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
On the forefinger of an alderman,
Drawn with a team of little atomi
Over men’s noses as they lie asleep.
Her wagon spokes made of long spinners’ legs,
The cover of the wings of grasshoppers,
Her traces of the smallest spider web,
Her collars of the moonshine’s wat’ry beams,
Her wagoner a small gray-coated gnat,
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.
Time out o’ mind the fairies coachmakers.
And in this state she gallops night by night
Through lovers’ brains, and then they dream of love;
On courtiers’ knees, that dream on cur’cies straight;
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.
Sometime she gallops o’er a courtier’s nose,
And then dreams he of smelling out a suit.
And sometime comes she with a tithe-pig’s tail,
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,
Of healths five fathom deep, and then anon
Drums in his ear, at which he starts and wakes
And, being thus frightened, swears a prayer or two
And sleeps again. This is that very Mab
That plats the manes of horses in the night
And bakes the elflocks in foul sluttish hairs,
Which once untangled much misfortune bodes.
This is the hag, when maids lie on their backs,
That presses them and teaches them first to bear,
Making them women of good carriage.
This is she –

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?