

Name: _____ Date: _____

Shakespeare's Language Handout

PRINCE

Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,

Profaners of this neighbor-stained steel—

85 Will they not hear?—What ho! You men, you beasts,

That quench the fire of your pernicious rage

With purple fountains issuing from your veins:

On pain of torture, from those bloody hands

Throw your mistempered weapons to the ground,

90 And hear the sentence of your movèd prince.

Three civil brawls bred of an airy word

By thee, old Capulet, and Montague,

Have thrice disturbed the quiet of our streets (1.1.83–93)

1. Read lines 83–93. What do these lines seem to be about?

Shakespeare's Sounds

1. Read out loud lines 83–86.
2. In the first four lines, separate every two syllables with a line. Circle the stressed syllable in each iamb.
3. Try rereading lines 83–86 with the rhythm of iambic pentameter. How does iambic pentameter impact your understanding of the Prince's voice and character?

Shakespeare's Words

4. Replace any words in lines 85–92 found on the list of [Commonly Used Words in Shakespeare's Plays](#) with the more familiar word.
5. Cross out any verb inflections.
6. Underline line 84 and turn to page 14 in *Romeo and Juliet*. What is revealed about the relationship between the Montagues and the Capulets?

Shakespeare's Sentences

7. Rearrange the word order in lines 90–93, and any other lines as needed.
8. Rephrase in your own words lines 90–93, and any other lines as needed.
9. Reread lines 83–93. How has your understanding of these lines changed from your initial reading?