

Romeo and Juliet

act II scene: 3



Name: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Period: # _____

Shakespeare's Language Tricks

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.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- personification "The gray-eyed morn *smiles* on the *frowning* night"
- metaphor "*check'ring* the eastern clouds with streaks of light"
- simile "And fleckled darkness *like* a drunkard reels"
- classical allusions "From forth day's path and Titan's fiery wheels"

DICTION

reversed word "upfill"

SYNTAX

- reversed thought "The earth that's nature's mother is her tomb; / What is her burying grave, that is her womb"
- reversed sentence construction "And from her womb children of divers kind / We sucking on her natural bosom find"

Experiment with Shakespeare's language tricks. Write an original example of each of the devices listed below. *→ of your own creation*

- 1) personification
- 2) metaphor
- 3) simile
- 4) classical allusion (mythology)
- 5) reversed word
- 6) reversed thought/sentence/oxymoron
7. reversed sentence construction (word order)