

“Reading Shakespeare’s Language” (xiv-xxiii)

Instructions: Read the above pages in your copy of *Hamlet*. As you read, complete this worksheet to help you learn about Shakespeare’s language and how to read it more easily.

When reading Shakespeare’s words it is necessary to _____ again and again until _____.

- a. Simply put: you will have to put forth some effort when you read this play.

Reasons it is difficult:

1) Shakespeare uses words we don’t use or he uses words in different ways than we do.

List 5 words and meanings used by Shakespeare that have a different meaning than we are used to.

- a. _____ d. _____
b. _____ e. _____
c. _____

2) Shakespeare inverts the words

What are 2 reasons why Shakespeare shifts his sentence from “normal” arrangements?

- a. _____

- b. _____

When confused by a speech/line, first look for placement of _____ and _____

They are usually _____.

3) Shakespeare’s separates words that will normally appear together and adds extra description.

Rather than writing “Our sometime sister have we taken to wife” he will write:

“Therefore, our sometime sister _____,

Have we (_____ joy, ...”

4) Shakespeare omits words and parts of words (to keep the meter)

5) Shakespeare uses a lot of puns and metaphors

Define **pun**: _____

List 3 different meanings for the word “tenders”

- 1) _____ 3) _____
2) _____

Define **metaphor**: _____

What is Hamlet saying when he calls the world “an unweeded garden”? _____