

Shakespearean Cinquain: *Midsummer Night's Dream*
Mary Vermillion

Puck

What next,
wanton prankster?
Rethink your odd display.
An ass rules the woods; lovers want
their say.

Helena

Jilted girl,
can't you see?
You cry over a guy
who lost his vision long ago.
Wake up.

Titania

Your mate
desires to best
you every which way.
Your dead friend's child he takes; your heart
he twists.

Love-in-idleness

Cupid—
wounded flower,
loaded with love-at-first-
sight nectar, you make only sad
endings.

Bottom

Eager
to play all parts,
you cannot be contained.
Monster? Joyful stealer of scenes?
Magic.

Mary Vermillion is a novelist and a Professor of English at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She and her husband, Benjamin Thiel, just finished writing a dual memoir about his gender transition. To learn more about Mary's writing or to read her blog, please visit maryvermillion.com