

### Student Handout #3: Rappable Shakespearean Passages

Examine the sample passages below. Choose **one** passage and transform it into a rap verse. You may choose to include or take out specific words, phrases or lines. The end product should be between 5-12 lines.

#### Passage #1:

##### **ROMEO**

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!  
It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night  
Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope's ear;  
Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!  
So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows,  
As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.  
The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand,  
And, touching hers, make blessed my rude hand.  
Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!  
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

*Romeo & Juliet*, Act I, Scene 5, by William Shakespeare  
Source: [http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo\\_juliet/full.html](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/full.html)

#### Passage #2:

##### **MACBETH**

Is this a dagger which I see before me,  
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.  
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.  
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible  
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but  
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,  
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?  
I see thee yet, in form as palpable  
As this which now I draw.

*Macbeth*, Act II, Scene 1, by William Shakespeare  
Source: [http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo\\_juliet/full.html](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/full.html)

#### Passage #3:

##### **HELENA**

Call you me fair? that fair again unsay.  
Demetrius loves your fair: O happy fair!  
Your eyes are lode-stars; and your tongue's sweet air  
More tuneable than lark to shepherd's ear,  
When wheat is green, when hawthorn buds appear.  
Sickness is catching: O, were favour so,  
Yours would I catch, fair Hermia, ere I go;  
My ear should catch your voice, my eye your eye,  
My tongue should catch your tongue's sweet melody.  
Were the world mine, Demetrius being bated,

The rest I'd give to be to you translated.  
O, teach me how you look, and with what art  
You sway the motion of Demetrius' heart.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act I, Scene 1, by William Shakespeare  
Source: <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/midsummer/full.html>

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**Write your new rap verse in the space below (5-12 lines):**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **What is the feeling or mood expressed in the original excerpt that you have chosen? Does your new verse reflect the same feeling and atmosphere?**

2. **Why did you choose to change or keep certain words/phrases/lines?**

3. **Has the overall message / intention of the text changed or stayed the same?**

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