
HANDOUT 8

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, 2.3.1–22.

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 reels"
classical allusions	"From forth day's path and Titan's fiery wheels"
reversed word	"upfill"
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.

1. personification
 2. metaphor
 3. simile
 4. classical allusion
 5. reversed word
 6. reversed thought
 7. reversed sentence construction
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