



SHAKESPEARE'S LANGUAGE TRICKS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

PERIOD: _____

The list below contains some of the language tricks that Shakespeare used when writing *Romeo and Juliet*, and it provides an example of each trick from Friar Lawrence's opening speech, II. iii. 1-22.

- personification "The gray-eyed morn *smiles* on the *frowning* night" → morning = happy
night = sad
- metaphor "check'ring the eastern clouds with streaks of light" → sunrise = checkerboard of light + dark
- simile "And fleckled darkness *like* a drunkard reels" → night passing to day (clumsily)
- classical allusions "From forth day's path and Titan's fiery wheels" → Titans - god-like beings of Greek myth riding chariots across the sky - like the sun
- reversed word "upfill" → fill up
- reversed thought "The earth that's nature's mother is her tomb; / What is her burying grave, that is her womb" → the sun comes from (womb) the same place it goes (tomb):
the horizon (earth)
- reversed sentence construction "And from her womb children of divers kind / We sucking on her natural bosom find"
And we find children of divers(e) kind(s) from her womb, sucking on her natural bosom
the world is full of diverse people who all call earth home
↳ of your own creation

Experiment with Shakespeare's language tricks. Write an original example of each of the devices listed below.

1) personification

2) metaphor

3) simile

4) classical allusion

5) reversed word

6) reversed thought

7) reversed sentence construction