**Extra Credit for Midsummer’s Night Dream and Twelfth Night**

Please take some time to reflect on the following questions:

A. Comic Techniques

Draw on your recently acquired knowledge on Chaucer’s ***comic techniques***, an author whom Shakespeare enjoyed to read.

The following are the techniques ***Chaucer*** uses: Satire; burlesque; irony; low comedy

Here are ***some more*** ***that Shakespeare*** uses (look up their definition to help you answer the following questions): Parody; play on words; double entendre

1/ Choose **either** play to discuss **comedy**: (as opposed to a tragedy), it starts off badly and ends well. The conflict sets off when the lovers are denied happiness because of outside circumstances. Yet as well as pity, Shakespeare constructs the lovers’ adventures and misadventures in such a way so as to incite mirth and laughter in the audience. Can you describe Shakespeare’s comic techniques with any of the above techniques? Remember to include examples.

2/ **Midsummer’s Night Dream:** The actors who are rehearsing a play to perform at Theseus’ and Hippolyta’s wedding feast are crude mechanicals, and have the most comic scenes in the play. Pinpoint at least one moment in the play for each of the following: satire, burlesque, irony and low comedy

3/ **Midsummer’s Night Dream:** *The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe* is the play within the play. How do you describe it in terms of any of the above (draw from both lists of comic techniques)?

Just a Comedy?

4/ Shakespeare has been criticized for not being a serious poet, and for just writing for entertainment’s sake. His cousin, Robert Southwell, wrote a treatise on the poet’s duty to write about man’s love for God, which contrasts with his cousin’s, Shakespeare’splay on man’s desire for erotic love, *eros.* Were there any moments in the play when you felt that Shakespeare stepped out of the plot, obviously centered on *eros,* to discuss more serious matters? Give two examples.