i>Speak Now</i>	"She underestimated just who she was stealing from" –T.S. "Let's hear the applause / Come on show me how much better you are" –T.S.

	“Cold as You”, <i>Taylor Swift</i>	“And you come away with a great little story / Of a mess of a dreamer with the nerve to adore you” –T.S. “And now that I’m sitting here thinking it through / I’ve never been anywhere cold as you” –T.S.
	“Tell Me Why”, <i>Taylor Swift</i>	“You tell me that you love me then you cut me down” –T.S.
	“This Love”, <i>1989</i>	“This love is good / This love is bad / This love is alive back from the dead” –T.S.
	“It’s Nice To Have A Friend”, <i>Lover</i>	“It’s nice to have a friend” –T.S.
	“cardigan”	“When you are young, they assume you know nothing” –T.S. “And you’d come back to me” –T.S. “And when I felt like I was an old cardigan under someone’s bed / You put me on and said I was your favorite” –T.S.
LYSANDER	“Getaway Car”, <i>reputation</i>	“No, nothing good starts in a getaway car” –T.S.
	“I Forgot That You Existed”, <i>Lover</i>	“I forgot that you existed / It isn’t love, it isn’t hate, it’s just indifference” –T.S.
HELENA	“Teardrops on My Guitar”, <i>Taylor Swift</i>	“He’s the reason for the teardrops on my guitar” –T.S.
	“You Belong With Me”, <i>Fearless (Taylor’s Version)</i>	“Been here all along so why can’t you see / You belong with me” –T.S.
	“The Story Of Us”, <i>Speak Now</i>	“And the story of us looks a lot like a tragedy now.” –T.S.
	“Getaway Car”, <i>reputation</i>	“No, nothing good starts in a getaway car” –T.S.
	“It’s Nice To Have A Friend”, <i>Lover</i>	“It’s nice to have a friend” –T.S.
	“august”, <i>folklore</i>	“So much for summer love and saying ‘us’ ‘Cause you weren’t mine to lose” –T.S.
	“gold rush”, <i>evermore</i>	“I don’t like a gold rush, gold rush” –T.S. “Everybody wants you” –T.S.
	“evermore”, <i>evermore</i>	“Good Hermia, do not be so bitter with me. I evermore did love you, Hermia” –W.S. (3.2.322-323)
	“Don’t You”, <i>Fearless (Taylor’s Version)</i>	“But don’t you / Don’t you smile at me and ask me how I’ve been / Don’t you say you’ve missed me if you don’t want me again / You don’t know how much I feel I love you still / So why don’t you, don’t you?” –T.S.
DEMETRIUS	“evermore”, <i>evermore</i>	“Now I do wish it, love it, long for it, / And will forevermore be true to it.” –W.S. (4.1.182-183)
	“All Too Well”, <i>RED</i>	“I’m a crumpled up piece of paper lying here / ‘Cause I remember it all, all, all... too well” –T.S.
	“mirrorball”, <i>folklore</i>	“I know they said the end is near / But I’m still on my tallest tiptoes” –T.S. “I’m a mirrorball / I’ll show you every version of yourself / Tonight” –T.S.
	“betty”, <i>folklore</i>	“In the garden would you trust me / If I told you it was just a summer thing? / I’m only seventeen / I don’t know anything

		but I know I miss you” –T.S. “Those days turned into nights / Slept next to her but / I dreamt of you all summer long” –T.S.
THESEUS	“Miss Americana & The Heartbreak Prince”, <i>Lover</i>	“They whisper in the hallway, ‘She’s a bad, bad girl’ / The whole school is rolling fake dice” –T.S. “We’re so sad, we paint the town blue / Voted most likely to run away with you” –T.S.
	“Only The Young”, <i>Only The Young</i>	“They aren’t gonna help us / Too busy helping themselves” –T.S. “Only the young can run” –T.S.
HIPPOLYTA	“my tears ricochet”, <i>folklore</i>	“And when you can’t sleep at night / You hear my stolen lullabies” –T.S.
	“exile”, <i>folklore</i>	“You were my crown / Now I’m in exile seein’ you out” –T.S.
	“mad woman”, <i>folklore</i>	“No one likes a mad woman / You made her like that” –T.S.
	“tolerate it”, <i>evermore</i>	“But what would you do if I // Break free and leave us in ruins / Took this dagger in me and removed it / Gain the weight of you then lose it / Believe me, I could do it” –T.S.
EGEUS	“Love Story”, <i>Fearless (Taylor’s Version)</i>	“And my daddy said, ‘Stay away from Juliet’” –T.S.
PHILOSTRATE	“22”, <i>RED</i>	“We’re happy, free, confused and lonely at the same time” –T.S. “‘Merry’ and ‘tragical?’ ‘Tedious’ and ‘brief?’” – W.S. (5.1.62)
NICK BOTTOM	“Change”, <i>Fearless (Taylor’s Version)</i>	“‘Cause these things will change / Can you feel it now?” –T.S.
	“dorothea”, <i>evermore</i>	“Hey Dorothea / Do you ever stop and think about me? / When it was calmer” –T.S.
PETER QUINCE	“this is me trying”, <i>folklore</i>	“I just wanted you to know / That this is me trying” –T.S.
FRANCIS FLUTE	“‘tis the damn season”, <i>evermore</i>	“So I’ll go back to L.A. and the so-called friends / Who’ll write books about me, if I ever make it” –T.S.
TOM SNOOT	“You All Over Me”, <i>Fearless (Taylor’s Version)</i>	“You find graffiti on the walls of old bathroom stalls” –T.S.
	“peace”, <i>folklore</i>	“You paint dreamscapes on the wall” –T.S.
	“The Story Of Us”, <i>Speak Now</i>	“So many walls up I can’t break through” –T.S.
	“I Don’t Want To Live Forever”, <i>Fifty Shades Darker</i>	“Been sitting eyes wide open behind these four walls, hoping you’d call” –T.S.
	“Cold As You”, <i>Taylor Swift</i>	“You put up walls and paint them all a shade of gray”
	“A Perfectly Good Heart”, <i>Taylor Swift</i>	“Maybe I should’ve seen the signs, should’ve read the writing on the wall” –T.S.
	“Change”, <i>Fearless</i>	“These walls that they put up to hold us back will fall down” –T.S.
	“Enchanted”, <i>Speak Now</i>	“Walls of insincerity / Shifting eyes and vacancy” –T.S.