

**Romeo and Juliet**  
**Queen Mab**

Read Mercutio's description of Queen Mab. You must draw Queen Mab and her carriage based on Mercutio's description. Label each part of your drawing with its corresponding line from the speech. In addition, on a separate sheet of paper, you must answer the questions that follow the speech.

*Mercutio:*

O, then I see Queen Mab hath been with you.

She is the fairies midwife, and she comes

In shape no bigger than an agate stone

quartz crystal set in a ring

On the forefinger of an alderman,

Drawn with a team of little atomi

by; minute creatures, atoms

Over men's noses as they lie asleep.

Her wagon spokes made of long spinners' legs,

spiders

The cover of the wings of grasshoppers,

cover made of

Her traces of the smallest spider web,

harness straps

Her collars of the moonshine's wat'ry beams,

part of the harness

Her whip of cricket's bone, the lash of film,

fine thread, filament

Her wagoner a small gray-coated gnat,

driver

Not half so big as a round little worm

Pricked from the lazy finger of a maid.

Her chariot is an empty hazelnut,

Made by the joiner squirrel or old grub,

cabinetmaker; grubworm

Time out o' mind the fairies coachmakers.

And in this state she gallops night by night

in this ceremonial slendor

Through lovers' brains, and then they dream of love;

On courtiers' knees, that dream on cur'sies straight;

of curtsies; immediately

O'er lawyers' fingers, who straight dream on fees;

O'er ladies' lips, who straight on kisses dream,

Which oft the angry Mab with blisters plagues

Because of their breaths with sweetmeats tainted are.

candies or candies fruit

Sometime she gallops o'er a courtier's nose,

And then dreams he of smelling out a suit.

finding someone to pay to present a petition

And sometime comes she with a tithe-pig's tail,

pig due to the church as part of a tithe

Tickling a parson's nose as he lies asleep;

Then he dreams of another benefice.

Sometime she driveth o'er a soldier's neck,

And then dreams he of cutting foreign throats,

Of breaches, ambuscados, Spanish blades,

gaps in fortification; ambushes; swords

Of healths five fathom deep, and then anon

toasts; straightaway

Drums in his ear, at which he starts and wakes

dreams of drums

And, being thus frightened, swears a prayer or two

And sleeps again. This is that very Mab

That platts the manes of horses in the night  
And bakes the elflocks in foul sluttish hairs,  
Which once untangled much misfortune bodes.

plaits, braids  
mats, tangles  
the elves avenge the undoing of their

work  
This is the hag, when maids lie on their backs,  
That presses them and learns them first to bear,  
Making them women of good carriage.  
This is she –

teaches

1. According to Mercutio, what are the dreams that Queen Mab delivers for each of the following people?
  - a. Lovers dream of:
  - b. Courtier (first mention) dream of:
  - c. Lawyers dream of:
  - d. Ladies dream of:
  - e. Courtiers (second mention) dream of:
  - f. A parson dreams of:
  - g. A soldier dreams of:
2. Is Queen Mab the queen of good dreams, nightmare, or both? Explain.
3. Based on Mercutio's exchange with Romeo and the end of the scene, what does Mercutio think of dreams?
4. Why do you suppose Mercutio told such a fantastic story to Romeo?
5. What kind of person is Mercutio?