

Name: _____ Date: _____

Shakespeare's Language Handout

LUCENTIO

- 150 O Tranio, till I found it to be true,
I never thought it possible or likely.
But see, while idly I stood looking on,
I found the effect of love in idleness.
- 155 And now in plainness do confess to thee—
That art to me as secret and as dear
As Anna to the Queen of Carthage was—
Tranio, I burn, I pine, I perish, Tranio,
- 160 If I achieve not this young modest girl.
Counsel me, Tranio, for I know thou canst.
Assist me, Tranio, for I know thou wilt. (1.1.150–160)

1. Read lines 150–160. What do these lines seem to be about?

Shakespeare's Sounds

2. Read out loud lines 150–153.
3. In the first four lines, separate every two syllables with a line. Circle the stressed syllable in each iamb.
4. Try rereading lines 150–153 with the rhythm of iambic pentameter. How does iambic pentameter impact your understanding of Lucentio's voice and character?

Shakespeare's Words

5. Replace any words in lines 154–160 found on the list of [Commonly Used Words in Shakespeare's Plays](#) with the more familiar word.
6. Cross out any verb inflections.
7. Underline line 156 and turn to page 40 in *The Taming of the Shrew*. What is revealed about the relationship between Lucentio and Tranio through the allusion?

Shakespeare's Sentences

8. Rearrange the word order in lines 158–160, and any other lines as needed.
9. Rephrase in your own words lines 158–160, and any other lines as needed.
10. Reread lines 150–160. How has your understanding of these lines changed from your initial reading?