

Student-Actor's Name: _____ Assignment Due: _____

 **WORKSHEET: Shakespeare's Language Tricks** ¹

Instructions

The list below contains some of the language tricks that Shakespeare used when writing. These are from *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 <i>smiles</i> on the <i>frowning</i> night”
metaphor	“ <i>check'ring</i> the eastern clouds with streaks of light”
simile	“And fleckled darkness <i>like</i> a drunkard wheels”
classical allusions	“From forth days path and <i>Titan's fiery wheels</i> ”
reversed word	“upfill”
reversed thought -or-	“The earth that's nature's mother is her tomb; What is her burying grave, that is her womb”
reversed sentence construction²	“And from her womb children of divers kind / We sucking on her natural bosom find”

Instructions

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

1. personification _____

2. metaphor _____

3. simile _____

4. classical allusions _____

5. reversed word _____

6. reversed thought _____
-or-
reversed sentence _____
construction

¹ From *Shakespeare Set Free, Teaching Romeo and Juliet, etc.*

² For the basic student I do not differentiate between “reversed thought” or “reversed sentence construction.”