

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Standards Focus: Approaching Shakespeare's Language

*When approaching the works of Shakespeare, it is important to remember that Shakespeare intended his works to be performed in front of an audience. If you are having trouble understanding what you are reading when you are silently reading to yourself, remember that this could be one of the reasons you may be having difficulty. The following are some guidelines to help you approach the language, and to comprehend the reading a little better.*

**blank verse**- most of Shakespeare's(?) plays are written in this form, which is very close to normal speech rhythms and patterns. Often Shakespeare will deviate from this form in order to make a point about the character's state of mind or for other emphasis, like a change in the mood.

**double entendres**- phrases or words which have double meanings, one of which is usually sexual in nature

**iambic pentameter**- a 10-syllable line divided into 5 feet (a unit of 2 syllables of stress landing on the second syllable of each foot.) This is the basic rhythm of Shakespeare's verse.

**imagery**- language which works to evoke images in your mind (i.e. "And with thy bloody and invisible hand / Cancel and tear to pieces that great bond / Which keeps me pale.")

**metaphor**- a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is replaced by another, often indicating a likeness or similarity between them (ie. "Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player...")

**prose**- normal speech rhythm; Shakespeare often wrote certain characters speaking in either all verse or all prose, indicating some personality trait of the character. If the character deviates from its normal form, be aware of a changing state of mind...often prose signals a character slipping into insanity!

**pun**- a play on words that sound alike or that have multiple meanings

**rhyming couplet**- two rhyming lines at the end of a speech, signaling that a character is leaving the stage or that the scene is ending

**simile**- a figure of speech comparing two unlike things that is often introduced by *like* or *as* (i.e. "My love is like a red, red rose")

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Standards Focus: Elements of Drama

### Literary Terms to Know

*Drama* is a form of literature designed to be performed in front of an audience. There are two main types of drama: *comedy* and *tragedy*. Like fiction, dramatic works have a *plot*, *characters*, *setting*, *conflict*, and a *theme*. It is essential to know the elements of drama when reading a dramatic work.

1. act: a division within a play, much like chapters of a novel
2. aside: lines that are spoken by a character directly to the audience
3. cast of characters: a list of characters presented before the action begins
4. comedy: a humorous work of drama
5. dialogue: conversation between two or more characters
6. drama: a work of literature designed to be performed in front of an audience
7. dramatic irony: when the audience or reader knows something that the characters in the story do not know
8. iambic pentameter: a line of poetry that contains 5 iambs of two syllables each
9. monologue: a long speech spoken by a character to himself, another character, or to the audience
10. scene: a division of an act into smaller parts
11. soliloquy: thoughts spoken aloud by a character when he/she is alone, or thinks he/she is alone
12. stage directions: italicized comments that identify parts of the setting or the use of props or costumes, give further information about a character, or provide background information
13. tragedy: a serious work of drama in which the hero suffers catastrophe or serious misfortune, usually because of his own actions

*Activity: Using the words from the list above, create a Multiple-Choice quiz. Keep your answer key on a separate piece of paper. For example:*

1. The two main types of drama are:
  - a. plays and monologues
  - b. comedies and tragedies
  - c. histories and biographies
  - d. monologues and soliloquies

*When you have finished, give the "quiz" to a partner and take his or her quiz. Then, check each other's answers, and turn in both your quizzes and your scores to your teacher. Your teacher can even find the best questions and use them on a real quiz!*