

If Oberon were to take Titania to court over the little changeling boy, who do you think would win?

Conduct the court case in the classroom with members of the class taking the parts of the judge, the lawyers representing Oberon and Titania, and the jury who will decide the outcome of the case.

The arguments

Prepare your response to the following prompts:

Titania	Why should you be granted custody of the boy?
Oberon	Why should you be granted custody?
Lawyers	What would you want to emphasise to win the sympathies of the jury? Is there anything you would advise your client to play down? What would you try to emphasise about the character/motivations of your opposition that would show them in a bad light?
Judge and jury	How would you see each argument? Which points do you agree with/disagree with? How relevant is each argument to the present situation? Do the arguments put forward reveal anything about the characters and motivations of Titania and Oberon?

The evidence

One piece of evidence has been provided to support each case. If you are playing either Oberon, Titania or any of the lawyers, try to find at least one more piece of evidence to support your case. You should also think about counter arguments to the evidence put forwards by your opposition.

If you are playing the judge or a member of the jury, think about the strength and relevance of the evidence put forwards by each side. Does one side have more compelling evidence than the other?

Evidence that could be used to support Titania's case	Evidence that could be used to support Oberon's case
The boy's mother was a friend of hers – <i>And in the spiced Indian air by night / Full often hath she gossiped by my side ...</i>	The little boy's mother did not formally ask Titania to raise her child, therefore Titania has no legal right to him.

Summing up

The lawyers should work with their clients to prepare a final statement summing up why they, rather than their opponent, should be given custody of the boy. You should think about all the evidence you have given and try to work out what your opponents' lawyers will say about their suitability as the boy's guardian and how they might try to discredit you.

If you are the judge or a member of the jury, you should think about what will be most important in helping you make your decision about who the boy should live with. Weigh up the arguments you are presented with and remember to think about what you are *not* being told, as well as considering what the lawyers tell you. You should then take a vote to decide who will win custody of the boy.

The judge should also prepare a final statement, summing up the nature of the case and explaining the jury's verdict.